




“When is cancer not a death sentence for Indigenous Men”?

Uncle Mick Adams and Uncle Bill Buchanan

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- A community based mixed methods exploration to identify barriers of cancer treatment and supportive care.
- Inclusion of non-Indigenous males to compare experiences, knowledge and perception of cancers
- To emphasise those distinctive and/or additional barriers that Indigenous men face



- There are many possible reasons why survival is so much lower among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared with other Australians with cancer.
- Important for these health professionals to understand the barriers that all men face.
- It is important to emphasise those distinctive and/or additional barriers that Indigenous men face



- General perceptions of health and wellbeing including reasons for engagement or lack of engagement with health services generally.
- Knowledge and perceptions regarding cancer, attitudes towards participation in screening and/or preventative activities or programs.
- Experiences with regard to cancer, incorporating a focus on treatment experiences, including barriers potentially impeding access to treatment
- Other experiences pertaining to the cancer journey, including interaction with family members, and access to supportive care services
- Recommendations for intervention with regard to improving cancer awareness and outcomes for others within respective Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

- participation was recruited from a range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous survivors (varying in age, socio-economic background, location (rural, remote, metropolitan).
- Acknowledged extreme consideration when consulting and communicating with participants who identify English as an alternative language.

- The questionnaire contains items that assess the following areas of interest: demographic information (age, weight/height, education, marital status, income) perceptions of health and wellbeing including lifestyle; experience with consulting with medical professionals; knowledge and understanding of cancer including treatments/support and barriers experienced; confidence in talking about cancer to other members of community





- Access to services need to be more available and appropriate
- We need to investigate way of incorporating cultural issues into ways of addressing cancer e.g. engaging cultural healers
- I was disappointed at first but had to accept it and learnt to live with it
- The doctor at this AMS is good at explaining medical issues with you; so that you feel comfortable when talking to him
- I didn't think much about cancer until I went and saw the specialist
- Some doctors do not really care about Aboriginal people; they don't treat us right, they have no time for us





“When is cancer not a death sentence for Indigenous Men”?

- Cultural (Custom & Kinship - community, family, cultural practices and identity)
- Social (Citizenship rights vs Kinship structures and relationships)



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- Economic (costs of living with cancer are present and known)
- Environmental (‘Traditional Country/Homelands’ – traditional foods, medicines and healing places)



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- Spiritual (our connection to the creator)
- *When our ‘choices’ are about how we (Individual) respect our collective responsibility to deal with the threat and devastation that comes with a diagnosis of cancer.*

DISCOVER-TT/STREP Ca-CIIndA team

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