

Development and evaluation of a cancer education course for Aboriginal Health Professionals

World Indigenous Cancer Conference, Brisbane Queensland
13 April 2016



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Cancer Council WA



Acknowledging traditional owners

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land the Jagara tribal nation south of the Brisbane river and the Tuurbal tribal nation north of the river where we meet today.

I would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present and offer my acknowledgment and respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and other Indigenous nations who are present.



Objective

- Develop, deliver and evaluate a Cancer Education Course for WA's Aboriginal Health Professionals
- Increase knowledge and understanding of cancer-related issues among Aboriginal Health Professionals in WA
- Establish and build networks that will help to improve cancer outcomes for Aboriginal people in WA



Method

Program Development

- 5 day program, free to participants
- Comprehensive set of learning objectives covering prevention through to palliative care
- **Program consisted of:**
 - Presentations by cancer experts
 - Interactive workshop and sessions
 - Visits to local cancer treatment centres
- **Culturally relevant content**



Cultural aspects

- **Ensured content developed and delivered respectfully,**
 - Acknowledged cultural issues (death and dying, shame, traditional bush medicine, men's and women's business)
 - Content presented or co-presented by Aboriginal people
- **Experiential learning and yarning**
- **Selected non-Aboriginal presenters with high levels of cultural awareness**
- **Two Aboriginal members of Aboriginal group attended pilot program to provide feedback**



Evaluation

- **Process evaluation**
- **Impact evaluation**
 - Pre-and post-course
 - Follow up (mean 8 month, range 6-10 months)
 - Assessment five confidence items & five knowledge items using a 4-point Likert-type scale
 - Change in confidence and knowledge assessed within subjects, by paired-sample t-tests

Ethics approval obtained from Curtin University
Human Research Ethics Committee (PH-033-2009)



Application

Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals

Monday 23 June to Friday 25 June 2010

The Cancer Council WA is now calling for applications for the 2010 Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Professionals across metro, rural and regional Western Australia.




The five day Cancer Education Course aims to increase the cancer knowledge of participants by providing information about cancer, treatment and the impact of the disease to improve the care of Aboriginal people with cancer.

Registration free

Participants will receive:

- Travel expenses (to and from Perth)
- Meals and accommodation
- Course registration and
- Participant booklet and study notes

Closing date for all applications: Monday 24 May 2010

Application form

Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals
 Course dates: Monday 23 June to Friday 25 June 2010
 Applications close: 11pm, Monday 24 May 2010
 Fax: (08) 9388 4399

Personal details

Surname: _____ Given name: _____
 Mailing address: _____
 Telephone: Work: _____ Home: _____
 Email: _____
 Place of employment: _____
 Current job position: _____
 Education and Qualifications: _____

What other courses have you attended that relate to cancer? _____

Tell us about what you do at work on a day to day basis? _____

On the scale below, please indicate your current knowledge about cancer:

0 ----- 10
 No knowledge about cancer ----- Excellent knowledge about cancer

Please tell how the results why you would like to attend this course? _____

How will you share your knowledge and skills after the course? _____

How did you find out about this course?

☐ Email ☐ With colleague ☐ Cancer Council website
☐ Brochure/letter ☐ Other _____

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Employer/Supervisor recommendation:

I/We _____ fully endorse the application of _____ for the Cancer Council Western Australia's Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals.

Employer/Supervisor's signature: _____
 Date: _____

Please complete and return your application no later than 11pm on Monday 24 May 2010.

Return your application to:

Ignatius Delagard, Indigenous Project Officer
 Cancer Council WA, 15 Bedford Park, Shenton Park, WA 6008
 or fax to (08) 9388 4399
 or email to: education@ccwa.asn.au

Cancer Council WA acknowledges and thanks
 Cancer Council Queensland for the use of their course material.



Results



- 11 courses since 2008 (9 metro, 1 metro/regional, 1 regional)
- Attended by 115 Aboriginal Health Professionals
most from rural / remote WA



Results

Process evaluation

- Program content evaluated well
- Most responses good/excellent, partially/entirely relevant



Results

Impact evaluation

Confidence items

- I know what cancer is
- I can describe the different common cancers
- I can discuss the impact of a cancer diagnosis with the patient
- I can describe treatment and management practices in cancer
- I can describe what someone can do to decrease their chances of developing cancer

Knowledge items

- List the three major treatments for cancer
- What are three population cancer screening programs in WA
- What are the three most common cancers in Aboriginal men
- What are the three most common cancers in Aboriginal women
- What are the six lifestyle factors that influence the chances of developing cancer

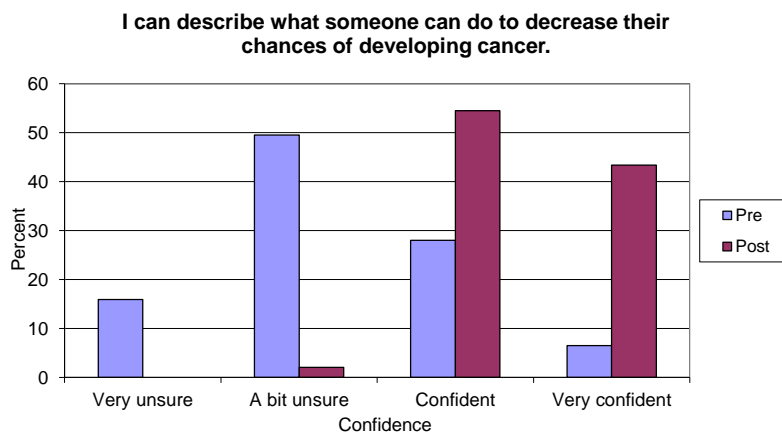


Change in participants confidence

Confidence item	Mean score		Change (pre-post)			
	Pre	Post	μ	t	df	p
I know what cancer is	2.64	1.62	1.021	12.76	93	0.000
I can describe the different common cancers	2.83	1.68	1.149	12.85	93	0.000
I can discuss the impact of a cancer diagnosis with the patient	3.01	1.74	1.269	12.94	92	0.000
I can describe the treatment and management practices in cancer	3.09	1.73	1.351	13.36	93	0.000
I can describe what someone can do to decrease their chances of developing cancer	2.71	1.58	1.130	10.64	91	0.000



Change in participants confidence



Change in participants knowledge

Item	Mean score		Change (pre-post)			
	Pre	Post	μ	t	df	p
List the three major treatments for cancer	2.08	2.71	-0.632	-5.889	86	0.000
What are three population cancer screening programs in WA	1.78	2.47	-0.692	-7.122	90	0.000
What are the three most common cancers in Aboriginal men	2.05	2.45	-0.391	-4.005	91	0.000
What are the three most common cancers in Aboriginal women	2.12	2.42	-.0301	-4.125	92	0.000
What are the six lifestyle factors that influence the chances of developing cancer	3.24	4.16	-0.921	-4.555	88	0.000



Other benefits

- Increased engagement with Aboriginal people across WA
- Increasing number of Aboriginal people working in cancer
- Opportunity for Cancer Council staff to meet Aboriginal Health Professionals from across the state and learn from their experiences
- Resource development



So what?

- **Aboriginal health professionals have an important role in demystifying cancer for Aboriginal people**
- **Important to provide knowledge and confidence about cancer control issues**
- **Cancer education course is beginning to address this:**
 - Program increases knowledge and confidence
 - But only confidence is sustained after 6 months
- **Ongoing education and support needed**



What's next?

- Investigate and develop ongoing support strategies for course participants
 - Regular phone/email contact
 - eBulletin
 - Facilitator visits
 - Tailored refresher programs
 - eLearning course underway
 - Establish mentoring network
 - Continue to deliver Cancer Education Course
 - Next course in May 2016
 - Course accreditation underway
- Secure ongoing funding



Acknowledgements



- Participants
- Cancer Council WA's Aboriginal Advisory Group
- Cancer Council staff and other health professionals
- WA Cancer & Palliative Care Network
- Cancer Council Queensland



Questions

Opportunities for change

Article

Impact of a short, culturally relevant training course on cancer knowledge and confidence in Western Australia's Aboriginal Health Professionals

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