

NATIONAL ENHANCED RESPONSE TO THE SYPHILIS OUTBREAK

Co-Design: Integrating policy development with service delivery

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INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS OUTBREAK

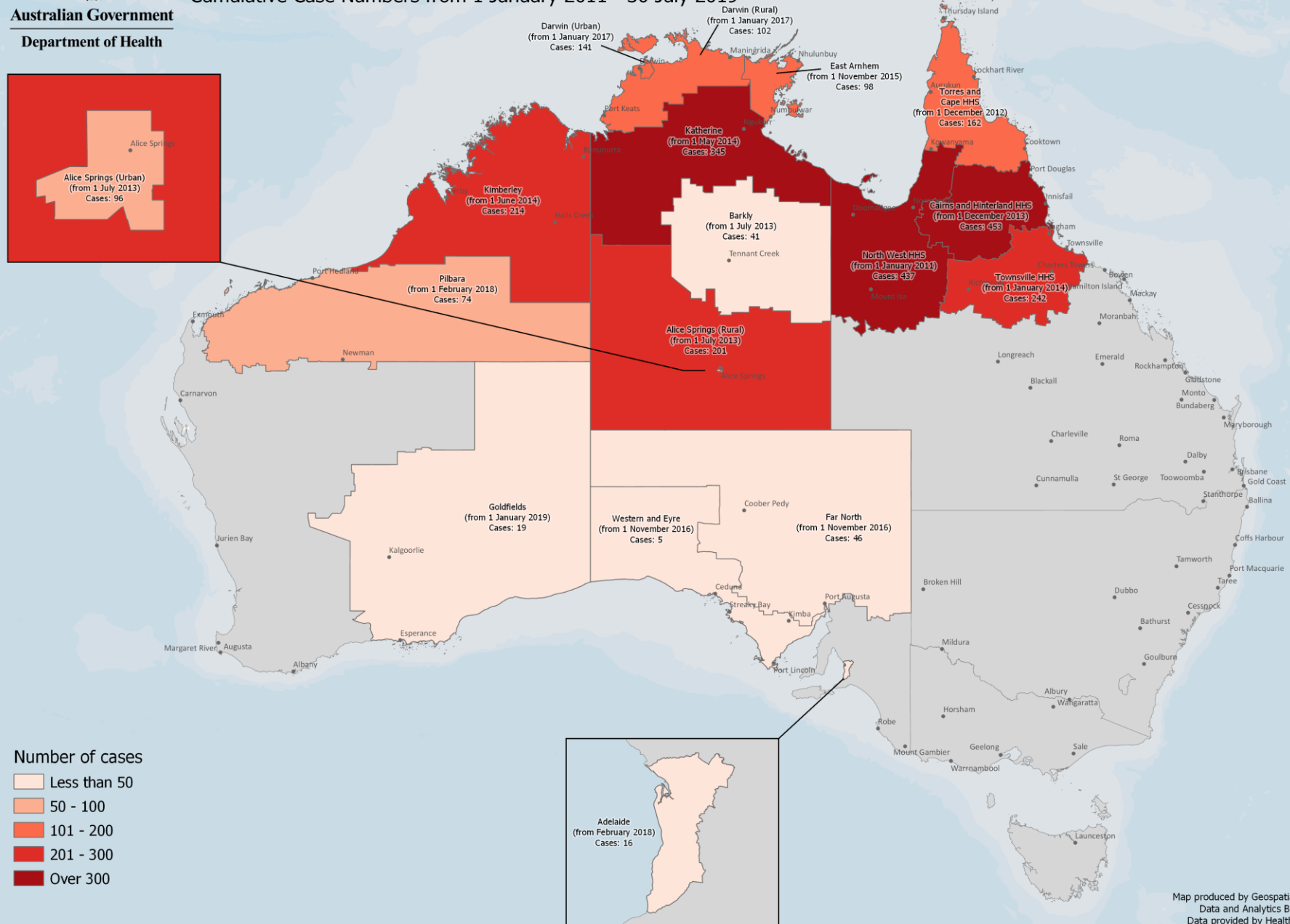
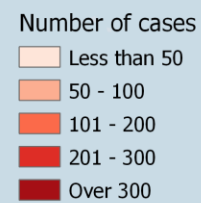
- Ongoing outbreak affecting young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Predominately people aged between 15 and 29 years, living in northern, central and southern Australia.
- **2,909** cases linked to the outbreak from commencement in 2011 to 31 July 2019.
- **16** congenital syphilis cases associated with the outbreak.
 - **7** infants are reported to have died from the condition (all in Queensland, the most recent in September 2018).



Australian Government
Department of Health

Infectious Syphilis Outbreak Cases

Cumulative Case Numbers from 1 January 2011 - 30 July 2019



POLICY RESPONSE

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council endorsed a Strategic Approach and Action Plan in 2017 with four key elements:

- Test and Treat Model – implemented throughout Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Data and Surveillance –to monitor spread and remediation.
- Communication and Education – culturally appropriate.
- Antenatal Care – to address the number of congenital cases.

ENHANCED RESPONSE ACTIVITIES (\$21.2M)

- Workforce supplementation and implementation costs for the roll out of the 'Test and Treat' model, including point-of-care test (PoCT) and treatment medication, which will be negotiated on a case by case basis with each ACCHS in the outbreak region;
- Development and roll out of a 'train the trainer' model to upskill the existing and the supplemented workforce in both the 'Test and Treat' model and sexual health in general; and
- Funding of culturally appropriate health communication and education aimed at the target population.

KEY FACTORS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Formal structures established to include all key stakeholders, comprising a ‘co-design approach’;
- Agreement of National Strategic Approach and Action Plan, with a focus on clear objectives and actions;
- Decision making underpinned by epidemiological data and surveillance; and
- Supported by updated national guidelines.

CO-DESIGN APPROACH



NACCHO

National Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation
Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands

www.naccho.org.au

- Local stakeholder meetings with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Peaks convened by NACCHO;
- COAG Strategic Approach and Action Plan shared with ACCHS and stakeholders;
- Program co-design underpinned by clear objectives;
- Policy intent and delivery challenges were explored together; and
- Leadership capability in the ACCHS sector represented by the National Sector Support Network of NACCHO and its Affiliates.

PHASED ROLLOUT 'TEST & TREAT' MODEL

Phase 1: June 2018

Danila Dilba Health Service (**NT**), Wuchopperen Health Service and Townsville Aboriginal & Islander Health Service (**Qld**).

Phase 2: October 2018

Katherine West Health Board, Sunrise Health Service, Wurli Wurlinjang Aboriginal Health Service, Miwatj Aboriginal Health Service (**NT**) and Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (**WA**).

Phase 3: April 2019

Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, Derby Aboriginal Health Service, Wirraka Maya Health Service (**WA**), Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Incorporated, Pika Wiya Health Service, Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service, Nunyara Aboriginal Health Service, Tullawon Health Service, Ceduna Kooniba Health Service, Umoona Tjutagku Health Service (**SA**) and Mala'la Health Service (**NT**).

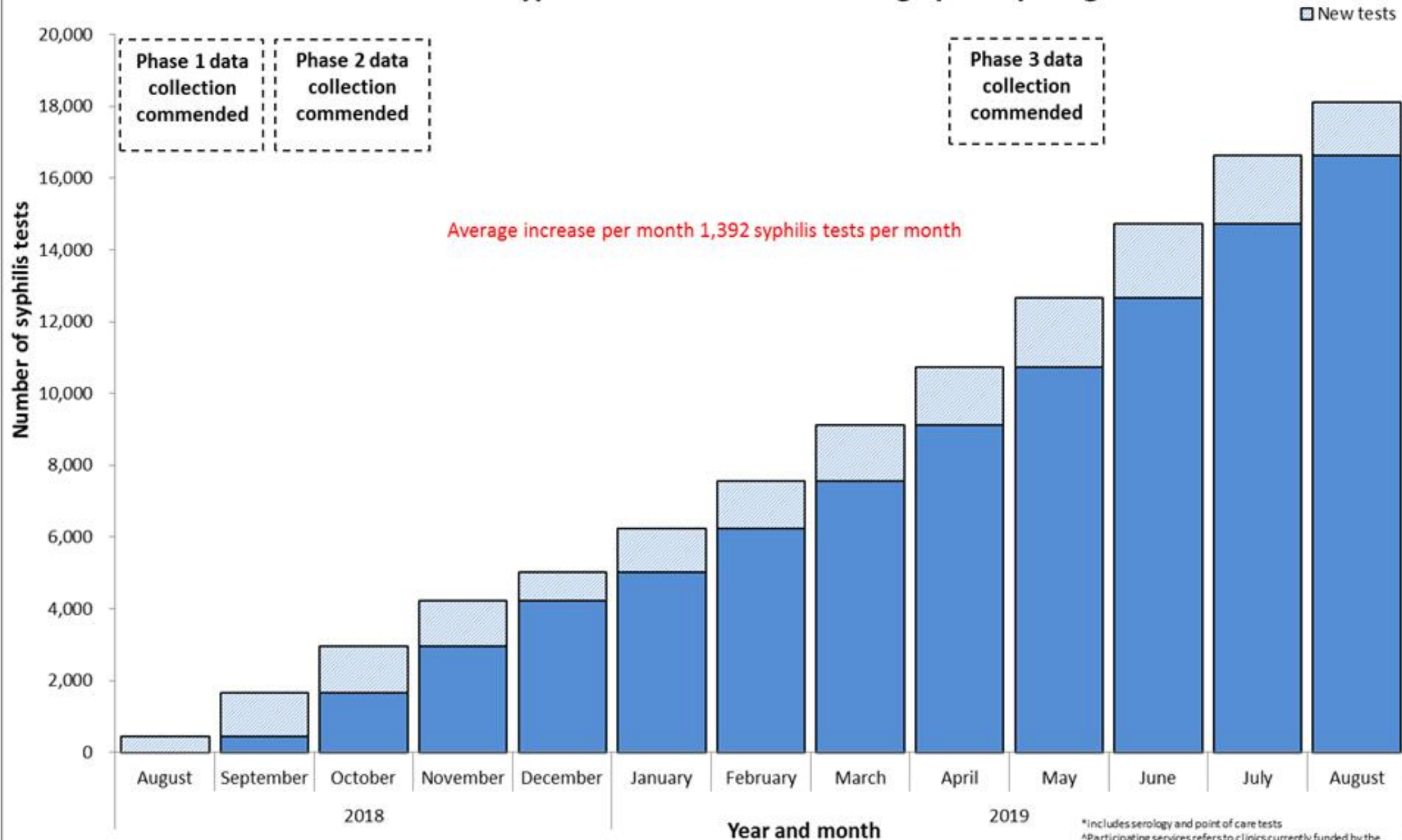
STAGE TWO: POCT PROGRAM

The Australian Government, in partnership with NACCHO, is implementing the second stage of the Enhanced Syphilis Response through the establishment of the dedicated POCT Program for additional ACCHS located in the outbreak regions.

Proposed 'Stage Two' ACCHS:

Bega Garnbirringu Health Services, Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community, Mawarnkarra Health Service **(WA)**, Mount Isa Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, Mulungu Aboriginal Corporation Primary Health Care Service, Mamu Health Service, Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services, NPA Family and Community Services Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation **(Qld)**, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Aboriginal Corporation and Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation **(NT)**.

Cumulative number of syphilis tests* delivered through participating services^



*Includes serology and point of care tests
 ^Participating services refers to clinics currently funded by the Australian Government Department of Health to deliver an enhanced response to the syphilis outbreak

KEY OUTPUTS

Testing and Treatment

- Selection and rollout of a syphilis **POCT** across outbreak regions;
- Update of the Syphilis Series of National Guidelines (**SoNG**) to strengthen guidance in outbreak settings;
- Recruitment of **additional health workforce** across a number of outbreak regions;
- Improved support for staff through online training modules and updated BBV/STI manuals.;
- Listing of **benzathine benzylpenicillin (Bicillin L-A)** on the Emergency Drug Supply Schedule (**Prescribers Bag**) effective from 1 September 2019;
- **16,583** people tested and **338** clinicians trained in PoCT since program commencement (1 August 2018);
- **19** ACCHS enrolled under the Enhanced Response with a further **11** services to be enrolled under 'Stage 2' (**30** total); and
- Coordinated action and community of practice approaches to CQI in sexual health across ACCHS in affected jurisdictions by NACCHO with support from affiliates.

Education and Awareness

- Development and dissemination of extensive resources and professional development material for health professionals and the general public at both a national level and within jurisdictions;
- Development of professional networks and regional action plans within jurisdictions; as well as training and professional development material for clinicians including: online modules, guidelines, workshops and outbreak response groups; and
- Extensive culturally appropriate resources available for community education and awareness through various media across the outbreak regions.

Antenatal Care

- Major update to Syphilis Chapter of the National Pregnancy Care Guidelines; and
- Evaluation of congenital syphilis cases, including lessons learned.

Surveillance and Reporting

- Strengthened outbreak reporting and monitoring by the Multi-Jurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak (MJSO) Working Group.