

# Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease IN AUSTRALIA

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a long-term incurable lung condition that interferes with airflow into the lungs, making it hard to breathe. Guidance in the **Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Clinical Care Standard** will help ease symptoms and improve outcomes for patients.

## NATIONAL DATA

An estimated  
**638,000**  
people live with  
COPD\*



COPD was the underlying cause for  
**7,691 deaths**  
in 2022\*



Representing 4% of all deaths



**1 IN 13 people**  
aged 40+ have COPD  
but around half don't know  
they have it\*\*



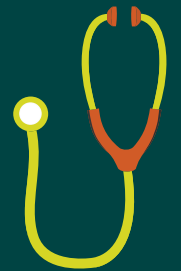
First Nations people are  
**2.3x**  
more likely  
than non-Indigenous people  
to have COPD\*\*\*

## THE BURDEN OF COPD

**53,000**  
avoidable  
hospitalisations  
for COPD\*  
people aged 45+ in 2021-22



COPD costs the  
healthcare system  
**\$832 million**  
annually\*



**87%** of people with COPD have one or  
more other chronic conditions\*

## 5 STEPS TO MANAGE COPD

### 1 ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS

Have a spirometry (breathing) test so you get the right treatment.

### 2 QUIT SMOKING

Seek help to quit smoking or vaping to improve your lung health.

### 3 ACTION PLAN

Get a COPD action plan so you know what to do if symptoms worsen.

### 4 PULMONARY REHAB

Join a lung rehabilitation program to keep moving and ease symptoms.

### 5 MANAGE MEDICINES

Know your medicines and how to use your inhalers.

FIND OUT MORE AT: [safetyandquality.gov.au/copd-ccs](https://safetyandquality.gov.au/copd-ccs)

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\* Source: AIHW 2024 \*\* Source: MJA 2013 \*\*\* Source: ABS 2019