Key asthma messages 2008

• About 2 million Australians have current asthma*
  o One in nine children
  o One in ten adults.

• In recent years, the prevalence of asthma has decreased among children and young adults.

• Indigenous Australians have more problems with asthma than other Australians
  o 1 ½ times as likely to have current asthma
  o Twice as likely to have hospital visits for asthma
  o 3 times as likely to die from asthma.

• People with asthma should have a written asthma action plan but most still don’t.

• People with asthma are at least as likely to smoke as others are.

• One in nine children with asthma are exposed to tobacco smoke in their home.

• 402 people died due to asthma in 2006, one in four of them aged under 65 years.

• There has been a general pattern of decline in deaths due to asthma since the early 1990s.

• In 2004–05, $606 million (1.2% of total health-care expenditure) was spent on asthma, over half of it on medication.

* Defined as ever being doctor-diagnosed and still having asthma (National Health Survey 2004–05)