



AUSTRALIAN  
HEALTH POLICY  
COLLABORATION



## **Launch of Australia's Health Tracker by Area: Wealthier post codes are healthier post codes**

A new digital platform from Victoria University, **Australia's Health Tracker by Area**, shows that West Australians are enjoying relatively low rates of high blood pressure (9.3%) while Tasmania's blood pressure is soaring (12.1% have high blood pressure).

The Northern Territory has the highest rates of diabetes in the country at 7.1 %, followed by South Australia at 6.5%. The sunshine state, Queensland, has topped the table for highest rates of obesity (30.4%) in Australia.

**Australia's Health Tracker by Area** is developed by the Australian Health Policy Collaboration at Victoria University with the Public Health Information and Development Unit at Torrens University.

Available to media, health professionals, policy makers and academics, the digital platform hosts a series of maps and filters which provide localised data on chronic diseases and their risk factors at the local government, primary health network, population and state level. It includes obesity, high blood pressure, cancer screening, early deaths by chronic disease and suicide rates.

*"One in every two Australians has a chronic disease – however roughly 1/3 of these diseases are preventable. **Australia's Health Tracker by Area** is a call to action and a resource to help protect the most important asset in the country – our health."* – ROSEMARY CALDER

Many health and non-health organisations have welcomed the new resource which has been created to enhance the use of health data for planning, commissioning and monitoring, with the potential to shape policy at a local, state and federal level.

The latest data on adults living with diabetes shows Victoria has the best 10 local government areas with the lowest rates in the country. The ACT leads the way as smoking rates fall to (13.6%) and affluent regions – like the Sydney North Shore Ku-Ring-Gai – are the healthiest in the nation.

"Wealthier post codes are healthier post codes. There is a social gradient when it comes to Australia's biggest killers like cancers, heart diseases and stroke and their risk factors like smoking and obesity" – PROFESSOR MAXIMILIAN DE COURTEN (Victoria University).

**Australia's Health Tracker by Area** builds upon the successful work of [Australia's Health Tracker](#), a report card compiled by the collaborative effort and expert guidance of leading Australian public health and chronic disease experts. The Tracker reports also compare the latest data to reduction and prevention targets set for the year 2025.

**Australia's Health Tracker by Area** launches today at The National Primary Health Care Conference in Melbourne (23-25 November), hosted by the Public Health Association of Australia and the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association. It can be accessed at [vu.edu.au/ahpc/tracker](http://vu.edu.au/ahpc/tracker)

### **Available for interview:**

**Rosemary Calder:** AM Director Australian Health Policy Collaboration is a leading health and social policy expert. She has worked for State and Commonwealth governments in Australia as a senior public servant in health policy and administration and, prior to joining Victoria University, was Chief of Staff to the then Victorian Minister for Health.

**Professor Maximilian de Courten:** Global public health expert and Director of the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management at Victoria University.

**Dr Andrew Knight:** Fairfield General Practice Unit, UNSW and Clinical Adviser, Improvement Foundation.

**Lizz Reay:** CEO, Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network.

**Michael Moore:** CEO Public Health Association of Australia.

**Alison Verhoeven:** CEO Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association.

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