

# Joint Regional Needs Assessment 2025-28

## List of priorities

Priority	Priority area	Priority subcategory	Expected outcome
Access to specialists	Health workforce	Access	Improve access to specialists
High prevalence of chronic conditions	Population health	Chronic conditions	Lower prevalence rates of chronic conditions
High prevalence of diabetes among Australian South Sea Islander people	Population health	Chronic conditions Vulnerable population	Lower prevalence rates of diabetes
High prevalence of skin conditions	Population health	Multi-disciplinary care	Lower prevalence of skin conditions
High proportion with profound or severe disability	Population health	Multi-disciplinary care	Improved support and care
High prevalence of diabetes among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Chronic conditions Appropriate care (including cultural safety)	Develop and implement culturally appropriate community-based interventions
Poor chronic disease management for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Chronic conditions Appropriate care (including cultural safety)	Develop and implement culturally appropriate community-based interventions Improved chronic disease management
Prevalence of Rheumatic Heart Disease and Rheumatic Heart Fever	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Appropriate care (including cultural safety)	Develop and implement culturally appropriate community-based interventions
High prevalence of cardiac conditions among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Chronic conditions Appropriate care (including cultural safety)	Develop and implement culturally appropriate community-based interventions Lower prevalence of cardiac conditions

Priority	Priority area	Priority subcategory	Expected outcome
High obesity rates	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence rates of obesity
High alcohol consumption rates	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence rates of alcohol consumption
High daily smoking rates	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence rates of daily smoking
High prevalence of sexually transmitted infections	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence of sexually transmitted infections
High prevalence of smoking during pregnancy	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence of smoking during pregnancy
High prevalence rates of substance use	Alcohol and other drugs	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early interventions Improved health literacy and lower prevalence of substance use
High prevalence of developmental delays among children	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Increased early identification of childhood developmental delays
High obesity rates among 5–11-year-old children	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Implementation of early intervention and lower obesity rates
Low immunisation rates for 2-year-old	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Immunisation	Improve health literacy and increase immunisation rates

Priorities	Priority area	Priority subcategory	Expected outcome
High prevalence of low birthweight	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy	Improve health literacy and decline in low birthweight
Adult mental health	Mental health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy Chronic conditions Care coordination	Improve access to mental health services Implement early intervention and prevention Improved health literacy
High prevalence of mental health conditions	Mental health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy Chronic conditions Care coordination	Develop and implement culturally appropriate mental health early intervention services
Emerging need around suicide ideation and intent among youth	Mental health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy Chronic conditions Care coordination	Support community-based suicide prevention
Poor mental health wellbeing among LGBTIQ+ community	Mental health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy Chronic conditions Care coordination	Develop and implement appropriate mental health early intervention services
Awareness of veteran's health issues among service providers	Population health	Early intervention and prevention Health literacy Chronic conditions Care coordination	Develop and implement appropriate early intervention services
Limited access to general practice	Health workforce	Access	Improved access to health workforce and services

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Lack of palliative care services	Health workforce	Palliative care	Improved access to health workforce and services
Limited diagnostic imaging services	Health workforce	Access	Improved access to health workforce and services
Limited community support services	Health workforce	Access	Improved access to health workforce and services
Limited understanding among service providers about the management of domestic and family violence victims	Health workforce	Appropriate care (including cultural safety) Vulnerable population	Upskilled service providers with improved awareness of management of domestic and family violence victims
Limited primary care services for refugees and asylum seekers	Population health	Appropriate care (including cultural safety) Vulnerable population	Improved health services for refugees and asylum seekers
Limited cultural awareness about refugees and asylum seekers among service providers	Population health	Appropriate care (including cultural safety) Vulnerable population	Improved cultural awareness and capability of service providers
Limited antenatal care services	Population health	Access Workforce Early intervention and prevention	Improved and upskilled workforce Increased antenatal service availability
Long waiting times for aged care assessments	Aged care	Aged care Access Care coordination	Decreased waiting times with improved access and care coordination

Priorities	Priority area	Priority subcategory	Expected outcome
Limited dementia related care and support services	Aged care	Aged care Access Care coordination	Improved dementia related care and support services Upskilled workforce
Limited availability of support services and residential aged care homes	Aged care	Aged care Access Care coordination	Improved support services for older persons
Limited access to podiatrists in rural and remote regions	Health workforce	Allied health Care coordination	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Low levels of health literacy across our community	Population health	Health literacy	Improved health literacy across community
Community engagement around preventative health conditions is inadequate	Population health	Health literacy Early intervention and prevention	Improved community engagement and health literacy on preventative health conditions
Limited or no access to psychiatric services	Mental health	Access Workforce	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Maldistribution of General Practitioners and shortage of general practices	Health workforce	Access Workforce	Build primary care workforce capacity and capability
Workforce shortage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers or Practitioners	Health workforce	Access Allied health Workforce	Increased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce capacity

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Workforce shortage of clinical staff such as nurses	Health workforce	Access Allied health Workforce	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Workforce shortage of support services staff	Health workforce	Access Allied health Workforce	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Workforce shortage of midwives	Health workforce	Access Allied health Workforce	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Workforce shortage of diabetic educators	Health workforce	Access Allied health Workforce	Improved skills and workforce capacity
Cultural awareness among service providers	Health workforce	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Appropriate care (including cultural safety)	Increased knowledge and level of cultural awareness/capability of service providers

To read the full Joint Regional Needs Assessment (JRNA) 2025-28, visit [www.nqphn.com.au/JRNA](http://www.nqphn.com.au/JRNA)