Addressing Sexual Health Inequity in Far North Queensland Indigenous Communities

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### Key Determinants

- Remoteness
- Rurality
- Dispossession
- Poverty
- Racism
- Loss of community and social capital
- Education
- Employment
- Housing
- Discrimination
- Violence

### Key Strategy Areas

- Positive childhood and transition to adulthood
- Functional and resilient families and communities

### Key Practices

- Understanding complex community power relationships
- Harnessing creative tension
- Shifting power balances where needed
WHAT WAS THE FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND POLICY CONTEXT?

Queensland Indigenous Sexual Health Strategy 2003-2006

Torres and Northern Peninsula Area Sexual Health Strategy 2000-2005

Enabling environment
Promotion and prevention
Early detection and management
Skilled Workforce
Research and data
THINKING MORE DEEPLY ABOUT THEORY?

- Remoteness
- Dispossession
- Poverty
- Class
- Community and social capital
- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Enabling environment and education
- Promotion and prevention
- Early detection and management
- Skilled workforce
- Change

Inertia

Tension

Dissemination

Emancipation

Empowerment

Dialogue

Unity

Fragmentation

Empowerment

Dialogue

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ADDRESSING INEQUITY - A SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY-BASED FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH PROMOTION

- Entrenched sexual health inequity
- Closing the Gap!
- Information
- Consolidation
- Unity
- Awareness
- Advocacy
- Agency
- Conversation
- Mobilisation
- Diversity
- Questions
- Coalition-building
- Recruiting
- Organising for action
High STI Notifications

Remote North Qld Qld Australia

not tested

Tested

Women and men 15-24 years

FERRET 2010 data

Not Tested 60%

Tested 40%

Low Condom Availability in 30 Remote Communities

Low STI/HIV knowledge

Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices

Frequent partner change

Low age of first sex

TPHS 2007 data

Non-curriculum content

Curriculum-based content

Ad hoc approach

Poor School-based Sex and Relationships Education

Low perception of personal risk

TPHS 2007 data

TRS 2008 data

NOCS 2010 data

Content type

Number of Schools

Clinic

Number of communities

Discreet

Shop

Community

"24/7"

* Tested for syphilis, chlamydia or gonorrhoea, separately or in combination

TPHS 2011 data

NOCS 2010 data

TRS 2008 data

SO MUCH FOR THE THEORY – WHAT ABOUT EVIDENCE AND PRACTICE?
WHAT DOES GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE HAVE TO SAY?

SOURCE: The Talloires consultation on evidence for policies and programs to achieve global goals for young people and HIV/AIDS. July 2004. WHO; UNAIDS; UNFPA; UNICEF

Health service actions

Community-based actions

School-based actions

Mass media actions

Meet quality & content criteria

Effective coverage

“Dose” effect

Skills-based

Curriculum-based

Delivered by adults

Youth friendly

Prevention-focused

Early detection & treatment

Community control & activism

Reframing social norms

Eg. condom social marketing
Compelling evidence
Commited local partners
Community Mobilisation
Practical action agenda
Culturally sensitive branding

**WHAT WE DID - THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT**

MORE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Local designs and promotions

Supply and distribution system

24/7 access

Community group responsibility

Condom Social Marketing

WHAT WE DID - THE SCHOOLS CONTEXT

High uptake in Indigenous schools

High impact

Ongoing demand from schools

Low levels of class implementation

Sexual Health Interactive DVD

Teacher's Kit

School-based Initiatives
WHAT WE DID - HEALTH SERVICES CONTEXT

Youth-friendly Screening

EXPERIENCE TO DATE

YPC began in March 2009

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population across region is approximately 20,000

The 15-24 population, the ‘target’, is around 3,000

Circa 3,083 episodes of care to Indigenous 15-24 age group

19 YPC conducted in locations across 4 remote health service districts

Overall participation

>=70% in 13 of 19

<65% in 1 of 19
WHAT WE DID - THE POPULATION-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS CONTEXT


A local radio drama about boys, girls and family

kasaPOrynarn

Starring
Aaron Fa’aoso
Charles Passi
Jimi Bani
Danny Bani
Rhian Phineasa
Talei Elu
Mauuesta Bowie
Mary Mills

Tune in to the show on Radio 4MW daily at 11am & 9pm from 15 April.

www.kasaPOrynarn.com to download music, videos and episodes from our facebook and blog.

Remote Communities

Wasgashla
many thanks!