Burden of disease

- is the best summary measure of a population’s health
- measures the impact of different diseases or injuries on a population, by measuring the number of years of life lost due to dying early or being affected by ill health. See Australia’s health 2018: in brief report
- does not account for other factors influencing health, such as social and economic
- leading contributors differ across gender and age groups, reflecting people experience different health problems at different life stages.

National Strategic Framework for Chronic Conditions (located on Department of Health’s website)

- is the current policy document on chronic disease
- moved away from a disease-specific focus
- provides guidance on delivering a national response and health system that responds more effectively to chronic conditions

National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs)

- were established in response to the World Health Organisation’s global strategy 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 Australia Health Ministers’ Advisory Council between 1996 and 2012 were:

2. Cardiovascular health (1996)
5. Diabetes mellitus (1997)

Further information:

Council of Australian Governments Health Council (CHC) and Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council (AHMAC)

The Commonwealth Department of Health: Chronic Conditions

State and/or Territory Health Departments

Non-government health organisations for each condition, e.g. Cancer Australia, Diabetes Australia, The Heart Foundation, etc.