



Aboriginal child health survey calls for action

Findings from the Western Australian Aboriginal Child Health Survey, studying the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children and young people have now been released.

It is the most extensive survey of Aboriginal families ever undertaken. The survey was designed to build the knowledge to develop preventative strategies that promote the healthy development and the social, emotional, academic and vocational wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

The report has called for a national strategy to break the cycle of Aboriginal poor health that looks beyond health to the resources needed for healthy child development. Action within the health care system to improve outcomes would include:

- Improving nutritional knowledge and access to affordable nutritious food
- Improving rates of contact of Aboriginal families and children with health services
- Improving the availability of maternal health services and supports
- Reducing the rates of pre-term and low birth weight babies
- Reducing the rate of early teenage pregnancy
- Reducing rates of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use, particularly in pregnant women
- Reducing the rates of childhood infectious diseases

The five volume report covers health, social and emotional wellbeing, education, family and community and Justice and is now available to view and download from the following website www.ichr.uwa.edu.au.

**'View from the Peak'
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