

Aboriginal Community Development and Health

Past Projects

PROJECT NAME Good News Stories from Koori Maternity Services

STAFF Priscilla Pyett

COLLABORATORS Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

FUNDING SOURCES Department of Human Services, Victoria

DATE 2007 – 2009

PROJECT DESCRIPTION This project will collect qualitative data in the form of narrative case studies from Aboriginal Health Workers and maternity service providers in the 11 Koori Maternity Services (KMS) around Victoria.

PROJECT AIMS The project aims to gain an understanding of the ways KMSs support women to access and attend antenatal care throughout their pregnancies and document the 'good news stories' observed by service providers in KMSs. Stories of successful health service provision will contribute to Victorian Aboriginal community wellbeing and affirm the role of service providers working within Aboriginal Community controlled health services.

CURRENT OUTCOMES Data collection undertaken in 2007.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES Community report for VACCHO.

PROJECT NAME Making healthy choices for ourselves: Partnerships for healthy eating and physical activity in Aboriginal Communities

STAFF Priscilla Pyett, Kevin Rowley

COLLABORATORS Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, National Heart Foundation of Australia, Dietitians Association of Australia, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health

FUNDING SOURCES Department of Human Services, Victoria and VicHealth

DATE August 2007 – July 2009

PROJECT DESCRIPTION This is a participatory action research project aiming to strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health professionals to work in partnership on collaborative health promotion initiatives around nutrition and physical activity. The project will train, support and mentor Aboriginal Health Workers and provide funding, support and evaluation for 4 ACCHOs to develop and implement local nutrition and physical activity projects.

PROJECT AIMS This project aims to define key factors influencing Victorian Aboriginal Communities to better understand and participate in nutrition and physical activity initiatives.

CURRENT OUTCOMES Steering Committee established. Four sites selected. Three conference presentations.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES Community report.

PROJECT NAME Resource Development for the Improving care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients (ICAP) Program

STAFF Angela Clarke, Nicole Shanahan, Shaun Ewen

COLLABORATORS Aboriginal Health Unit at St Vincent's Health, Melbourne

FUNDING SOURCE Department of Human Services, Victoria

DATE September 2007 – December 2008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION An orientation package is being developed for health service managers overseeing the Improving Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients (ICAP) program

PROJECTED OUTCOMES Orientation package for Service Managers and orientation guide for Aboriginal Liaison Officers.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Ngarngadji Listen/understand* - Improving Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander patients (ICAP) Resource Kit

PROJECT NAME Billabong Evaluation Project

STAFF Angela Clarke, Nicole Shanahan, John Whyte

COLLABORATORS North Yarra Community Health

FUNDING SOURCE Department of Human Resources, Victoria

DATE 2007-2008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION An evaluation of the Billabong Barbeque, an innovative health and welfare outreach program to Kooris in the Collingwood area of Melbourne, supported by a consortium of services in the City of Yarra. The Consortium comprises North Yarra Community Health, the Royal District Nursing Service Homeless People's Project, Homeground Services and the City of Yarra.

PROJECT AIMS To seek the views and opinions of users of a health outreach program in the North Yarra region of Melbourne, to improve their access to health services in the area, and to build up social capital in the local community.

OUTCOMES Evaluation completed December 2007. The project provided program coordinators of health services in the area with suggestions for improvement and expansion of service delivery. It also contributed to the theoretical development of concepts of social capital in relation to social participation and inclusion.

PUBLICATIONS

- Clarke, A., Shanahan, N, Papadopoulos, A., (2008) *Billabong Outreach BBQ Evaluation*, Melbourne: North Yarra Community Health

PROJECT NAME We can like research... Koori Health Research Workshops

STAFF Paul Stewart, Nicole Shanahan, Angela Clarke

COLLABORATORS Mark Saunders, Joan Vickery, Njernda Aboriginal Corporation, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd, and Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative, Wirraway Mirrim

FUNDING SOURCE Onemda

DATE 2007-2008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION Four workshops were held in Melbourne and three Victorian regions in 2007 to capture the latest views of workshop participants on Koori health research and the barriers to community-controlled research. The workshops were written up into a report.

OUTCOMES The workshops opened up open up discussion on ways of improving health research practice for Koori people. Workshop participants contributed to a

great deal of discussion and made really good suggestions about ways to increase Koori involvement in, and control of, health research.

PUBLICATIONS

- Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit 2008, *We Can Like Research... in Koori Hands: A Community Report on Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit's Research Workshops in 2007*, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne.

PROJECT NAME From Mainstream to Margins Conference capacity development support

STAFF Ngarra Murray

COLLABORATORS VicHealth

FUNDING SOURCE VicHealth

DATE April – October 2008

PROJECT DESCRIPTION Onemda was funded to support Indigenous participation at 'From Margins to Mainstream: The 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and the Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders' in Melbourne from 10–12 September 2008. This was done by mentoring Indigenous community presenters through workshops and individual support.

OUTCOMES Participants developed their presentation and abstract writing skills and gained confidence in speaking at an international conference.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES To write a report on the project.

PROJECT NAME Ngernila Koories Kila Degaia (Listen up to Koories Speak about Health): Oral history project

STAFF Angela Clarke, Karen Adams, Aunty Joan Vickery

COLLABORATORS Koori Heritage Trust

FUNDING SOURCE The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

DATE 2002-2005

PROJECT DESCRIPTION This project was a response to the need to document the stories of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in Victoria so that future generations and non-Koori people can understand the struggles and issues involved.

OUTCOMES The histories were written up into a book which was launched in 2005. This publication celebrates and remembers the significant work of the 'pioneers' in the history of Koori health services and makes their stories available to a wider audience.

PUBLICATIONS

- Vickery, J., Clarke, A. & Adams, K. (eds) 2005. *Nyernila Koories Kila Degaia: Listen to Koories Speak about Health*, Koori Heritage Trust and Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, Melbourne.