

# Asthma and COPD in Australia

**One in Nine**  
(2.7 million)

Australians live with asthma, including over 237,000 in Western Australia. Over 46,000 people have COPD.<sup>1</sup>



In our vulnerable Indigenous community **this figure is twice as high**

## MORTALITY RATES IN 2018

**389**

Australians died from asthma<sup>4</sup>



Asthma mortality rates are higher for:

- people living in remote areas
- people living in areas of low socio-economic status
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples<sup>5</sup>

**7,113**

Australians died from COPD<sup>4</sup>



## COPD

is a chronic lung disease that effects 14% (one in seven) people aged 40 or over<sup>3</sup>

This figure increases to

**29%** of Australians aged 75 or over

## QUALITY OF LIFE

Whilst not everyone with asthma is hospitalised, poor management contributes to a

**decreased**

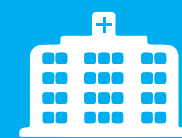
quality of life, poor sleep quality, fatigue, and depression<sup>1</sup>



People with COPD are

**more likely**

to experience greater bodily pain than those without the condition<sup>4</sup>



## HOSPITALISATIONS

**80%**

of hospital admissions due to asthma are potentially avoidable<sup>2</sup>

Every year approximately

**40,000**

Australians are hospitalised due to their asthma<sup>2</sup>

and

**76,600**

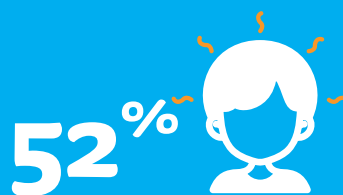
people aged 45 years and over are hospitalised due to their COPD<sup>4</sup>



**71.6%**

of people with asthma

do not have an **Asthma Action Plan**



**52%**

of young people with asthma are at risk of **mental illness**

The average person with asthma has

**2**



more days off work than a someone without the condition and in children it is the leading reason for school absenteeism

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2018; National Health Survey: First Results, 2017-18. ABS Cat no. 4364.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS
2. AIHW 2019, Separation statistics by principle diagnosis (ICD-10-AM 10th edition), Australia 2017-18. Canberra: AIHW
3. Toelle B, Xuan W, Bird T, Abramson M, Atkinson D, Burton D, James A, Jenkins C, Johns D, Maguire G, Musk A, Walters E, Wood-Baker R, Hunter M, Graham B, Southwell P, Vollmer W, Buist A, Marks G, 2013; Respiratory symptoms and illness in older Australians: The Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study. Med J Aust: 198:144-148
4. AIHW 2020, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Web Report. AIHW Car no. ACM 35. Canberra: AIHW
5. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2019; Causes of Death, Australia 2018. Canberra: ABS
6. Australian Government Productivity Commission 2018. Report on Government Services

