



#### ***Northern Territory Indigenous life expectancy improvements, 1967-2004***

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The extent of changes in life expectancy at birth for the Indigenous population of the Northern Territory over the period 1967-2004 has been estimated using a high-quality and internally consistent dataset of Indigenous deaths and populations from 1967-2004, and a technique for decomposing gains in life expectancy at birth age into contributions from different age groups. Indigenous life expectancy at birth has risen considerably in the Northern Territory, increasing from about 52 years for males and 54 years females in the late 1960s to about 60 years for males and 68 years for females in recent years. Not surprisingly, infant mortality is responsible for much of these gains, especially in the earlier half of this period. Significantly, however, older mortality has also played a role, especially in the later half of this period, with about 70% of the gains in this period occurring as consequences in mortality declines in the over-40 age groups. This suggests recent chronic disease management strategies may be working, particularly for Indigenous females.