

A coming together to improve respiratory care for Aboriginal people in NSW

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BACKGROUND



ACI has made a long-term commitment to work with Aboriginal people to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Prior to June 2016, the ACI Respiratory Network had not engaged directly with any Aboriginal health services.

The Respiratory Network committed resources to support an Aboriginal respiratory project in 2016/17

Outcomes and Sustainability



6 x 2 day ARC workshops were provided in 2017 at Terrigal, Wagga Wagga, Ballina, Wollongong, Dubbo and Redfern.

A total of 59 Aboriginal Health staff completed the training.

Preliminary evaluation results:
Workshop Participants:

- >90% competency rate in use of 5 inhaler devices

'Feel confident the knowledge I have learned over past 2 days will benefit my community'

Aboriginal Service Managers rated their experience with workshop planning as:

- Highly valuable / looking forward to future collaboration (6/9)
- Somewhat valuable/willing to participate in future collaboration (3/9)

'This designing process was a perfect example of how Aboriginal programs should be built within NSW Health and ACI'

AIMS



Establish a formal partnership with the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, Chronic Care for Aboriginal

People team and the Network to:

- engage effectively with Aboriginal health services in NSW
- understand their workforce needs and service development priorities
- work with Aboriginal services to improve respiratory health

The partnership provided ongoing guidance to progress this project in a culturally safe and respectful way.

PLANNING



Key planning components included:

- develop an Aboriginal respiratory service and needs mapping tool
- distribute the survey through existing Aboriginal communication networks
- invite Aboriginal services to partner with the Respiratory Network to help meet their respiratory needs
- involve Aboriginal services in the development of an improvement strategy and evaluation plan.

MAPPING SURVEY



The survey was completed by 17 Aboriginal services: 8 Local Health Districts, 8 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and 1 Primary Health Network.

Aboriginal respiratory clinics currently provided :

- 12 adult asthma/COPD
- 10 paediatric asthma

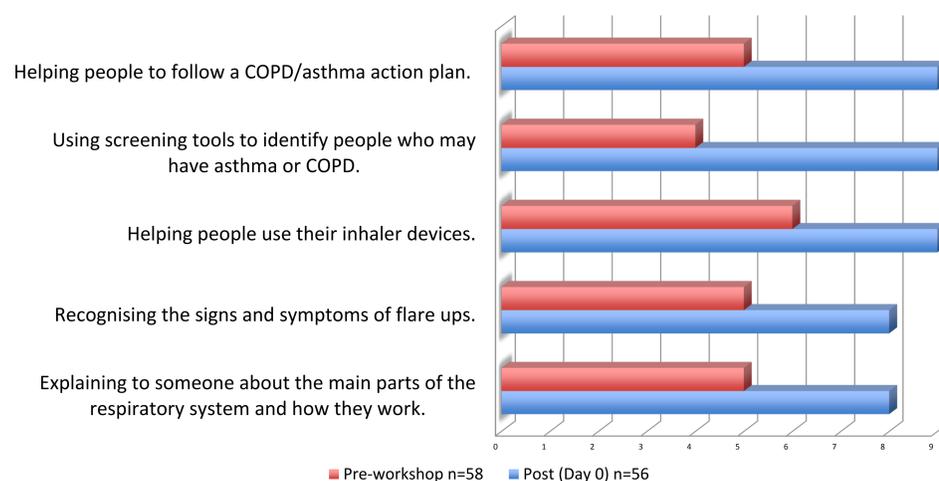
Workforce needs: respiratory medications and devices, assessment, managing flare ups.
Service development priorities: health promotion, exercise for people with lung problems and screening.

All 17 services agreed to partner with the Respiratory Network to develop an Aboriginal Respiratory Care (ARC) Workshop to help build their workforce capacity in line with local service needs.

Learning Map used in the Aboriginal Respiratory Care Workshop Artist: Jasmine Sarin



Participants (n= 56) average self-reported confidence



CONCLUSION



This initiative describes a coming together of multiple organisations to improve respiratory care for Aboriginal people in NSW. Each step was undertaken with guidance from Aboriginal people to ensure appropriateness, cultural safety and respect for all involved.

Our learnings and evaluation results will help ACI to reflect on the extent to which our aims were achieved, successful strategies and where improvements can be made.

Key take home message

Aboriginal Health is everyone's business – and for everyone involved cultural appropriateness and safety needs to be front and centre at every step in the journey.

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