

Aremelle Arratyenye-ileme – Doing it Right: Research knowledge generation and translation in Central Australia

Aim

To improve knowledge exchange, generation and translation so that Aboriginal community members, Aboriginal community controlled health organisations (ACCHOs) and board members have more control over health research, its outcomes and benefits in Central Australia.

Overview

Background: This project is based on the proposition that improving community understanding of research and researchers' understanding of community will lead to more meaningful engagement in research. This should result in better-targeted research that fits community needs and delivers outcomes that communities understand, share widely and benefit from (knowledge translation).

The definition of the term 'knowledge translation' has been workshoped and developed in the context of the work with which the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress is involved as the largest ACCHO in the Northern Territory. The working definition to date, yet to be endorsed by the Congress Board, is as follows:

Knowledge translation is two-way learning between partners working together to make research processes more equitable, culturally safe and relevant; and research outcomes more accessible, useful and actionable.

Project description: Funded by the Lowitja Institute, the Doing it Right project is a collaboration between Congress staff, from the communications, interpreter services and research sections, and external researchers from Menzies School of Health Research and the University of Sydney who have expertise in knowledge translation and quality improvement. The project team is working with six community health boards:

- + Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- + Mpwelarre (Santa Teresa)
- + Utju (Areyonga)
- + Western Arrernte Health Aboriginal Corporation (Ntaria and Wallace Rockhole)
- + Amoonguna
- + Mutitjulu.

The project team has begun the process of translating the six core values of ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities – Spirit and Integrity, Reciprocity, Respect, Equity, Cultural Continuity, and Responsibility – as per *Keeping Research on Track II* (NH&MRC 2018). The knowledge translation work around these core values provides a means for external researchers to work and communicate effectively with community, and facilitates a shared understanding of what constitutes working collaboratively.

The project is also informed by the Congress Research Staff Survey. With 47 per cent of Congress staff identifying as Aboriginal, this survey was able to provide feedback on the health research ideologies and priorities both of Congress as a health service provider and of the Aboriginal communities that it serves. A link to the survey was emailed to each of the 407 Congress staff members working across all town and remote locations. A total of 111 people responded, representing a 27 per cent response rate.

So far, the team has met with the Mpwelarre Health Service and the Utju Health Service boards and is collaborating with them on the translation of the six core values of conducting research; how each community would like research to be carried out; setting the research priorities; and what forms of communication and dissemination they would prefer.

Outputs to date

As part of multimedia and communications training, the Doing it Right team created a video in which they interview themselves about the research, their roles and the importance of conducting research in and for Aboriginal communities. The video has so far been shown in the board meetings of the Mpwelarre and Utju health services to give community members a range of views from all of the research team rather than just those who can attend in person.

Next steps

The project team is scheduling meetings with the other community health boards, and will conduct community follow-ups to discuss the project in more detail between September and December 2018.

Project team	Bronwyn Silver (Team Leader) ¹ , Annette McCarthy ¹ , Roxanne Highfold ¹ , Ken Lechleitner ¹ , Walbira Murray ¹ , Ainseley McKenzie ¹ , Glen Sharpe ¹ , Kate Buckland ¹ , Jeff Tan ¹ , Delyna Baxter ¹ , Danielle Woods ¹
Partners:	Heather D'Antoine ² , Ross Baillie ³ , Veronica Matthews ³ , Leisa McCarthy ² , Louise Clarke ²
Project status	Current
Dates	2017 – 2018
Further information	Dr Bronwyn Silver T +61 8 8958 4898 E Bronwyn.silver@caac.org.au

- 1 Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- 2 Menzies School of health Research (Charles Darwin University)
- 3 University Centre for Rural Health (University of Sydney)