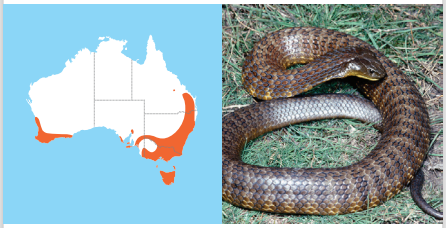
Australian Snake Venom

Did you know nearly 70% of Australia's 214 land-based snake species are venomous?

Snake species can vary greatly – both in the environments they inhabit around the country, and also in the **composition of their venom.** Let's take a look at three examples:

Tiger snake



Not all tiger snakes have prominent black and yellow stripes/bands - some might have no stripes/bands at all.

Desert death adder snake

There are eight species of death adder snakes. Some are currently under threat due to habitat destruction.

Eastern brown snake

Brown snakes cause over 33% of all snake bite-related hospitalisations in Australia.

Snake distribution maps are approximate habitat boundaries and are intended for educational purposes only.

Deaths from snake bites in Australia are rare. Surprisingly, **snake bites are more likely to happen at home,** however not all snake bites result in venom being released or injected (known as envenoming).

Snake venom is a highly specialised toxic secretion that is injected into the victim for self-defence or capturing food.

- Venom is made up of many different toxins. This varies tremendously between snakes of the same species, and even in the same type of snake depending on its age and location!
- There are different types of toxins, and their effects on our bodies can be mild or deadly.
- Toxins from venoms have also been researched to develop into medicines.

There are 4 main types of toxin:

Neurotoxins Interrupts function of the nervous system	**Cytotoxins** Damages cells and tissues
Haemotoxins Interferes with the blood	**Myotoxins** Causes muscle damage

Anyone bitten by a snake should **call 000**, apply the **Pressure Immobilisation Technique (PIT)** and seek appropriate medical care urgently.

Learn more about venomous creatures and first aid for bites and stings via the **Australian Bites & Stings App!** For further information on bites or stings, please talk to your doctor.

Download the Australian Bites & Stings App now!

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