

I respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather today. I also pay respect to the Elders past and present and to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present here today.

research



prevention



support



***Building blocks and stepping stones:
reflections from the Yarning about cancer
project in South Australia***

research



prevention



support



Overview of presentation

- background – evidence for the project
- project aims
- gathering information
- key messages from consultation
- outcomes
- evaluation
- challenges
- lessons learnt
- recommendations

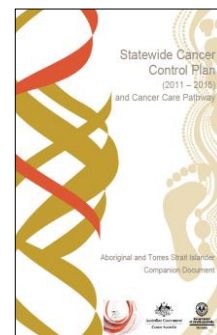


Piltenggi-mi-wi 'Strong inner spirit'
(art work by Allan Sumner)



Background – why undertake this work?

- Recommendations from SA Aboriginal Cancer Forum 2006 (Perko Ngurratti)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Companion Document to SA Statewide Cancer Control Plan 2011 - 2015
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Control Research Report (2010) Cancer Australia Report
- Community consultation and feedback



Project aims

Cancer Australia funded through Supporting people with cancer Grant initiative

Aims :

- raise awareness of, and increase access to, cancer information, support and treatment services for Aboriginal people in SA
- increase knowledge about support needs of Aboriginal people affected by cancer
- develop a sustainable and appropriate support group model that meets the needs of Aboriginal cancer patients and their families/carers, in SA



Australian Government
Cancer Australia



Gathering information

- consultation with Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal community
- building on previous work through established networks (Council of Aboriginal Elders SA, Aboriginal Primary Health Care Workers Forum, Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officers)
- Yarning about cancer forums held – metro & regional
- Course Advisory Committee established

Tumbi-warrun "Restoring"



Key messages from consultation

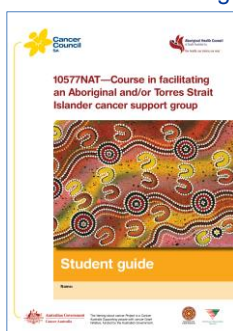
- CSG should be facilitated by trained people (both community and AHWs)
- have clear guidelines but flexible to accommodate needs of local community
- facilitators training should be suitable & accessible for community & AHWs and include cancer information
- include information about *what is cancer* as well as setting up a CSG or Yarning Circle
- more than one facilitator needed (eg: AHW and community peer)
- utilise existing services & pathways
- CSG should provide a break from treatment – drawing, dancing, connecting with culture
- need for specialised Aboriginal cancer workers – in clinical, counselling and support roles



Project Outcomes

- training developed - Facilitators Guide, Student Guide and Assessment tools
- Accreditation gained June 2015:
10577NAT- Course in facilitating an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander cancer support group
<http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/10577NAT>

- Facilitators training delivered



- duration 2 days (longer for community members)
- delivered in metro & rural areas
- culturally appropriate & relevant
- includes cancer education
- use of iPads
- link to previous work (in language)
- appropriate for Aboriginal community members & AHWs
- link to local services and agencies
- evaluation of training undertaken



Key points from evaluation

- pre and post written survey undertaken
- training was relevant, appropriate and useful
- significant improvement in participants knowledge, skill and confidence to run a CSG
- improvement in knowledge about cancer
- delivery of training rated highly
- increased confidence about where to find resources and where to go for more information
- further training needed to gauge a more accurate assessment
- follow-up qualitative evaluation conducted
- significant increase in participant's confidence in their skills to support people affected by cancer



Challenges

Over 40 participants have undertaken the training – no Aboriginal cancer support group or Yarning Circle has been established as yet.

Appropriate training is only one element - challenges to setting up an Aboriginal cancer support group include:

- recognition that cancer support for Aboriginal people is needed
- staff turnover, short term or unreliable funding
- competing work priorities
- need support from management and related agencies
- heavy workload of committed individuals
- not included in AHW role description
- Community members needs support to be involved
- talking about cancer can be difficult



A safe space to yarn, the first step

Lessons learnt

- setting up a group can take time
- value in participating in the training should not be underestimated
- provides a culturally safe space to connect, share and learn
- link with relevant agencies and services
- first step for participants to feel comfortable about yarnning about cancer in their communities and work places
- starts the thinking about how a cancer support group or Yarning Circle could work (or not) in their community
- keep the yarnning going



Recommendations

- further delivery of the training and evaluation
- support Aboriginal and appropriate RTO's to deliver the facilitator's training
- investigate the unique perspective of Aboriginal cancer survivors (peer leaders and support group facilitators)
- address the gap in cancer education by adapting HLTAHW035 Provide information and support around cancer Unit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander non health professionals
- consider opportunities to support development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer related workforce
- Keep the yarnning going



Thank you

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Tumbi-walun
"Becoming Healthy"

