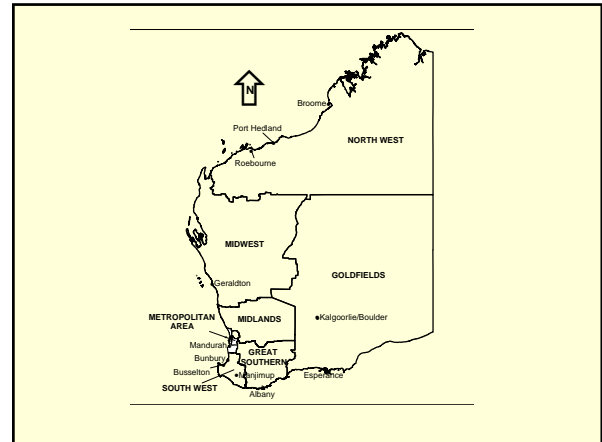


New horizons ; an Aboriginal Health Worker in cardiology at last!!

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WA & RPH



3% of population in WA identified as ATSI

RPH: busy tertiary hospital.

9% of all admissions ATSI people

6% admission rates in cardiology

CR staff very keen to improve the service provided to ATSI people.



- The magnitude of CVD in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) population is well documented.

Supporting documents

- The Heart Foundation Recommendations for CR (2004) : an Aboriginal health worker (AHW) should be involved with the discharge planning of indigenous people
- CR for ATSI people identified as a critical public health issue (NHMRC, 2005).



Advocacy

- Advocacy from health care providers for improved health outcomes of ATSI people is essential.
- On everyone's JDF!!

Support for change



- Proposal to support the creation of a new AHW position in CR was prepared and presented to the RPH Director of Nursing in November 2005
- Also strong interest from renal ward for creation of clinical AHW position
- Health reform in WA: climate ripe

Proposal process

- Clear Vision: Recommendations
 - (staged so achievable)
- Statistics to back up proposal
 - National, state and hospital
- Examples of other positions nationally
- Reference supporting documents
 - Dept of Health strategic intent (reform occurring), RPH mission statement
 - NHF, NHMRC etc
- Needs analysis:
 - Current service delivery
 - Supporting statements from departments, WACRA



Alternate template

- Strengthening CR and secondary prevention for ATSI peoples: A guide for health professionals (NHMRC, 2005):
 - Toolkits for managers of organisations
 - Developing a business case: template

Outcome



- Two brand new AHW positions created to provide culturally appropriate support and education for
 - Cardiology and cardiac surgery patients
 - Renal patients.
- Clinical role (nursing not social work)
- Roles eventually commenced Dec 2006.

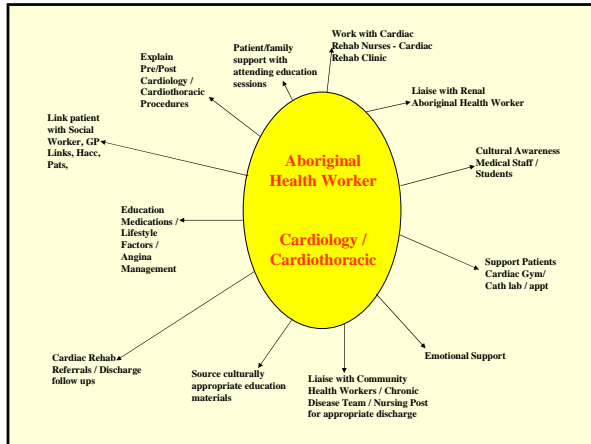
Learnings

- JDF creation (detailed)
 - Examples from AMS and NSW
- Unfriendly job application process
- Recruitment issues delayed process
 - JDF essential criteria
- Clear line management
- Brand new role: alongside existing ALO's in hospital, Uniforms, duties evolved, support to each other
- "KPI's"
- Media/awareness in hospital and wider community
 - NHF VC to rural sites
- Cultural awareness to staff



Royal Perth Hospital

**Aboriginal Health Worker
Renal
Cardiology/Cardiothoracic**



Building Better Relationships with Country Services


- Develop network/communicate regarding patient transfer
- Communicate important patient information
- Information / Resources
- Feedback to improve / develop service

Positives - AHW Roles

- AHW follow up on Discharge
- Link patients with own Dr, promote follow up
- Increased appropriate resources for Aboriginal patients/staff
- Medical staff supported regarding Aboriginal patients
- Partnership with other internal / external Services

Positives - AHW Roles Cont


- “About time” patient feedback
- “So good to have you here” staff feedback
- Roles highlight need to have AHW’s
- Acknowledge Aboriginal people in the hospital environment non patient
- Increased identification of those not recognised as Aboriginal on medical system



Educating patients about their treatment



Liaise with Social Workers, Medical Staff, GP Links, Hostels, Hospital Transport



And ALLAWAH GROVE

**Provide health promotion,
disease prevention, disease
control**



**Provide our Aboriginal patients with
health education in the targeted areas
of attendance, medication and diet,
fluid control, vascular hygiene &
psychological & emotional issues
affecting them**



**Pre-dialysis -
Education on
Dialysis Options
HD and PD
Psychological &
Emotional Support
- To some patients
especially those
new to Dialysis -
being away in
metro area for the
first time without
their family**



**Attending scheduled treatments &
outpatients follow-up appointments.
Considers cultural factors in providing
support to encourage client
attendance**



Contact

Dallas & Tyra ON – 9224
2244

Thank you!!!!



Update

- CR AHW did not renew contract after 6/12!
 - To be readvertised ? EN
- KPI's/work book developed for renal AHW
 - Report pending
 - Blossoming in role!
- State Research funds available to explore (pending ethics)
 - Implementation of NHMRC guidelines in WA
 - Experience of the AHW in cardiology
 - Economic modeling re implementation of AHW

Diary Alert 

Ongoing Prevention and Management of Cardiovascular Disease Symposium

Friday, 21 September 2007 | 8.30 am – 4.30 pm

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are up to 4 times more likely to be hospitalised for coronary heart disease than other Australians.

Statistically the 'in hospital' survival rate of this population is up to 2.3 times worse than their non-Indigenous counterparts. These unacceptable facts require our collective attention.

For the first time in Western Australia the Heart Foundation will bring together influential stakeholders to identify an appropriate, functioning model of ongoing prevention and management of CVD for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Who:
This symposium is designed for individuals working in health service delivery, health policy development, health management and operations. Those with expertise in cardiovascular health, including cardiologists and key stakeholders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, are all encouraged to attend this symposium.

Venue:
Dermot Younger Health Service


Contact:
To register your interest and/or for further information contact Penny or Lyn at the Heart Foundation.

Penny James T: 08 9362 5837 E: penny.james@heartfoundation.org.au
Lyn Deane T: 08 9362 5837 E: lyn.deane@heartfoundation.org.au

For heart health information 1300 36 27 67 www.heartfoundation.org.au
Heart Foundation (08) 9366 3343


Heart Foundation plans in WA:

- 1. Provide a forum for experts in cardiac rehabilitation to share knowledge, skills and experience (21st Sept).
- 2. Develop a trial program to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.




Other Heart Foundation Projects in WA

- Development of Resources
 - My Heart, My family, Our culture
- AHW training: Registration & accreditation of CV Health training package for AHWs
- “Say No To Smokes” plus research
- Aboriginal Health Promotion Videoconferencing series to whole state
- Advocacy internally and externally
 - all programs




Strong advocates in WA!



- A very special thank you to Tyra and Dallas.