



NATIONAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

Improving practice through research

Northern Territory Overview

Northern Territory Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and government primary healthcare services have been engaged in successive ABCD projects over the past decade. The ABCD/One21seventy quality improvement cycle now forms part of the NT CQI strategy and has been implemented into standard practice in NT health centres.

The ABCD Northern Territory Steering Committee, comprised of key NT CQI stakeholders from the government and community controlled sectors, is continuing to analyse six monthly NT data reports and consider avenues for new analysis and research. A working group of the cross-sector NT CQI Planning Committee will also be considering the wider policy and guidelines implications of the reports and the potential for integration with other data. Work currently being undertaken within the ABCD National Research Partnership in the NT includes:

- Development of a new youth health audit tool, funded by beyondblue
- Research into gaps in the delivery of evidence-based guidelines for the prevention, treatment and management of childhood anaemia
- Adaptation of the ABCD/One21seventy Systems Assessment Tool for use by management
- A review of ABCD/One21seventy Systems Assessment Tool resources and manuals to improve recording and documentation
- Bec Gooley's PhD project on consumer perceptions of chronic illness care in remote Indigenous communities, which is developing and testing consumer feedback resources
- Anita D'Aprano's PhD project, 'Talking about Raising Aboriginal Kids', which is investigating whether training Aboriginal Health Workers to use an adapted developmental monitoring tool is associated with improvement in early childhood development practice
- Two Indigenous research students soon to commence projects in the areas of Indigenous youth health and mental health, funded by beyondblue

Achievements

- Engaged key players in CQI the NT government and community controlled sectors in the ABCD NT Steering Committee and in the analysis of policy implications of data reports
- Engaged all NT government sites and most Aboriginal community controlled health organisations using the One21seventy tools in the Partnership

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- Finalising pilot study of childhood anaemia project
- Awarded beyondblue National Priority Driven Research grant for youth health audit tool research translation costs
- Collaborated with two PhD students
- Supported two junior Indigenous research students (funded by beyondblue)

Key contacts in Northern Territory

A/Prof Tricia Nagel, State Project Manager

Tricia Nagel is a consultant psychiatrist who has lived and worked in the Top End of the Northern Territory for 26 years. Tricia is an Associate Professor at both Flinders University and Menzies School of Health Research where she leads the Healing and Resilience Theme. Dr Nagel has a particular interest in comorbid disorders and integration of treatment approaches for improved wellbeing outcomes in primary care. Her work encompasses development of systems for delivery of best practice in remote and socially disadvantaged settings, mental health promotion, assessment and treatment of comorbid chronic disease and substance use, and exploration of low-intensity psychological interventions as treatment.

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Stefanie Puszka, Northern Territory Research Officer

Ms Puszka is a research officer with the National Partnership project. She has previously worked at the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families and the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. She completed an Honours thesis in 2009 on the impacts of income management on an Arnhem Land outstation and is currently undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Yolngu Studies at Charles Darwin University. Her research interests include Indigenous Peoples' interactions with service delivery and community engagement.

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