Birthing, mothering & grandmothering

An Aboriginal research project
Researchers from SGRHS

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Community researchers and partners

Senior women and young women of the Spencer Gulf area of South Australia
Local groups include Barngarla, Dieri, Adnyamatharna, and Kokatha, Anangu, Pitjantjatjara, Yankuntjatjara and Luritja and Arabunna. There are many more language groups.
Background

• Region population 53,220
• Aboriginal people 6002 (11.3%)
• Concerns about mothers’ and babies’ health
• Mothers want care from their own people
• Anangu Bibi Birthing Program
• Grant from AHCSA / CCRE
Aims

• To explore and define traditional birthing, mothering and grand-mothering practices

• To highlight gaps in understandings of contemporary birthing issues
Method

• Two workshops in 2 locations
• 40 senior women and young women attended
• Old ways and new ways
Old ways and new ways
Findings 1

The grandmother role is important and respected within kinship – teaching, support, comforting and passing on spiritual and traditional knowledge.
Findings 2

**Pregnancy**
lack of support from grandmothers
lack of understanding in clinic

**Birthing**
concerns about who is there
unnecessary caesareans

**Postnatal**
pressures on new mother
Summary

• Strong representation of grandmother’s Advocacy group
• Contemporary birthing issues: more two-way sharing with mainstream needed
• Further research and actions needed
Thank you

Questions?