Indigenous Affairs in Remote Australia

Mr Henry Councillor
Chair
National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
**Where are ACCHSs?**

The vast majority are located outside major cities of Australia!

![Bar Chart](chart.png)

**SAR Services by ASGC Remoteness Areas**

- **Major Cities of Australia**: 15
- **Inner Regional Australia**: 30
- **Outer Regional Australia**: 35
- **Remote Australia**: 20
- **Very Remote Australia**: 30

Ref: 2003-04 Service Activity Reports
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council

Model of Regionalisation

services for remote communities
Kimberley Community Controlled Health Services in the Kimberley

- Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS)
- Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS)
- Yura Yungi AMS
- Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS)
- Jurrugk Health Service
- Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service
- Beagle Bay and Bidyadanga Community clinics
Remote community health services

- Glen Hill
- Duncan Highway communities
- Ringers Soak
- Lamboo
- Jarlmadangah Buru
- Doon Doon Station Community
- Pandanus Park Aboriginal Community
- Beagle Bay
- One Arm Point
- Lombadina
- Looma
- Balgo
- Warmun
- Bidyadanga
- Gibb River Aboriginal Communities
KAMSC Governance
Pool Resources

- **shared among members for:**
  - efficient and sustainable
    - eg: accounting services, medical supplies, HR, OH&S, IT support.
    - Policies and procedure standardisation
    - Administration and local state and national advocacy

- **specialised functions**
  - AHW training,
  - Regional Centre SEWB,
  - Health promotion unit,
  - Population Health
  - IT infrastructure
  - Project Ferret (Patient Information Recall Systems)
  - Rural and remote Med student training.
Centralised accounts processing and reporting

Payroll for 210+ staff employed by 6 organisations

Manages >70 individual grants from >10 funding agencies across 6 organisations

1 accountant
6 book-keepers
Computerised systems (‘Health planner’ & ‘Ferret’) to drive comprehensive primary health care for populations

- Developing electronic care plans
- Regional support in Patient Information and Recall System
- Delivery of national training in PIRS

partnership in development of ‘Ferret’ to replace Health planner
Aboriginal Health Worker training

- **Aboriginal Health Worker** education and training since 1983

- Advocating for the *Aboriginal Primary Health Care Practitioner* model of AHW

- Articulated training and accredited competency-based curricula

- Key role in **state and national reviews** of Aboriginal Health Worker training from a regional prospective

- Remote regional input into the **development of draft AHMAC position** on future of Aboriginal Health Worker training and roles.
Funding for part-time academic pharmacists in University Centres for Rural Health (through Pharmacy Guild)

Negotiations with Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health (Geraldton) to base the position in with the KAMSC Training Centre

Part time retail pharmacy, part-time academic support, part-time Section 100 support
Regional Centre for SEWB

- **Training and support of SEWB and other workers**
- **Data-collection, protocols, resources**
- **Interagency linkages**
Innovation in Aboriginal health promotion

- Regional resource,
- Community need health promotion,
- Theatre ‘No Prejudice’; ‘Change of Heart’;
- Playback theatre-for-counselling (‘Moving stories’)

Innovation in Aboriginal health promotion
Aboriginal population health

- Use of **eye-cameras** in remote areas to prevent **diabetic blindness**
  - Camera loaned from company (95)
  - AHW's trained with help of Lion’s Eye Institute
  - Initiative since duplicated around the country with special purpose OATSIH funds
Medicines supply

- ‘Section 100’
  - a way for prescription medicines to be supplied free in remote Aboriginal health services (subsidised by Commonwealth government)
  - Regional agreement in implementing in state-run clinics
Kidney dialysis - regional model

- Satellite unit care (staff assisted)
- Self care (Broome pts)
- Respite and holiday
- Self-care training
- On-site support

Broome Hospital

RPH
KAMSC Centre for Aboriginal Training, Education and Research

Integrated education and training program

WAGPET

GP Registrar education and training

University of WA

Medical Undergraduate education and training

James Cook University

Aboriginal Health Worker education and training

Other - public health, allied health, pharmacy
Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum

- Kimberley Aboriginal Health Plan Steering Committee - Formed in 1998

Kimberley Regional Aboriginal Health Plan signed off by all parties in late 1999

- Forums continued to meet 4-6 a year since 1999
Plastic coke bottles as spacer devices

NACCHO is looking at policy options to make spacers more accessible!
Section 100 supply of medicines has been a huge success in remote areas.

Advocating for extension of S100 to rural and urban locations.


Special drugs list being developed for medicines not currently on the PBS, such as severe scabies and antifungals (largely relevant to remote areas).

Asthma spacer devices? Not being accessed especially in remote areas- being made with plastic coke bottles.
Healthy Community

- A key factor to improving the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is access to real culturally appropriate Aboriginal Health promotion and a highly trained workforce. This means that the workforce must be able to address the cultural and spiritual needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as addressing the specific health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

NACCHO 2003