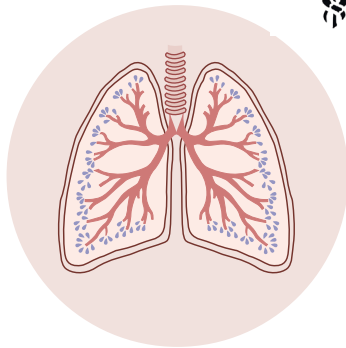
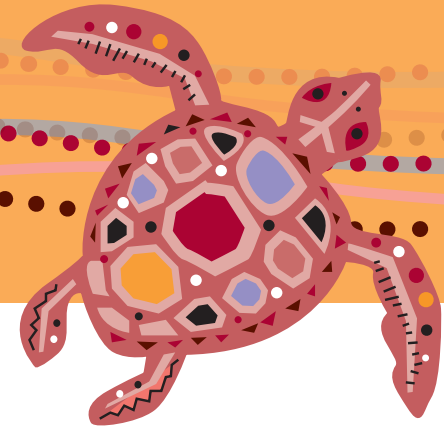




Government of Western Australia  
Child and Adolescent Health Service



# CHRONIC LUNG SICKNESS

Chronic Suppurative Lung Disease and Bronchiectasis

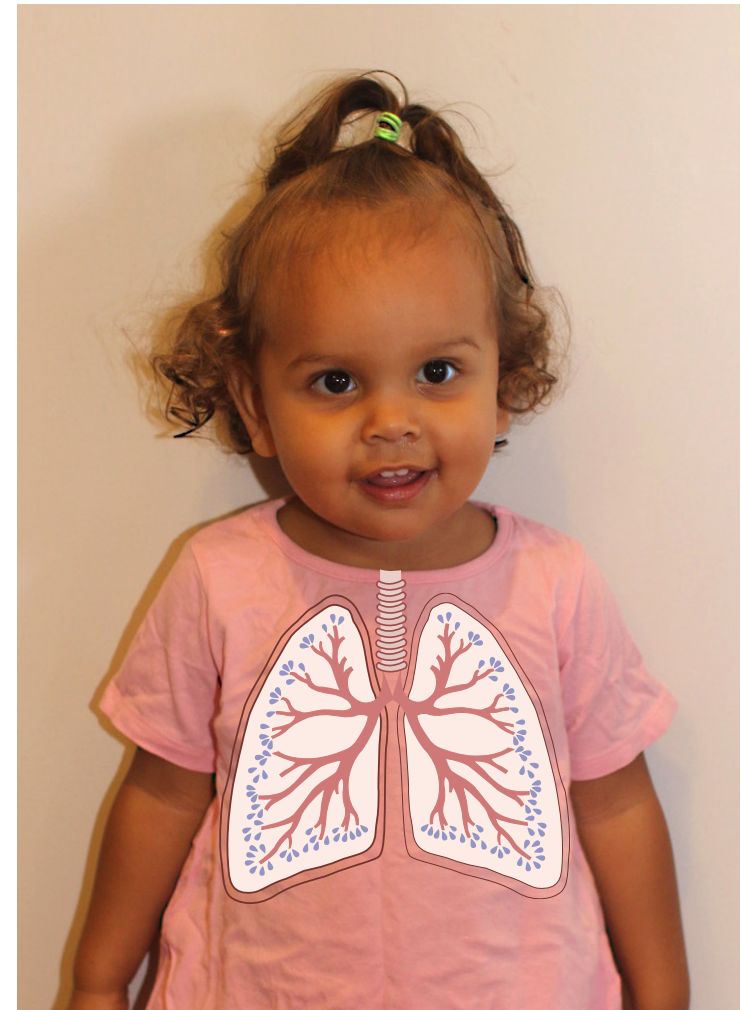
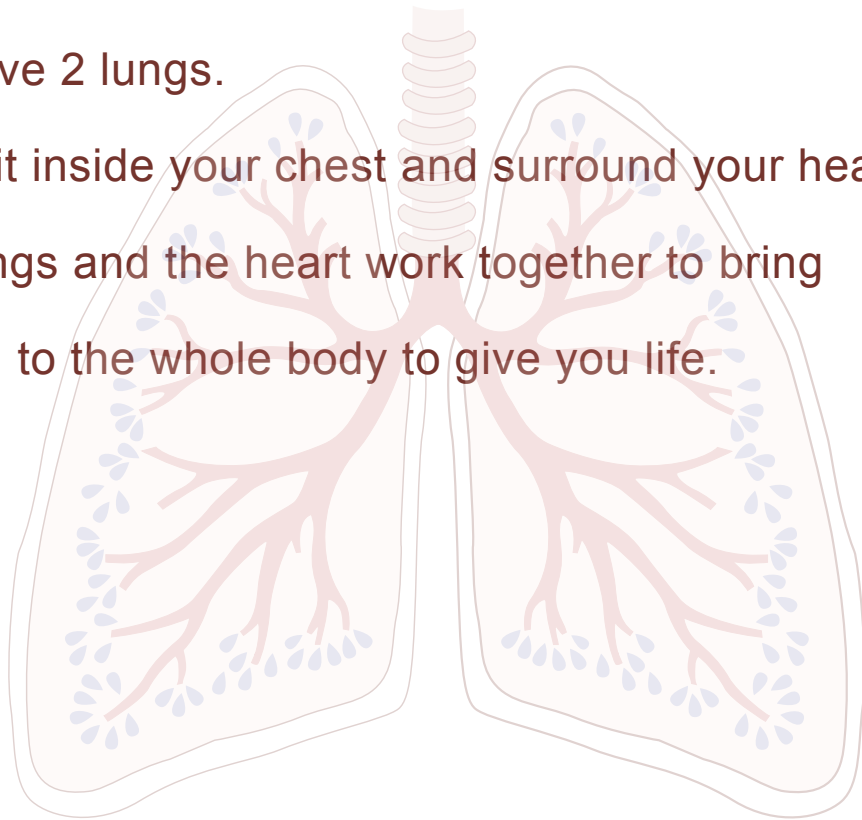


# The Lungs

You have 2 lungs.

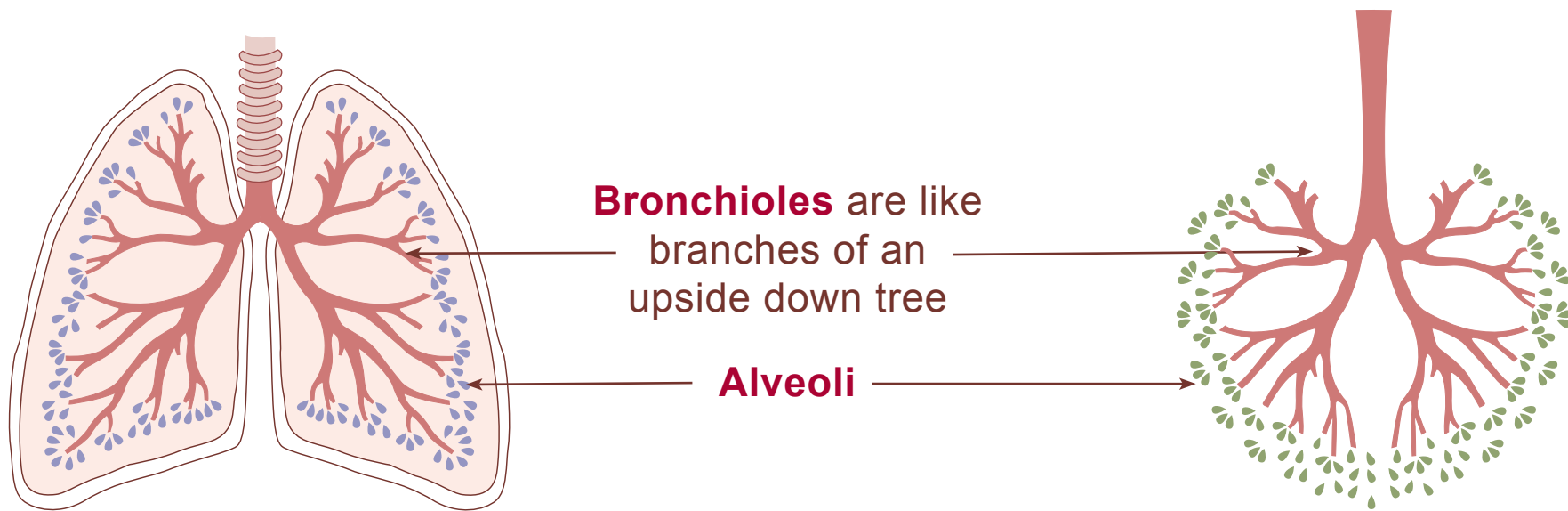
They sit inside your chest and surround your heart.

The lungs and the heart work together to bring oxygen to the whole body to give you life.



# The Lungs

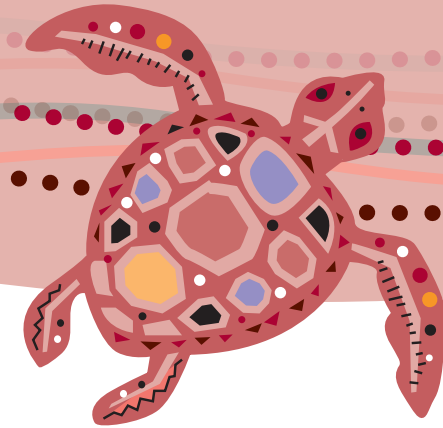
- The lungs look like an upside down tree.
- The tree trunk is like the windpipe (**trachea**).
- The 2 big branches are like the 2 main air tubes (**bronchi**).
- The smaller branches are like the smaller air tubes (**bronchioles**).
- The leaves are like the tiny air sacs (**alveoli**).



## What is chronic lung sickness?

- A bad lung sickness that lots of Aboriginal children have.
- The breathing tubes get damaged and stop working properly.
- Your child may have a wet sounding cough which comes and goes or stays for a long time.





## How do you get chronic lung sickness?

- Lots of chest infections like pneumonia or bronchiolitis when children are young can cause chronic lung sickness.
- There are other causes like a wet cough that doesn't go away or a blockage in the airway.



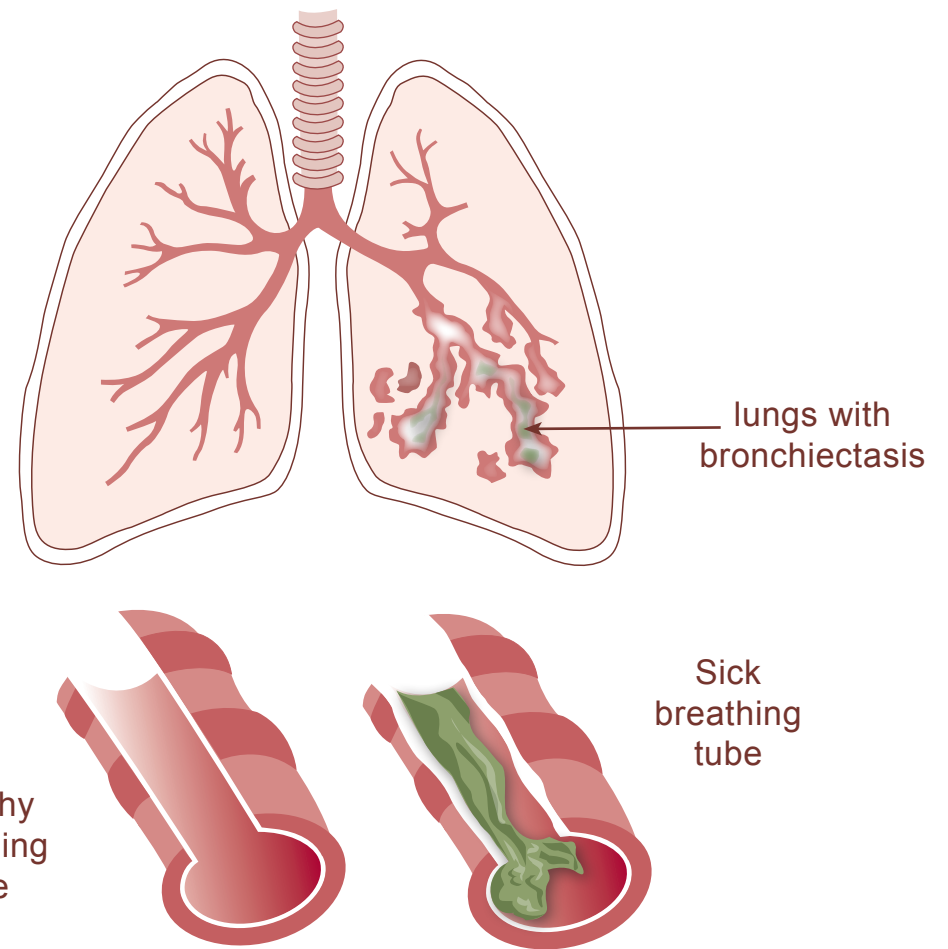
## Risks that may cause chronic lung sickness

- Smoke from fires can damage lungs, so keep children away from smoke path.
- Cigarette smoking near children, especially in cars or inside a building can damage the lungs, even if they only use the building later.
- Dust can damage the lungs also.



## What happens inside the lungs?

- The breathing tubes get damaged when the phlegm gets infected.
- Damaged airways causes lots more phlegm in side the breathing tubes.
- Sometimes it is hard to get rid of the phlegm and children cough a lot.



## What can you do?

### Bring your child to clinic:

- If your child has a wet cough for more than 4 weeks.
- If your child has phlegm/goonbee.
- If your child has short wind.





## Bring your child to clinic:

- The health staff can check and help stop the coughing.
- Your child might need some antibiotics for the cough.
- If the health worker is not concerned about the cough, but your child has been coughing for more than four weeks, take someone with you who can help you tell the health worker.



# Why are healthy lungs important?

- The lungs in children are still growing, so we have to look after them.
- Strong lungs helps children grow strong, live strong, to play and learn.



The Chronic Lung Sickness flip chart was developed in consultation with Telethon Kids Institute, Telethon Kids Kimberley, the Child and Adolescent Health Service, Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, Broome Aboriginal Medical Service, Western Australian Country Health Service and the Broome Aboriginal community, including St Mary's College (Primary), Broome.



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**KIMBERLEY**

To order more resources or provide feedback please email: [Pam.Laird@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:Pam.Laird@telethonkids.org.au)  
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