

INDIGENOUS HEALTH WORKSHOP

7 MARCH 2007, ALBURY

Full notes from workshop worksheets

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH EQUALITY IN A GENERATION: A RURAL ACTION PLAN

Aboriginal people are the oldest living culture in the world. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived in and nurtured this land for thousands of generations. Recently, other have come to also call this place home. We all share a strong connection to country and sense of belonging. In addressing the health inequalities that have come to afflict Indigenous people, we must acknowledge that health to Aboriginal people is not just the physical wellbeing of the individual, but the social, emotional, cultural well being of the whole community. It is a cyclical concept of Life- Death- Life. Currently Aboriginal people die 17 years earlier than others here. This is unacceptable. The delegates at this National Rural Health Conference take responsibility to provide leadership to undertake specific actions to eliminate this gap within one generation.

Full list of notes with numbers of 'votes'

Requirement 1: measures to ensure equal access for Indigenous peoples to primary health care and health infrastructure

'Votes'	Statement
40	Develop, implement and evaluate an educational program/package for healthcare workers to improve knowledge, skills and attitudes re Aboriginal culture, values and health needs (will need to be adapted to the local context).
19	Develop, implement and evaluate national standards about essential components/needed resources for regional health care systems for Aboriginal persons/communities.
8	Establish school-based health care provision by outreach teams to meet the needs of adolescents/children
5	Improve inter-sectoral collaboration by establishing Aboriginal liaison officers and supporting infrastructure throughout (Flinders Ranges) region [Flinders Ranges Region Health Care]
3	Identify barriers and facilitators to access to primary health care amongst Koori males in the (Gippsland region [Victoria]), then develop a program to increase access and provision of effective care (Monash University Department of Rural and Indigenous Health)
75	

Requirement 2: increased support for developing the Indigenous health workforce

'Votes'	Statement
37	A dedicated national project to support communities to identify and support individuals to take an effective healthcare pathway from the primary school level to the university sector and beyond.
35	Additional dedicated funding to give more weight and resources to successfully implement the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Framework (editor : full document name: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce National Strategic Framework)
21	Identify and recognise successful innovative community projects that support recruitment and prevention (editor ; retention?) of the Indigenous health workforce.
93	

Requirement 3: a commitment to support and nurture indigenous community controlled health services

'Votes'	Statement
38	Injection of \$400m p/a shortfall for ACCHSs for the delivery of comprehensive primary health care, and a costed infrastructure for ACCHSs in addition to further funding to develop capital works and training of the workforce based on needs-based resource allocation formulae developed for ACCHSs
31	Commitment to the importance of ACCHSs as an integral proven model of the Australian Health Care System with a long-term commitment (over 25 years) including the development and implementation of an "EQUALITY 4 HEALTH" plan.
26	Performance indicators for global per capita resourcing to an established needs-based target for ACCHSs and indicators for governance and management support in a culturally appropriate manner.
95	

Requirement 4: a focus on improving the accessibility of mainstream health services for Indigenous peoples

'Votes'	Statement
30	Committing to the education of Primary Health Care Providers and knowledge transfer with Indigenous individuals, families and communities
22	Raising the prominence and significance of AHW's/Aboriginal Liaison Officers
22	Improved integration, pathways, care-coordination, communication between PHC providers and AMS's
9	Delivering flexible, appropriate services eg: costs, transports, appointments
83	Total 496 votes = 41.3 people

Requirement 5: an urgent focus on early childhood development, maternal health, chronic illness and diseases

'Votes'	Statement
19	Improve career pathways for health students
12	Increase funding for additional staff and students in health careers
12	Develop resources of community controlled organisations
9	Identify and collaborate with local community members and organisations
7	We value evidence-based health education programs and we will lobby for additional resources
4	Increase attention to antenatal care, maternal health, and chronic illness
0	Build capacity to respectfully disseminate information to the wider community
0	Develop appropriate tobacco education campaigns
0	More research for best-practice in health education
63	

Requirement 6: supporting the building blocks of good health, such as awareness and availability of nutrition, physical activity, fresh food, healthy lifestyles, adequate housing and the other social determinants of health.

'Votes'	Statement
32	Lobby to facilitate collaborative approaches to the planning and funding to address the social determinants of health (a wholistic approach)
29	Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities have access to information about programs, services and funding opportunities
15	Influence health systems to be inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through collaborative processes to ensure the delivery of culturally sensitive services.
7	Promoting healthy lifestyles
4	Highlight the ongoing environmental health needs within Aboriginal communities.
87	
496	41.3 people voted