

Chronic health conditions and risk factors

Richard Hockey¹, Gita Mishra¹, Annette Dobson¹

¹University of Queensland

Professor Annette Dobson is Director of the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health (ALSWH) and Professor of Biostatistics in the School of Population Health at the University of Queensland. She is internationally recognised for her expertise in statistical modelling, women's health, the epidemiology of cardiovascular disease and smoking prevention. She has advisory roles with the Population Health

Research Network, which is developing national capacity in health data linkage; the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (advising on cardiovascular disease monitoring) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (advising on methodology). Professor Dobson has had significant involvement with development of the National Women's Health Policy, with the body of research from the ALSWH since 1996 providing the basis for much of the New National Women's Health Policy recently released by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

The prevalence of chronic health conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, osteoporosis and arthritis increases with age. Women who live in rural and remote areas report poorer access to health and preventative services and this may affect the development, maintenance and outcomes of these chronic conditions. In this presentation we will compare the prevalence of chronic conditions in women living in urban, regional and remote parts of Australia.