

AUSTRALIA–WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022





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ABOUT THE COVER ARTWORK

Story

The Tingari are a group of ancestral beings of the Dreaming – a mythological time believed in many Australian Aboriginal cultures to be the traditional era of creation.

This work relates the stories of the Tingari Cycle, a series of ceremonies and rituals conducted over vast stretches of the country, at sites of particular sacred or practical significance.

While the specific details of these events are protected and passed down within traditional communities, the stories recount the sharing of knowledge among the Aboriginal peoples of Australia, particularly from elders to novices.

These ancestral stories now form part of the teachings to Aboriginal youths following their initiation into their community, and provide context for contemporary customs.

Australia values collaboration and sharing of knowledge among the countries and areas of the Western Pacific Region, in all the diversity of their geography, culture and customs. The Government of Australia donated this art work to the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office, to symbolise the rich and enduring tradition of dialogue, storytelling and information sharing among the Member States of the Western Pacific Region.

The artist

Charlie Tjapangati was born at the site of Tjulurrunya, to the west of Kiwirrkura in Western Australia. In the early 1960s, as a teenager, Charlie travelled to Papunya, a small Indigenous community in the Northern Territory, where he was initiated.

Today, Charlie is a highly respected elder of the region who carries the knowledge of the Dreaming stories, particularly the Tingari Cycle. As is tradition, he is responsible for passing these sacred Dreamings on to young Aboriginal men during their initiation years.

His works are part of collections across Australia, including in the National Gallery of Australia, as well as the Aboriginal Art Museum of the Netherlands and the University of Virginia in the United States.

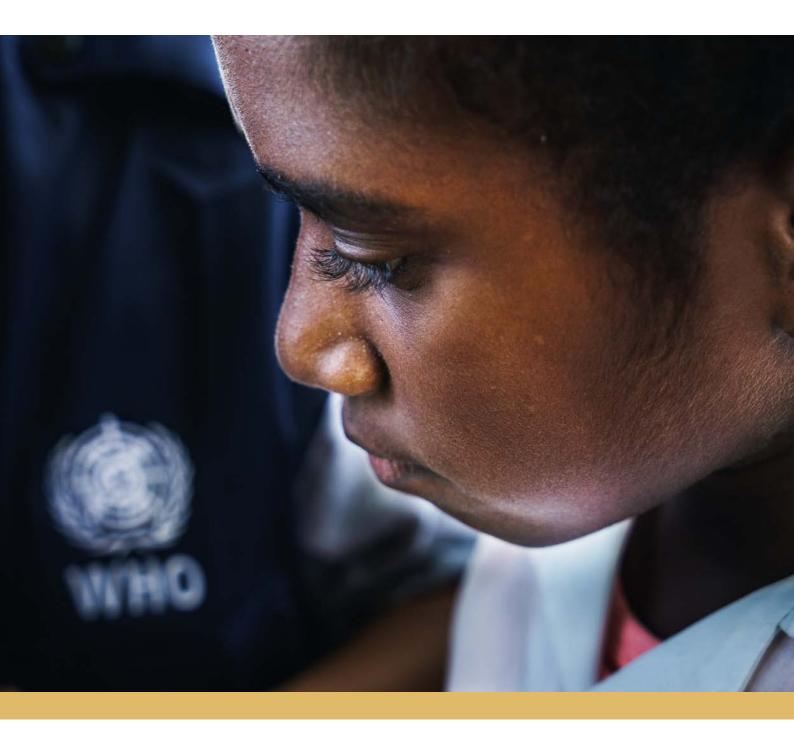
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FOREWORD

The Australian Government Department of Health, in collaboration with government agencies responsible for the health portfolio, and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Western Pacific are pleased to present this *Australia–WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2018–2022*, the first such strategy between Australia and WHO.

This is the first country cooperation strategy (CCS) to focus on a high-income country in the Western Pacific Region. Better leveraging Australia's vast experience and technical expertise in health can help deliver on WHO's mandate and mission in the Region. At the same time, working closely together on issues of mutual importance will help advance Australia's domestic and regional health interests.

Building on an already exceptionally strong relationship, and in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, this Strategy provides a platform at the regional level to further strengthen and guide collaborative efforts to improve health in the Western Pacific Region and beyond in the next five years. This collaboration is underpinned by three key foundations of cooperation: first, WHO contributes to the health of all Australians; second, Australia, facilitated by WHO, contributes to addressing health priorities in the Region and globally, and; third, Australia and WHO work in partnership to promote better health.

This CCS identifies four strategic priorities as a focus for the partnership over the coming five years: 1) health security; 2) people-centred health systems for universal health coverage (UHC); 3) regulatory strengthening; and 4) working together to support to WHO in its efforts to achieve organizational excellence.

Guided by this Strategy, the Department of Health and the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific remain committed to improving the health of Australians and the nearly 1.9 billion people of the Western Pacific Region and beyond.

The Hon Greg Hunt, MP Federal Australian Minister for Health Federal Australian Minister for Sport Dr Shin Young-soo Regional Director for the Western Pacific World Health Organization

ABBREVIATIONS

AHPRA	Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
AMR	antimicrobial resistance
CCS	country cooperation strategy
DFAT	Australia Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
IHR (2005)	International Health Regulations (2005)
MRFF	Medical Research Future Fund
NCD	noncommunicable disease
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration
UHC	universal health coverage
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO FCTC	WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

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