Community-Led Creation of Aboriginal Cancer Information and Resources

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Special Acknowledgment to Aunty Annie Taylor, Aunty Gloria Leigh, Uncle Len Waters, Anthony Avery family, Leonie Donovan
Acknowledgment to HNELHD Cancer Steering Committee
I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land we meet on today the Cammeraigael People and pay our respect to elders, past, present and future.

WARNING: This presentation may contain images of, or have references to, deceased people. There may also be words or descriptions that could be culturally sensitive. This could upset some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; however HNELHD and Cancer Network wishes no disrespect or distress to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and community.
Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) Cancer Centres
Hunter New England Health (HNE Health) provides a range of public health services to the Hunter, New England and Lower Mid North Coast regions.

Kamilaroi, Gomilaroi, Geawegal, Bahtabah, Thungutti, Awabakal, Aniawan, Biripi, Worimi, Nganyaywana, Wonnarua, Banbai, Ngoorabul, Bundjalung, Yallaroi and Darkinung nations across Hunter New England
What are the access barriers for Cancer Care?

Geography barriers are NOT the only barrier

Community Feedback:

- Death Sentence
- White Men’s Disease, Taboo
- Causes, Awareness, Prevention and Treatment
- Lack of localised Culturally appropriate resources
- Lack of Culturally safe services – a place were my people feel safe
- Leaving Country – family community – Safety
- Financial – distances travelled
What was involved in the consultative design?

On average, around two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians are diagnosed with cancer every day, with lung and breast cancer being the two most commonly diagnosed cancers.

- Embedded in HNELHD Service Plan, Cancer Services, Aboriginal Health Unit Service Plans - Aligned with NSW Cancer Plan
- Partnering with Significant Aboriginal groups – Listening circles, yarn-ups
- Appropriate feedback and take up all the way
- Building propose built services – Cultural Audits conducted
- Cultural training for staff - augmented by localised ‘Welcome to Country’
What has HNELHD done about this?

Aligned with priorities in both State and National Cancer Framework (2015) And Goals NSW Cancer Plan

- Aboriginal Cancer Support Officer – Pilot at Manning 6 months 2014
- Listening circles, yarning about Cancer - gaps identified
- Aboriginal Cancer Project officer 12 months 2014 – 2015
- Development of sweep of Cancer resources
- Aboriginal Cancer Project officer 18 months 2017-2018
- Develop training Aboriginal Health workers
- Cancer awareness day
- Elder walks
- Employment strategies – recruitment of Aboriginal staff – Identified roles
Building process
How was this done?
How were Elders and significant community members engaged?

- Appropriate approach
- Elder group meetings
- Land Council meetings
- HNELHD Aboriginal staff
- Invite Community to Health
- Community days – get out and network
- ASK, yarn and find out
How were the stories of their cancer journeys shared?

Aboriginal people, in fact all people should be treated with respect, they should never be made to feel that they are not valued, and therefore don’t have a voice.

“Listen to your Patients”
Anthony Avery Junior
17th May 1982 – 2nd September 2008
“A Cancer Journey” Booklets
A Filming team was formed Dave and Me
The "My Cancer Journey" Booklets and videos have recently been launched at various sites across the District. The resources have been produced to improve the effectiveness of Aboriginal peoples journey through the health system for those that are affected by cancer related illnesses. The three resource booklets are targeted to specific communities GNs, Peel and LMNC Clusters, and includes the detail and contact information of local cancer services in the area.

The resources will assist in reinforcing the importance of health education and screening from an Aboriginal patient perspective. These booklets has been designed as a partnership approach between the HNE Aboriginal Health Unit, Cancer Services Network and local Aboriginal Community. The benefits of collaboration will be relationship building and trust which will have a flow on effect improving cultural respect, awareness and sensitivity between patients, clinicians and the local community. You can access the booklet by clicking on the links below. Video Links are available here:

Video: Staff Welcome  Video: A place of Healing  Video: Go and get your girls checked

If you would like more information on the cancer services initiatives, please contact Aboriginal Health Coordinator Susan Mulyk via email: Susan.Mulyk@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Calvary Mater Newcastle  Manning Rural Referral Hospital  North West Cancer Centre

Documents and Links
Culture, Cancer, Caring Booklet- Inspiring stories for our Mob- AH&MRC

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“A Cancer Journey” resource launches
WOW – just a few

The work has been highlighted and recently been presented at number of conferences and won multiple awards including:

- NSW Rural Health & Research Conference. NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation. 2015
- NSW Rural Health & Research Conference NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Poster finalists 2015
- Annual Scientific Meeting of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. Australian Institute of Radiography. 2016.
- The project is also nominated for Hunter New England Health’s 2016 “High Value Health Care Awards”
- KO Awatea Health system innovation and improvement – International Excellence in Health Improvement Awards 2016 HNELHD Quality Awards 2015 Winner
- Hunter New England Health District Quality Awards 2016 Finalists
- ACI Innovations in Aboriginal Chronic conditions Forum June 2017

The work was highlighted in the “Culture, Cancer and Caring” report by the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council and featured in a number of media reports.
Pre projects:
2-3% Aboriginal people identified accessing our Cancer services

Post projects:
7-8% Aboriginal people identified accessing our Cancer services
Yarning

Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success

Henry Ford