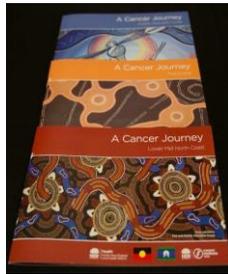


Localised Culturally Safe Cancer Resources:
Connecting Indigenous Cancer Patients and Staff
for 3rd largest Health Service in Australia.

Rose Wadwell
HNELHD
Aboriginal Health Unit



Acknowledgement to Country



**I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet
on today and pay our respect to elders, past, present**

*WARNING: This presentation may contain images of, or have references to, deceased people. There may also be words or descriptions that could be culturally sensitive. This could upset some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; however **HNELHD and Cancer Network** wishes no disrespect or distress to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and community.*



Hunter New England Local Health District



Hunter New England Health (HNE Health) provides a range of public health services to the Hunter, New England and Lower Mid North Coast regions.

Kamilaroi, Gomilaroi, Geawegal, Bahtabah, Thungutti, Awabakal, Aniawan, Biripi, Worimi, Nganyaywana, Wonnarua, Banbai, Ngoorabul, Bundjalung, Yallaroi and Darkinung nations across Hunter New England

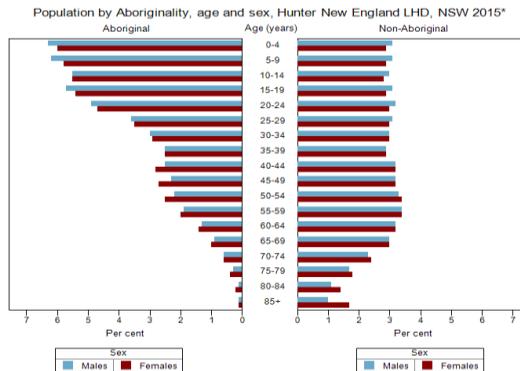


Population Overview



HNELHD has:

- 70% Aboriginal population <35yo
- Highest number of Aboriginal births in NSW, 2014



Why Cancer is a priority health issue for our Mob



On average, around two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are diagnosed with cancer every day, with lung and breast cancer being the two most commonly diagnosed cancers. Barriers that we already know exist for Aboriginal people based on consultations and community feedback include;

Community Awareness:

- Idea that cancer is a death sentence - Denial or fear to follow up symptoms
- Cancer is a white man's disease – Shame factor
- Lack of clarity in community around causes, prevention and treatment
- Low health literacy around cancer – lack of information and resources; lack of Aboriginal representation in advertising and public health campaigns
- Lack of awareness and clarity around screening – what cancers you can screen for, how often, at what age, process, cost
- Lack of Culturally safe services – a place where my people feel safe



What is HNELHD going to do about this ?



Strategic;

- Aboriginal Cancer Mapping Project 2013 – Kristy Crooks
- Incorporation of key Close the Gap measures into the Cancer Services Plan
- Establishment of a working party to progress recommendations from the Aboriginal Cancer Mapping Project to improve access to information and services for Aboriginal people diagnosed with cancer

Recommendations;

Aboriginal Cancer Project officer 12 months

Aboriginal Cancer Liaison Officer – 6 months



How was this done ?



3 Cancer Units within HNELHD



Engaging the Elders and Significant Community Members



- Engaging Elders and significant others is vital for the project to be successful
- Deliver what matters in their community, Aboriginal communities will access services that are culturally safe and supported by their communities



Sharing their Cancer Journey Stories



Aboriginal people, in fact all people should be treated with respect, they should never be made to feel that they are not valued, and therefore don't have a voice.

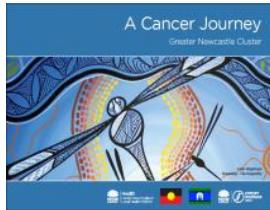
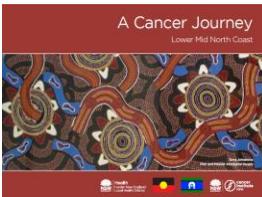
“Listen to your Patients”

Anthony Avery Junior

17th May 1982 – 2nd September 2008



“A Cancer Journey” Booklets



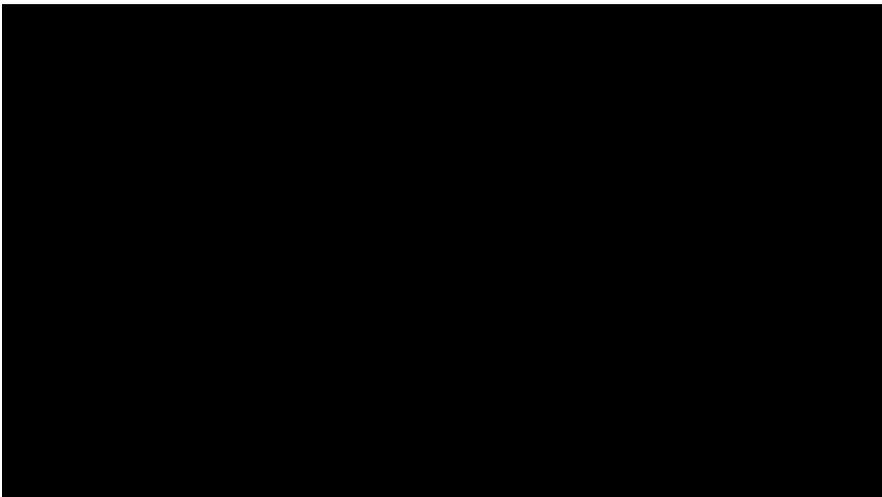
Culturally Safe DVD's developed



A Filming team was formed Dave and Me



Aunt Annie May sharing her story



HNE Aboriginal Cancer Service Resources Developed



The "My Cancer Journey" Booklets and videos have recently been launched at various sites across the District. The resources have been produced to improve the effectiveness of Aboriginal peoples journey through the health system for those that are affected by cancer related illnesses. The three resource booklets are targeted to specific communities GNs, Peel and LMNC Clusters, and includes the detail and contact information of local cancer services in the area.

The resources will assist in reinforcing the importance of health education and screening from an Aboriginal patient perspective. These booklets has been designed as a partnership approach between the HNE Aboriginal Health Unit, Cancer Services Network and local Aboriginal Community. The benefits of collaboration will be relationship building and trust which will have a flow on effect improving cultural respect, awareness and sensitivity between patients, clinicians and the local community. You can access the booklet by clicking on the links below. Video Links are available here:

[Video: Staff Welcome](#) [Video: A place of Healing](#) [Video: Go and get your girls checked](#)

If you would like more information on the cancer services initiatives, please contact Aboriginal Health Coordinator Susan Mulyk via email: Susan.Mulyk@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au



Calvary Mater Newcastle



Manning Rural Referral Hospital



North West Cancer Centre

Documents and Links

[Culture, Cancer, Caring Booklet- Inspiring stories for our Mob- AH&MRC](#)

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Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

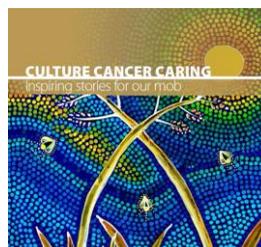
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"A Cancer Journey" Booklets launches.



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Outcomes:



Continuing the great work:



HNELHD Aboriginal Health is continuing all the great work already done:

Developing:

The Aboriginal Cancer Awareness Initiative working group who are responsible for developing a multi-pronged approach to deliver culturally appropriate cancer awareness and screening promotion to the community. This will include increasing the capacity of existing Aboriginal Health Workers to promote the cancer screening and early detection messages in the same way as they promote messages about chronic disease and provide 'yarn-ups' for the community to increase their awareness of the benefits of screening and early detection.

Through:

- A series of resources that will include a training manual, resource kit and facilitator's guide for use by Aboriginal Health Workers in community yarn-ups so they feel confident to deliver the messages to the community
- Develop a training program for upskilling Aboriginal staff to deliver messages to the community and on how to conduct workshops in community
- Have annual walk through the Cancer Units within HNELHD ensuring feeling of safety to promote Cancer
- Develop culturally appropriate Palliative Care Resources.



Yarning

