

PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 111

MOSQUITOES

- Mosquitoes are a fact of life in the tropics and there are over 100 species in the NT, some capable of causing disease such as Ross River virus.
- It is a good idea when visiting or living in the NT to ensure that you are protected against mosquitoes by:
 - Covering up, particularly around dusk and dawn.
 - Wearing long-sleeved light coloured clothing.
 - Using insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin which are available in sprays, gels or creams (gels are longer lasting).

PLEASE NOTE: TEA TREE OILS AND HOME REMEDIES WILL NOT STOP YOU FROM BEING BITTEN.

- Mosquitoes breed in water. Don't be a backyard breeder. Get rid of any water containers that collect rainwater. (e.g. blocked roof gutters, wheelbarrows, old tyres). Also:
 - Did you know that mozzies are effective carriers of heartworm in dogs? Ensure you change your dog's water every seven days to prevent mosquitoes breeding close to your dog.
 - Empty pot plant drip trays weekly.
 - Screen rainwater tanks.
 - Keep fish ponds stocked with fish.
- Also ensure that house screens are free of holes and maintain your swimming pool during the wet season.

The Department of Health and Families' mozzie experts are happy to discuss any aspects of mosquitoes. Telephone (business hours): 8922 8333 or 8922 8901.