Media Kit - Winners

NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AWARDS

2014

Thursday, 13 November 2014
Ivy Ballroom, Ivy,
320 George Street,
Sydney
BUILDING TRUST THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Working in Partnerships to Develop a Culturally Appropriate Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project

Long term partnerships are the key to this successful tobacco control project between mainstream health services and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector with a common aim of reducing the high smoking rates in the Aboriginal community in South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLH) and Sydney Local Health District (SLHD).

Led by a steering committee with representatives from three Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and the SWSLHD and SLHD, strategies implemented under the project include:

- Social marketing, including three advertising phases
- Culturally appropriate and localised resources
- Website and Facebook
- Promotion at community events
- Community grants program
- Quit group programs
- Training and supporting staff to implement tobacco cessation advice.

With smoking rates of adult Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander current daily smokers more than double the rate in the non-Indigenous population, the project aims to lower smoking in Indigenous communities in South Western Sydney by 5%.

The project has been evaluated and outcomes to date include 71.5% of current or occasional smokers reporting considering quitting within six months, and 93% of those who recalled the campaign reporting that it prompted discussion with family and friends. Nine quit groups with 89 participants have been conducted and two Aboriginal controlled services now deliver their own quit groups.
The three research areas are brought together under the Gudaga Dissemination project which captures the findings from the program to inform policy and practice in the region and the implementation of evidence-based programs to address need.

A key feature of the Gudaga Research Program is strong relationships with key partners, built on equality, respect, and reciprocity between the researchers, the community’s mothers, Elders and health workers.

The program is delivered in partnership by the Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation, UNSW, Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation and South Western Sydney Local Health District.
INTEGRATED PLANNING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

Aboriginal Specific Outpatient Alcohol Withdrawal

Aboriginal people can face barriers to accessing treatment for alcohol problems but some barriers may be overcome by culturally safe and appropriate services and outpatient treatment from Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).

A partnership project between Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) and Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service (IAMS) has addressed this need and established a home alcohol detoxification (withdrawal management) service, assisted by funding from the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education.

The service, known as the A-clinic, was established after community consultation. It is based on cultural appropriateness, best evidence and clinical experience, with a goal to improve access to quality and safe healthcare.

The initiative has resulted in an increased capacity for IAMS to provide home detoxification, an increase in the number of Aboriginal drinkers going through withdrawal management, and an increase in the number of people engaged with alcohol treatment services.

IAMS conceived and implemented the project due to local need.
ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE

Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative
On the job training combined with part-time study towards a Master of Public Health degree is the focus of the Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative.

Funded by the NSW Ministry of Health and delivered through partnerships with Population Health services within Local Health Districts, the training initiative is open to Aboriginal people who have a health related undergraduate degree and an interest in Population Health.

It was established in response to the under-representation of Aboriginal people in the health workforce and helps meet the high demand for a skilled Aboriginal Population Health workforce.

The three-year traineeship, combining workplace learning and part-time study, enables trainees to apply and develop their public health skills in the workplace through work placements that provide experience with Population Health practice.

The training initiative aims to increase the capacity of the Aboriginal Population Health workforce, and ultimately improve the health of NSW Aboriginal people. Positive impacts of the initiative include:

- Creating employment and career opportunities for the community
- Increasing the number of Aboriginal people working in Population Health, ensuring programs are more culturally appropriate
- Since it began in 2011, 10 trainees have been recruited with the first four completing their traineeships in 2014.
CULTURALLY SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENTS & HEALTH SERVICES

Respecting the Difference: Joining of Two Spirits

‘Joining of Two Spirits’ is an inspiring educational program that brings together Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal people in a culturally safe learning environment, with the aim of empowering culturally secure health environments for Aboriginal patients in custody.

Delivered under the auspice of the Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network (JH&FMHN), ‘Joining of Two Spirits’ aims to improve staff understanding of the issues faced by Aboriginal people that influence their health as well as establish cultural competence as a core feature of professional development.

In this program, Aboriginal staff partnering with an Aboriginal consultant and community members, share their stories and expertise of Aboriginal issues with non-Aboriginal people. Participants are empowered to examine their thoughts, actions and feelings on a range of Aboriginal-related topics, and to develop skills to improve Aboriginal health outcomes.

Over representation of Aboriginals in prisons (24.1% compared to only 2.5% in the broader community) combined with the high prevalence of chronic diseases, is the driver for JH&FMHN staff to deepen their knowledge, skills and attitudes to deliver culturally appropriate health services.

A survey of ‘Joining of Two Spirits’ participants showed that, after 12 months, many participants had made changes to their job (39%), half (52.9%) had introduced one or more positive workplace behaviours, and two-thirds (68.4%) had introduced one or more positive communication behaviours.
PERFORMANCE MONITORING, MANAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

A Framework for Ensuring Aboriginal Health is a Priority for SWSLHD Hospitals

South Western Sydney Local Area Health District has established a strong framework to make sure Aboriginal Health is a priority across the service.

The framework aims to improve service responsiveness for Aboriginal patients, and Aboriginal Health Forums have been established at SWSLHD’s three largest hospitals. An Aboriginal Health Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Dashboard has also been implemented across the local health district and all facilities report against the KPI’s.

The forums convene regularly and bring together hospital executive, key Aboriginal staff and relevant community stakeholders to develop strategies and improve hospital services for Aboriginal patients and their families.

The KPI Dashboard facilitates reporting and data gathering and provides an opportunity to identify where performance can be improved.

As a result of the framework, Aboriginal Health is high on the organisational agenda.

The Forums have also progressed several initiatives over the past year including expansion of the Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) workforce, cultural spaces within facilities, better ENT referral pathways for Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS) patients at Campbelltown Hospital, Cardiologist outreach services from Liverpool Hospital, Tharawal AMS GP outreach service in Bowral Hospital and redevelopment of the 48 hour follow up and Aboriginal chronic care referral pathway.
QUIET ACHIEVER

Mr Joe Miller - Hunter New England Local health District

Day in and day out you will find Joe Miller helping his community. Whether it’s advocating for Aboriginal people in acute mental health services or in a Magistrate’s court, or promoting intervention for prevention of mental health problems, Joe makes it his business to help.

Joe is the Aboriginal Coordinator for Mental Health at Hunter New England Local Health District. A quiet achiever, he co-ordinated major events in 2014 in the region including four forums on Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

He is a respected member of the Toomelah Aboriginal Action Group, helping the community understand the social and mental health problems related to strokes, and has co-authored a publication on strokes.

Joe works effectively with the mental health promotion team and has helped develop a family centred approach to mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention, based on strengths, trust, rapport and respect for the Coledale Aboriginal community of Tamworth.

He is a member of the Tamworth Aboriginal Men’s Group, the NOW committee for Coledale action and community development and a leader in organising student and family days for Hillview Public School in Coledale, including a major public health event where students learned from Aboriginal and mainstream health and mental health services.

“Joe is respected by Aboriginal workers, psychiatrists, allied health, nurses and educators for his advocacy and health promotion for Aboriginal patients at mental health units,” Senior Mental Health Promotion Officer – Team Leader, Dr Alan Avery said.
Nicole Turner is one of Australia’s few Aboriginal community nutritionists and has a solid reputation for ‘getting things done’. Whether it’s establishing new health programs, recruiting Aboriginal Health Workers or mentoring, Nicole is passionate and committed in her work.

As an Aboriginal Project Officer she implements programs which encourage healthy eating, physical activity and healthy weight for rural Aboriginal children, the Many Rivers Diabetes Prevention Project and Go4Fun.

Her most recent program, Go4Fun is an evidenced-based 10-week program for overweight children and families. As part of this program, Nicole has:

- Recruited and supported 47 previously unemployed Aboriginal people to participate in training to become Go4Fun leaders
- Enabled the employment of 28 Aboriginal people trained to be leaders and provided one-on-one mentoring

Nicole has always demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to Aboriginal communities across NSW, and when representing Aboriginal people locally, state-wide and nationally. She is particularly passionate about engaging isolated and disadvantaged Aboriginal communities with limited access to healthy lifestyle programs, and has a strong belief in Aboriginal people’s capacity to successfully deliver programs in their own communities.
HALL OF FAME

Sandra Bailey

Sandra Bailey – CEO Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council

Across Australia the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector (ACCHSs) delivers culturally appropriate and comprehensive primary health care to their communities. In NSW, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) is the peak representative body and voice for ACCHSs and at its helm is CEO Sandra Bailey.

Sandra is a proud Yorta Yorta woman with a long-standing involvement in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector. In her role as CEO, she represents more than 50 ACCHSs in NSW.

One of her many strengths is her ability to establish collaborative partnerships. As a result of these partnerships, there has been a significant increase in the size and scope of AH&MRC operations.

Sandra has worked tirelessly to establish strong relationships in the NSW health system, and with external partners in government and non-government agencies, with the aim of promoting better understanding of the importance of engaging with the AH&MRC and the ACCHSs in policy, planning and service delivery at state, regional and local levels.

Her list of achievements speaks for itself. Formerly a solicitor with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and head of the Victorian Aboriginal Issues Unit of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, she is known for her advocacy abilities. She has also worked for the Yorta Yorta Tribal Council and Koori Kollij, supporting cultural heritage and advocating for ownership rights for Aboriginal people.

She was instrumental in setting up the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIAH) in 2003. CRIAH is a partnership between AH&MRC and the Sax Institute to facilitate research to improve the health of Aboriginal people. Sandra remains on the Steering Group.

Since becoming the CEO of the AH&MRC, Sandra has made significant contributions to better policies, programs and services and has guided the organisation through substantial growth.
NSW HEALTH SECRETARY’S
AWARD FOR ABORIGINAL
HEALTH

MINISTER OF HEALTH AWARD

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