

Improving Australia's burden of disease

(Including references to National Health Priority Areas)

Burden of disease

- It is one way to measure the impact of different diseases or injuries on a population.
- Measures the impact of living with illness and injury and dying prematurely. See [Australia's health 2018: in brief](#) report.
- The major diseases contributing to the burden for each gender and age group differs, reflecting how people experience different health problems at different life stages.
- More reports and statistics on burden of disease can be found under [chronic disease](#) and [life expectancy and deaths](#).

National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions

- is the current policy document on chronic disease released in 2017
- moved away from a disease-specific focus
- provides guidance on delivering a national response and health system that responds more effectively to chronic conditions
- supports the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Disease 2013–2020.

National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs)

- were established in response to the World Health Organization's Global Strategy for Health for All by the year 2000
- sought to focus public attention and health policy on these areas that were considered to contribute significantly to the burden of disease in Australia.

The **9 NHPAs agreed by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council** between 1996 and 2012 were:

1. Cancer control (1996)
2. Cardiovascular health (1996)
3. Injury prevention and control (1996)
4. Mental health (1996)
5. Diabetes mellitus (1997)
6. Asthma (1999)
7. Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions (2002)
8. Obesity (2008)
9. Dementia (2012)

Further information:

- [AIHW burden of disease](#)
- [COAG Health Council](#) (CHC) and [Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council](#) (AHMAC)
- Department of Health [Chronic Conditions](#)
- State and/or Territory Health Departments
- Non-government health organisations for each condition; for example, Cancer Australia, Diabetes Australia, The Heart Foundation.

Updated 9 January 2018

