



Health
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Local Health District

Recent trends in Syphilis in Regional and Remote Australia

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From then...

CLOSING THE GAP — RESEARCH

Epidemiology of syphilis in Australia: moving toward elimination of infectious syphilis from remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

James S Ward, Rebecca J Guy, Snehal P Akre, Melanie G Middleton, Carolien M Giele, Jiunn Y Su, Craig A Davis,
Handan Wand, Janet B Knox, Patricia S Fagan, Basil Donovan, John M Kaldor and Darren B Russell

MJA 2011; 194: 525–529



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Epidemiology of syphilis in Australia: moving toward elimination of infectious syphilis from remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

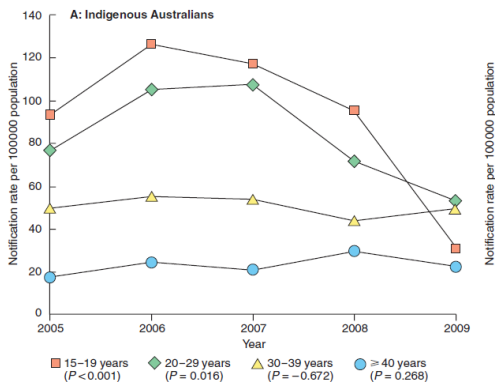
Table 3: Cumulative risk of seroconversion by age in the entire study population.

Age (years)	Cumulative risk of seroconversion Estimate	95% CI
15	0.02	(0.01-0.03)
20	0.15	(0.13-0.18)
25	0.24	(0.21-0.28)
30	0.26	(0.23-0.30)
35	0.29	(0.26-0.34)
40	0.32	(0.27-0.37)
50	0.36	(0.30-0.42)
60	0.38	(0.31-0.47)



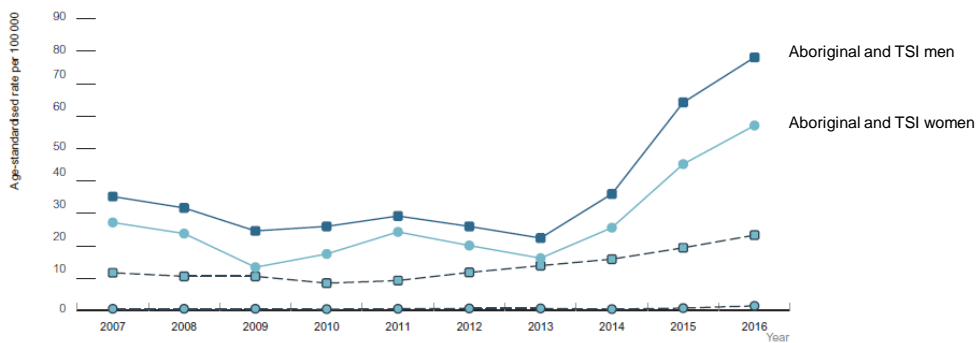
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Mak, 1998



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Figure 3.3.2 Infectious syphilis notification rate per 100 000 population, 2007–2016, by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and sex



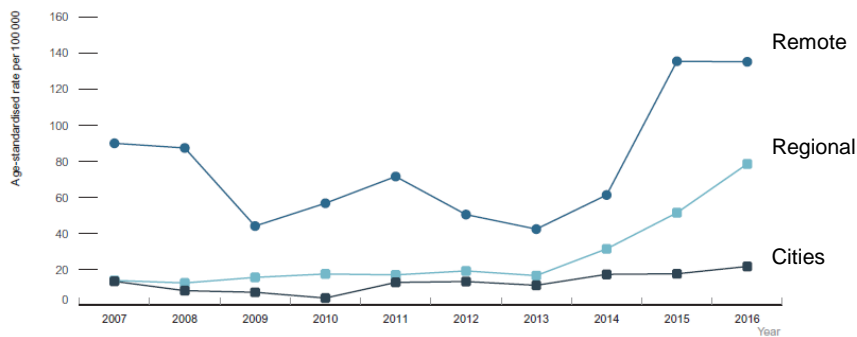
Annual Surveillance Report, 2017



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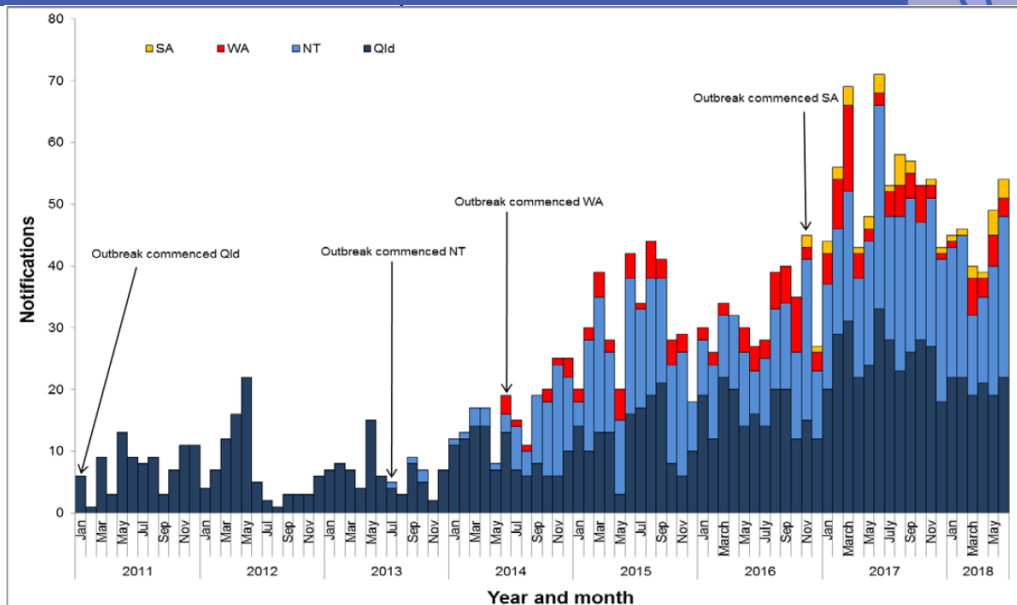
Figure 3.3.8 Infectious syphilis notification rate per 100 000 population, 2007–2016, by area of residence



Annual Surveillance Report, 2017



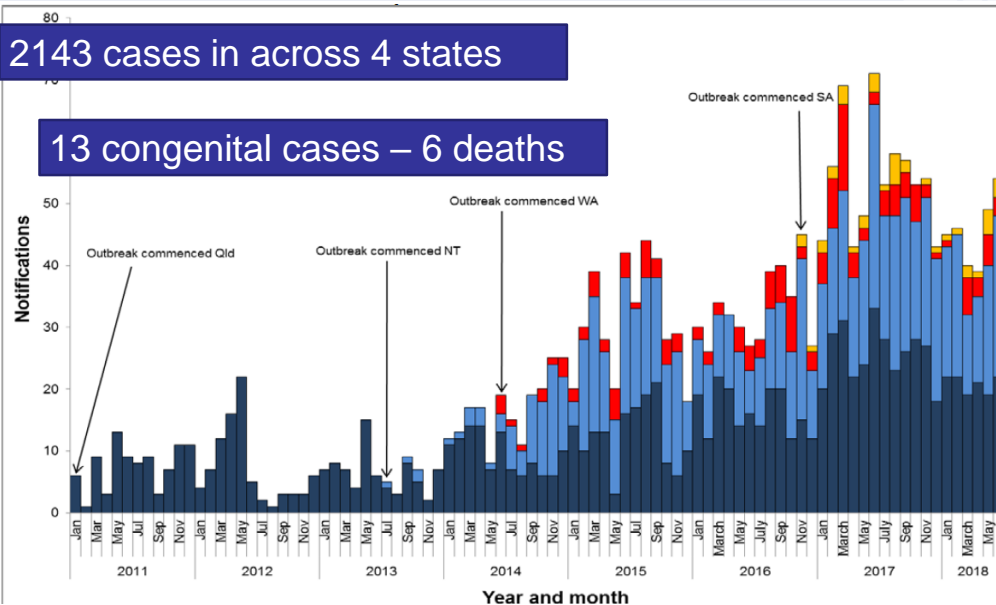
Syphilis outbreak in Northern and Central Australia



Syphilis outbreak in Northern and Central Australia

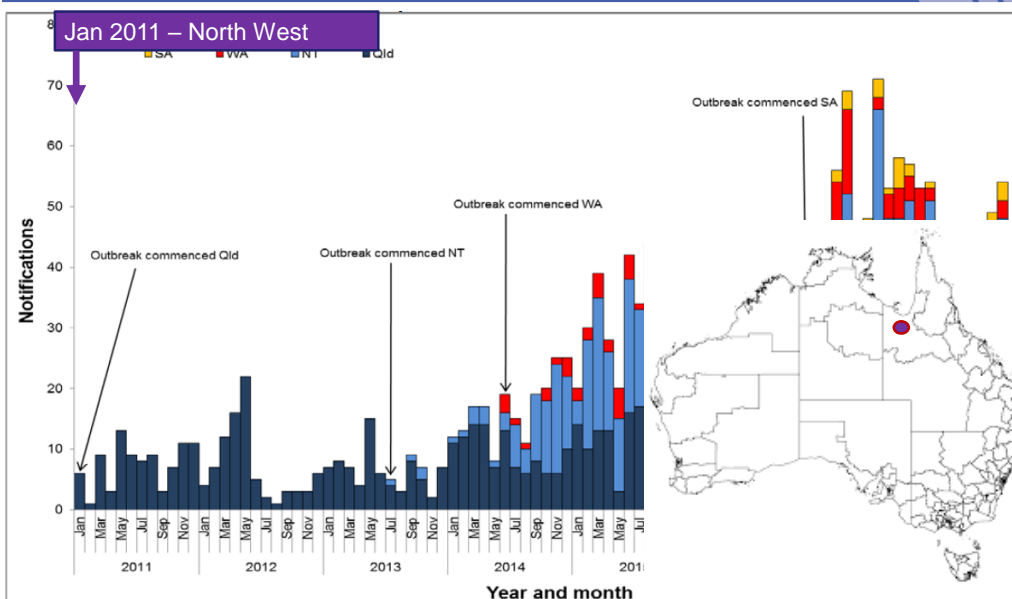
2143 cases in across 4 states

13 congenital cases – 6 deaths

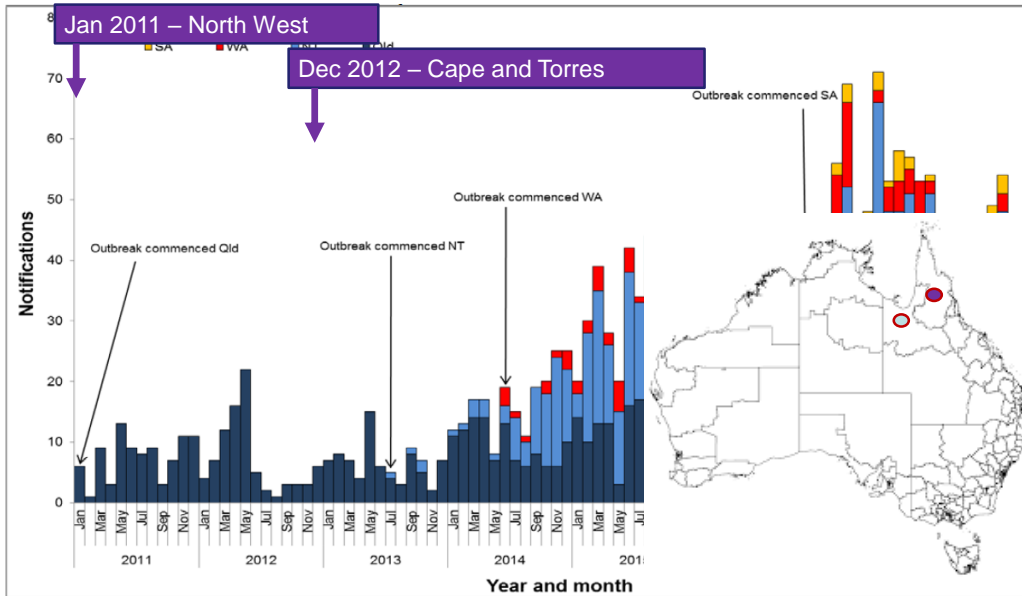


Evolution of the outbreak

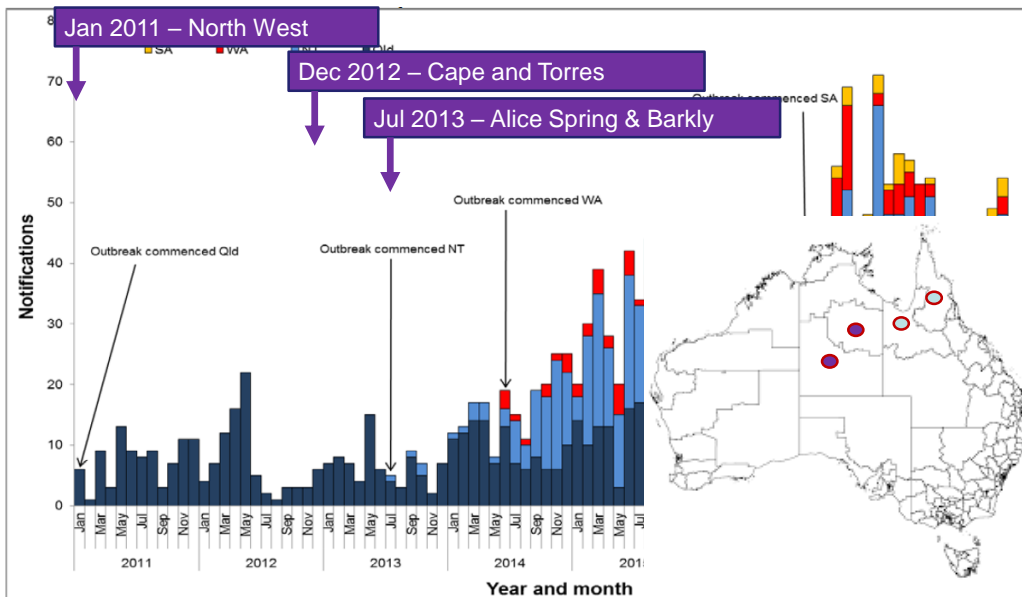
Jan 2011 – North West



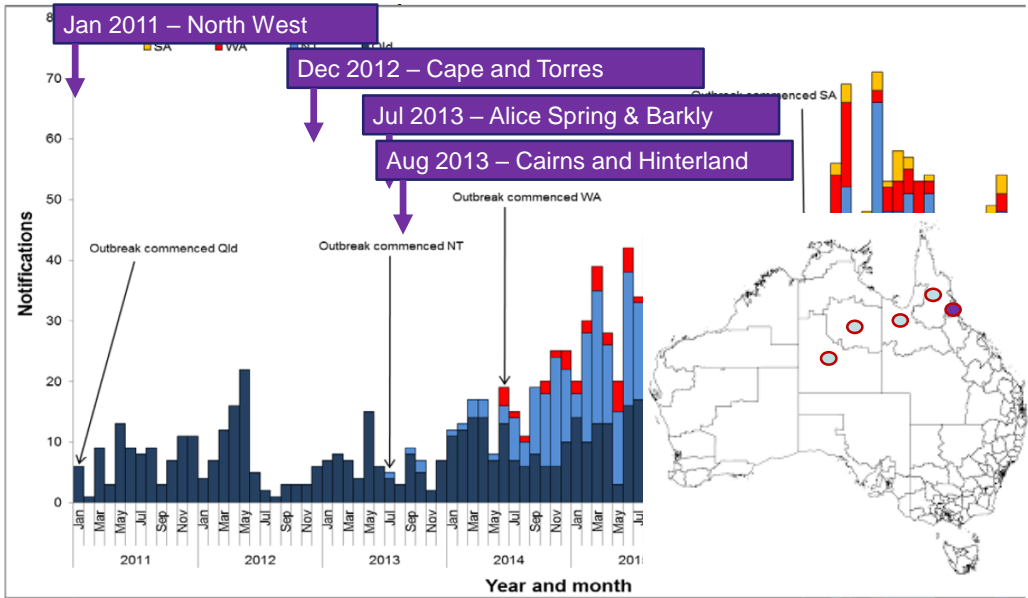
Evolution of the outbreak



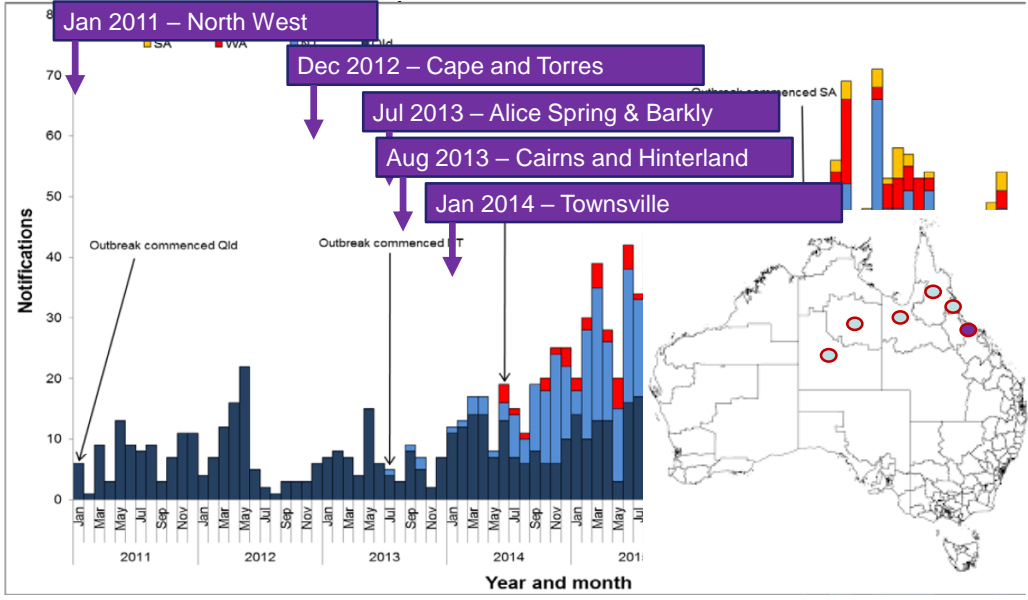
Evolution of the outbreak



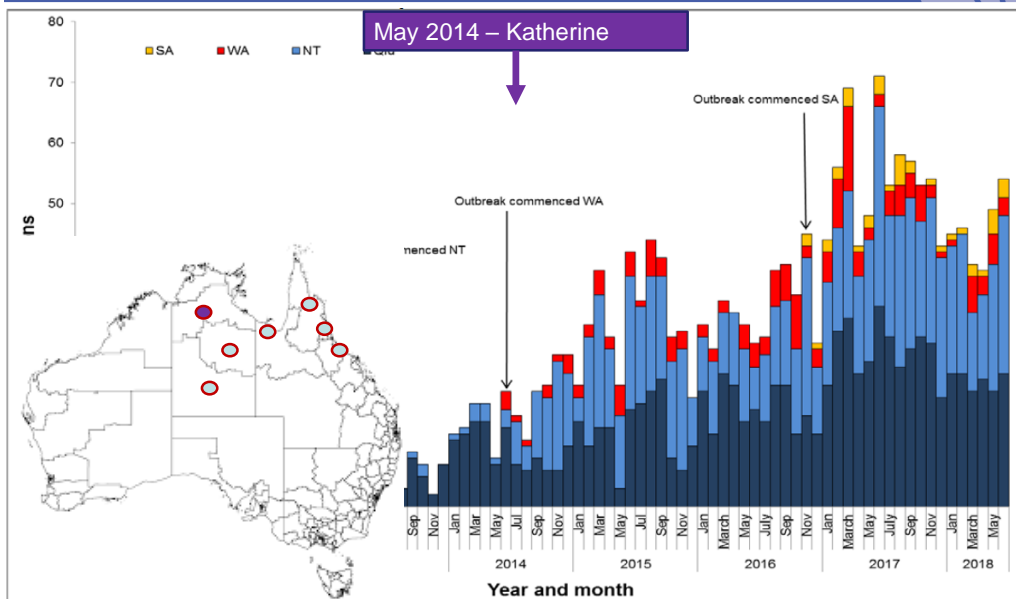
Evolution of the outbreak



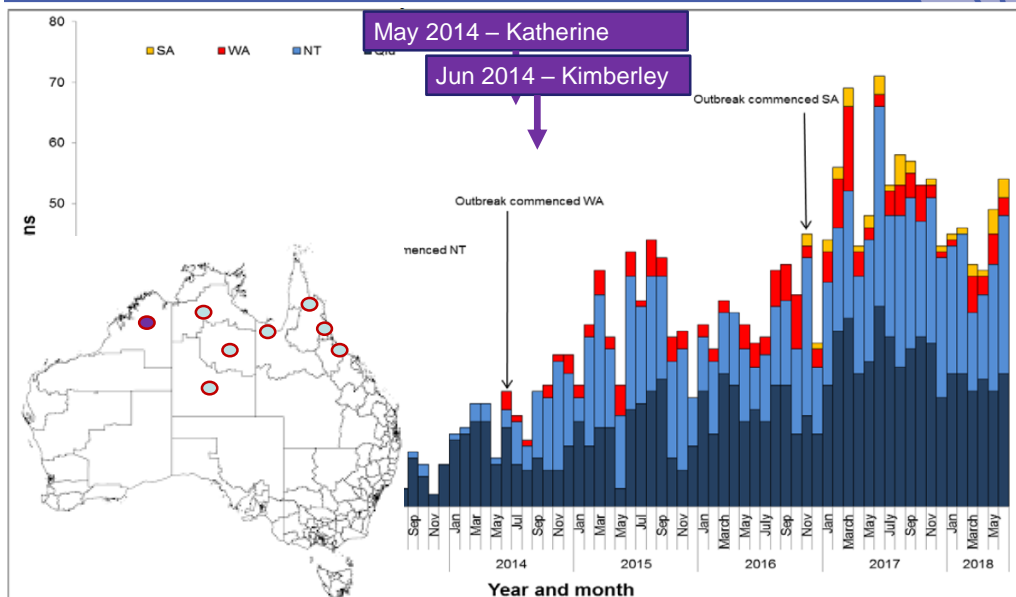
Evolution of the outbreak



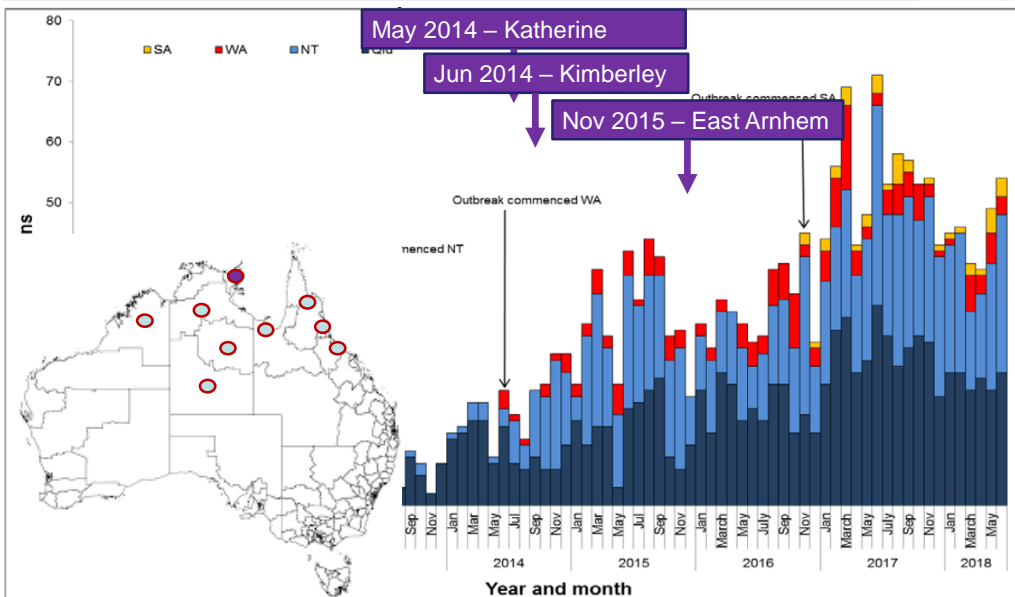
Evolution of the outbreak



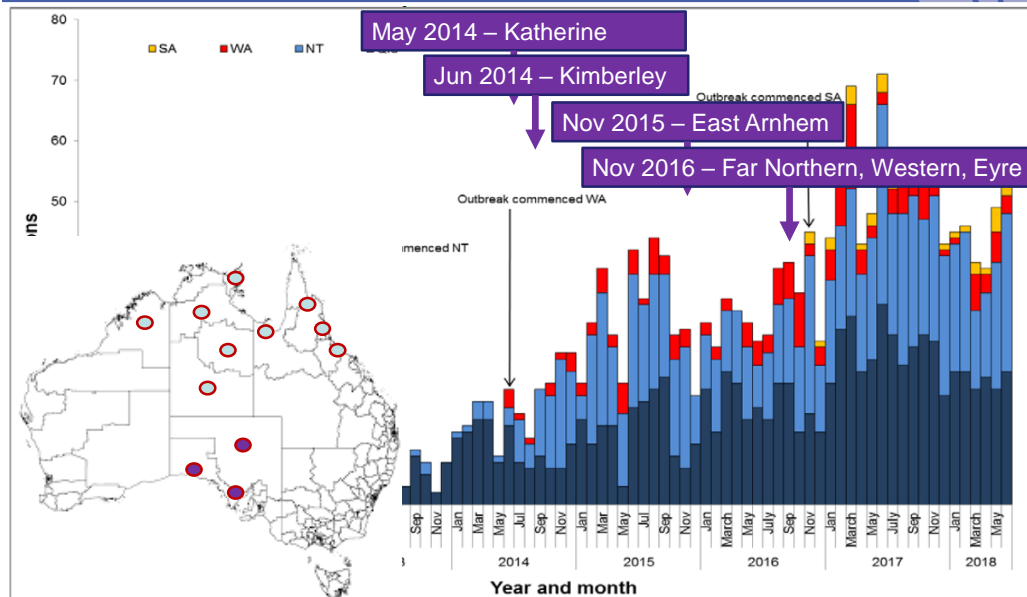
Evolution of the outbreak



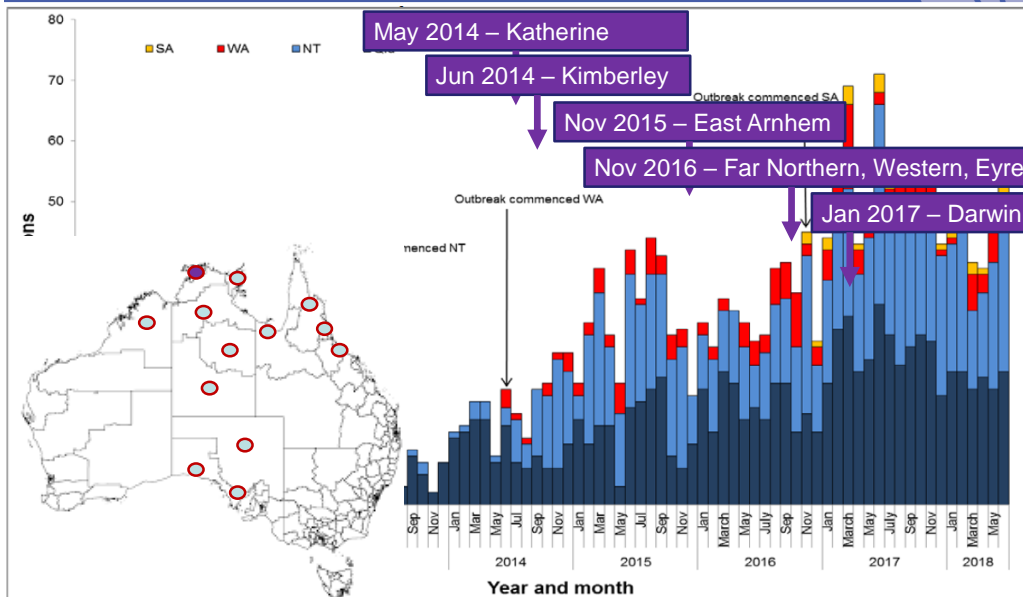
Evolution of the outbreak



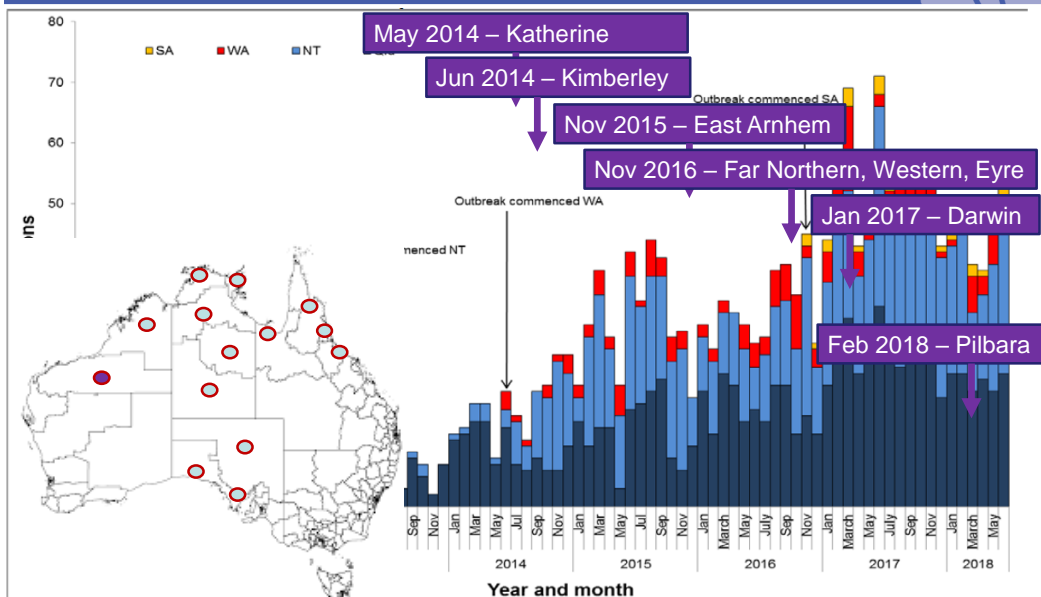
Evolution of the outbreak



Evolution of the outbreak



Evolution of the outbreak



What have we “learned”

- Early response was slow and limited
- Response is hard without the right resources in place
- Congenital syphilis likely while syphilis is common
- Long term control will require long term investment



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