

Raising cancer awareness and building networks

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Background – Why a cancer project?

- ❑ Cancer is second highest cause of death for Aboriginal people in NSW
- ❑ Aboriginal cancer mortality rate up to 3 times higher
(*Supramaniam R, Grindley H, Jackson Pulver 2006)
- ❑ Possible reasons:
 - More advanced stage of cancer at diagnosis
 - Cancer diagnosis at a younger age
 - More aggressive types of cancer
 - More comorbidities
 - Practical and logistical barriers to accessing treatment – eg. Transport, accommodation, cost

Aboriginal Cancer Partnership Project

- ❑ Partnership – AH&MRC, Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Council NSW
- ❑ Three year project, started in 2012
- ❑ Funded by NSW Ministry of Health

Aim: To improve cancer care and outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW by building skills, knowledge, partnerships

Aboriginal Cancer Partnership Project (ACPP)

Elements of ACPP Project

- ☐ Community awareness workshops
- ☐ Community action (advocacy) training for Aboriginal health professionals
- ☐ Training Needs Analysis
- ☐ Cancer awareness module at AHC
- ☐ CINSW Grants Program – Clinical placements, health prof networks, partnerships between mainstream and ACCHS



Yarning about Cancer Workshops

- ☐ 9 local workshops since 2013 – 10 more planned for 2014
- ☐ Total of approx 285 participants
- ☐ AHWs, ACCHS staff, Medicare Locals, ALOs/hospital staff, community members and mainstream service providers

Workshop aims:

- ☐ Information about cancer – Prevention, symptoms and detection, treatment
- ☐ Networking of different support services
- ☐ Discussion about main cancer issues and barriers
- ☐ Working together on a local plan to address issues



Halfway point: Summary of needs and issues

To improve cancer outcomes, we need:

- ❑ Increased community awareness – address myths about cancer
- ❑ Improved knowledge of cancer prevention and risk factors
- ❑ Increased knowledge of cancer screening programs – what cancers can be screened for, when, who, how, why
- ❑ Better coordination between hospitals and primary health care
- ❑ Training for AHWs to know patient journey, rights, options
- ❑ More awareness about practical and social support services available for people with cancer – and how to navigate complex system

Focus on solutions – Community Action Plans

Examples of local strategies:

- ☐ Culturally appropriate cancer awareness campaigns and resources
- ☐ Community cancer champions
- ☐ Aboriginal cancer support groups
- ☐ Link cancer prevention in with existing health promotion events – eg. NAIDOC days Men's Sheds, tackling tobacco progs
- ☐ Training for Aboriginal staff about cancer care pathways
- ☐ Local service directories and contact list
- ☐ More AHWs in cancer services

How?

- ☐ Regular networking meetings with all local services



Supporting local networks

- ❑ Local people leading local initiatives to address local issues
- ❑ Meet regularly to improve coordination and communication between services
- ❑ AMS, community members, Elders, LHD, Medicare Locals, CCNSW, other services)
- ❑ Support from AH&MRC and CCNSW Regional Offices:
 - Key contacts
 - Sharing ideas, resources and information
 - Opportunities for funding, training, events
 - Practical support – eg. In developing action plans, ToR
 - Annual Statewide Forum

Supporting local networks

Some challenges:

- ☐ Workforce capacity – lack of dedicated Aboriginal cancer positions
- ☐ Relies on leadership of key individuals
- ☐ Time
- ☐ Resources
- ☐ Funding

But it's early days:

- ☐ Relationships are developing – getting to know each other
- ☐ Change is slow

Plan for 2014

Proposed workshop locations:

- ☐ Armidale – 27 and 28 May
- ☐ Griffith
- ☐ Forbes
- ☐ Wagga Wagga
- ☐ Taree
- ☐ La Perouse
- ☐ Campbelltown
- ☐ Nowra
- ☐ Moree

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