



KAMS

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Ltd

Kimberley Aboriginal health research

Rob McPhee

Deputy CEO



Research translation

- The creation of knowledge through research underpins improvements in Australia's health service delivery and intervention. This research can be of the most fundamental nature or can be applied, directly addressing clinical problems, public health issues or how health services are provided.
- The creation of knowledge does not, of itself, lead to widespread implementation and positive impacts on health. ***The knowledge must be translated into changes in practice and policy for the benefits to flow to Australians.***
- It can also take many years for research evidence to reach clinical practice.



Kimberley research

- How has past health research been done in the Kimberley?
- How has this benefited Kimberley Aboriginal people?
- What can we learn?
- What is being done to improve the way research is done in the future?



The Kimberley research experience

- Significant interest in the region
- Small number of research organisations with skin in the game – Rural Clinical School of WA, Notre Dame University and Telethon Kids Institute
- Sense of being “over researched”
- Benefits aren't always clear
- Some examples of best practice



Kimberley research – community perspective

- **How does research happen now?**

- Aboriginal people in the Kimberley often don't know what research is happening or understand why it is happening.
- We get very little feedback from the researchers.
- Research is PHD focused and not community driven.
- Research is a frightening word as we were researched a lot as children and no one explained what they were doing.
- There is a lack of knowledge about what and how research is done.
- We have been researched over and over.
- Often the same research is done.
- Lack of consultation and explanation about what the research is.
- We aren't provided with the resources during or after the research to make the changes resulting from the research to improve health outcomes.

KAMS Board July 2017



Kimberley research – community perspective

- **How should it happen in the future?**
 - Include environmental and social determinants such as housing, dust, water quality.
 - Involve the local Kimberley based service providers in the development, implementation and translation of the research.
 - Research has to translate into action and effect change to meet the needs of the community - not just be research for research sake.
 - A central organisation that is supported by all participants should determine with the community a set of priorities about what research is needed.
 - We want identity, ownership and acknowledgement within the research.
 - We want Aboriginal people employed as CI's, AI's and Investigators and the training to get people there.
 - Detailed research information should be made available.

KAMS Board July 2017



Kimberley research – a new approach

- Kimberley Aboriginal Child and Family Research Forum (Sept 2016)
- Kimberley Centre for Aboriginal Health Research



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

- Purpose was to:
 - Identify Aboriginal child and family health research priorities for the Kimberley
 - Agree on a process for introducing new research ideas, conducting agreed research and translating research into improved practice, policy and health systems outcomes



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

Outcomes:

- Set of principles
- Research priority areas
- Overview of key health issues
- Agreed process moving forward



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

Principles:

- Research must be community owned.
- Communities and researchers must be engaged as equal partners at every step of the way.
- Genuine consultation needs to happen directly with the community from the beginning of the research process and should include culture, Elders and young people.
- Researchers must regularly check back with communities, include communities in the interpretation of results, and communicate research progress and outcomes.
- All stakeholders must adhere to local protocols in initiating, conducting, evaluating and translating projects into practice.
- Research projects should also build the capacity of Aboriginal people to do research through transferring research skills, mentoring and delivering tailored training.
- Research results must be translated into improved practice, policy and health systems that benefit Aboriginal people.



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

Research priorities for the Kimberley:

- Revitalising culture through health practices
- Building resilience in young people
- Supporting families and positive parenting
- Healthy lifestyles and chronic disease:
- The environment, health and disease
- Health Services
- Data



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

Health issues:

- Colonisation, government policy, intergenerational trauma and racism
- Poverty, housing, employment and education
- Families, parenting, family support, and a safe home environment
- Children
- Youth
- Parents/ Adults

“Whatever happens at parent/ family/ community level has an impact on kids – overcrowding in houses, economy, employment, depression, drug and alcohol, nutrition. It leads to mental health and wellbeing, broken family units, lack of community cohesiveness.” (Forum participant)



Kimberley Child and Family Health Research Forum

The way forward:

- Building capacity in Aboriginal health research

“Aboriginal people and communities are the key component to successful, meaningful and beneficial research projects.” (Presenter quote)

- Work on the identified research project priorities
- Strengthen the research processes
- Identify a State-wide training framework for researchers with regional and local models
- Hold bi-annual Kimberley Aboriginal health research forum, which includes reporting on progress made towards research priorities and processes identified at this Forum



Proposed Kimberley Centre for Aboriginal Health Research

Goal:

Ensure Aboriginal families and communities benefit from the health research currently being conducted in the Kimberley and which will be conducted in the future.

Harness the potential of the significant amount of health research already being conducted in the Kimberley and which is likely to be conducted in the future to measurably improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal families and communities in the Kimberley.



Proposed Kimberley Centre for Aboriginal Health Research



Proposed Kimberley Centre for Aboriginal Health Research

Principles of the Centre :

- we are guided by an Aboriginal view of health;
- local governance and control (Aboriginal research in Aboriginal hands);
- a commitment to a community-informed research agenda;
- genuine partnerships with Aboriginal communities and community-controlled health organisations;
- engagement and meaningful participation of Aboriginal families and communities in the research process;
- capacity building in research methods and skills; and
- a commitment to the highest quality research.





KAMS

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Ltd

www.kamsc.org.au

Questions?

