

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey Consultation



HAVE YOUR SAY ON BIOMEDICAL TESTING

The ABS is committed to early and ongoing conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to inform an upcoming health survey. We want to hear what you think about voluntary biomedical testing, to help us undertake the collection process in a culturally appropriate way.



What is biomedical testing?

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey in 2022 will include collecting voluntary biomedical samples to measure health conditions. Biomedical testing involves taking samples of blood, urine or saliva to test for things like diabetes, cholesterol and kidney disease, and nutrient levels such as iron and folate.

Benefits of biomedical testing

Biomedical testing gives us more information about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. More information means a better picture to help communities, organisations and governments make important decisions for health funding, services and education.

Having biomedical information means research can:

- look at the relationship between test results, risk factors and rates of chronic disease, and
- help develop better ways to reduce the risk of chronic diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease.

Let's have a yarn

We want to know what you think about things like:

- If you think this is important?
- What would stop people from doing the sample?
- What things do we need to think about to make sure the testing is done in a culturally appropriate way?
- Should children be included in parts of the testing?
- Should we look at how to store the samples for more testing in the future?

How previous biomedical testing information was used

In the 2012–13 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the ABS collected voluntary biomedical samples. Data from these samples was used to inform:

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) *National guide to a preventive health assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* which advocates for earlier cardiovascular disease assessment (from 18y) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Australian Government Department of Health - *Australian National Diabetes Strategy 2016–2020*. Prevalence of diabetes used to help identify nine areas of action specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

South Australian Health & Medical Research Council (SAHMRI) - *The South Australian Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy 2017–2021* which outlines six high level goals with recommendations to reduce diabetes in SA.

For more information see the Consultation Discussion Paper at <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4740.0>

