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Cancer Australia

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with lung cancer and their communities

World Indigenous Cancer Conference 2016

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Why focus on lung cancer?

Compared with non-Indigenous Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are:

- ▶ 70% more likely to be diagnosed and die from lung cancer¹
- ▶ Have lower 5 year survival rates (7% compared to 11%)¹

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2014. Cancer in Australia: an overview, 2014. Cancer series No 90. Cat. no. CAN 88. Canberra: AIHW





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Why the difference in cancer outcomes?

- ▶ Higher smoking rates (41% compared with 16%)¹
- ▶ Low awareness of symptoms and the importance of early detection leads to diagnosis at a later stage
- ▶ Higher levels of co-morbidities such as diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases
- ▶ Barriers to accessing treatment: distance, family commitments, beliefs

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics: Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey: Updated Results, Australia, 2012-13



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Cancer Australia's response

Project established in 2012 to:

- ▶ Increase community awareness about risk factors and symptoms and promote early detection
- ▶ Build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health Workers and other health professionals
- ▶ Provide culturally appropriate information to improve access to care and support

Model of engagement



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Governance



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- ▶ Project Steering Group established
- ▶ Members provided high level expert advice on:
 - the best approaches for delivering key lung cancer messages to communities
 - the development of high quality and culturally appropriate resources



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1. Increasing community awareness

► *Our Lungs, Our Mob: Community Education*

- community workshops delivered by local Indigenous Health Workers
- focus on risk factors, symptoms and early detection
- story telling, face to face delivery model



1. Increasing community awareness (cont.)



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► *Our Lungs, Our Mob Workshops*

- delivered in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector
- enhanced sustainability of delivery model by
 - increasing community ownership
 - building the capacity of health workers
- Adapted and deployed to touchscreen kiosks
- Exploring enhanced use of social media



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2. Building the capacity of Health Workers

- ▶ Three national forums during 2014-15 attended by
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers
 - cancer clinicians
 - service providers
- ▶ Cancer Australia's website: a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander section
 - a trusted source of information



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2. Building the capacity of Health Workers (cont.)

- ▶ *Lung Cancer in our Mob: a handbook for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers*
 - clinical practice
 - cultural considerations
 - psychosocial care
 - support services
- ▶ Online learning module in development

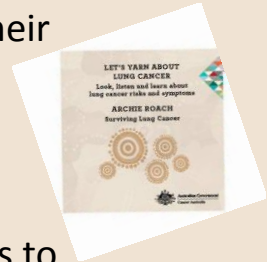




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3. Providing culturally appropriate information

- ▶ A plain language guide for lung cancer patients, their families and carers on:
 - treatment
 - physical, emotional and practical issues
 - sources of support to assist patients and carers to manage treatment schedules



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