



The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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AIDA

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS
DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION

Dr Shannon Springer

National Rural Health Conference

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Indigenous Perspectives

“Ngangkari (healers) work the same as doctors. We are equal in our work. The only difference is that doctors and nurses learn their jobs at university. This is the way white people get most of their learning.... Aboriginal men and Aboriginal women give health treatments in a similar yet different way..”

(Andy Tjilari, 2003)

Indigenous Perspectives

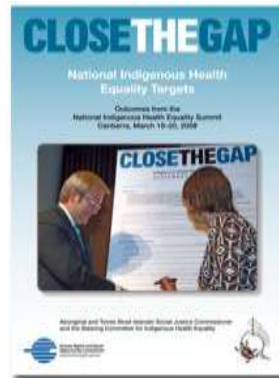


Leadership, Partnership, Scholarship

Close the Gap

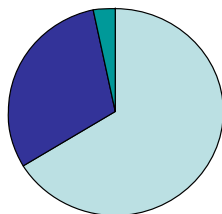
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Leadership:

- Social Justice Commissioner (Tom Calma)
- NACCHO
- CATSIN
- AIDA

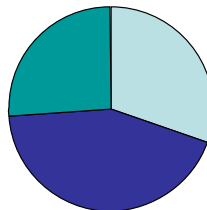


Geographic distribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

Non-Indigenous



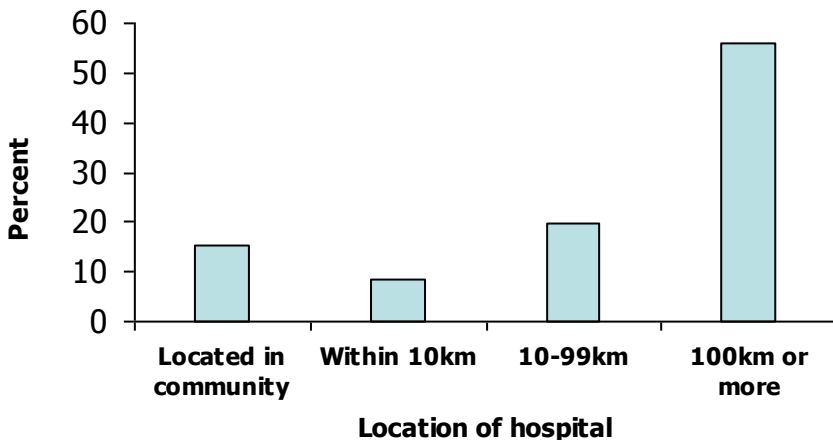
Indigenous



- Major Cities
- Regional
- Remote/ Very Remote

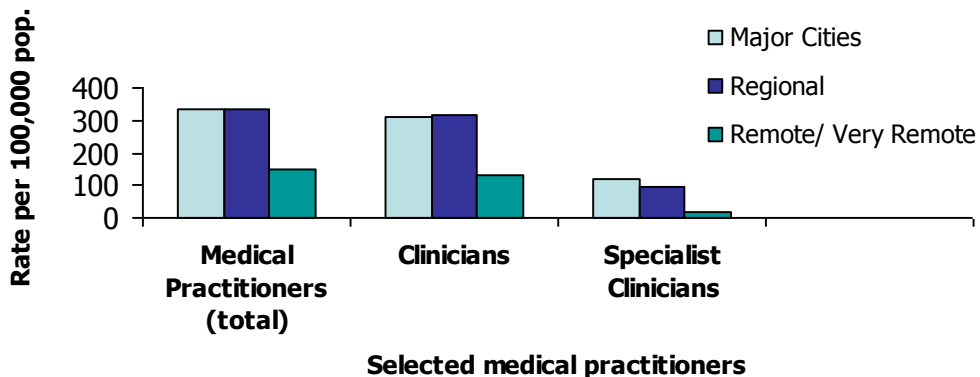
Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2008. Rural, regional and remote health: indicators of health status and determinants of health. Rural Health Series no. 9. Cat. no. PHE 97. Canberra: AIHW. P.81.

Access to hospitals by usual population of discrete Indigenous communities, 2006



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008. *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2008. Cat. No. 4704.0. Canberra. P. 195.*

Employed Medical Practitioners, by remoteness, 2005



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2008. *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2008*. Cat. No. 4704.0. Canberra. P. 193.



Whole of Health System Accountability

Currently:

- 141 ACCHSs
- 7361 General Practices
- 129 Indigenous Doctors
- 22,868 General Practitioners



Workforce

Indigenous Health requires:

- 928 Indigenous GPs and Specialists
- 161 Dentists
- 2570 Nurses
- 275 Pharmacists
- Culturally competent non-Indigenous workforce
- Indigenous Health Workers



The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health labour force

- Indigenous GPs doubled between 1996 and 2006, from **41** to **82**.
- Registered Indigenous nurses rose by **71%** between 1996 and 2006
- Indigenous students enrolled in the health field rose by **29%** from **1,104** in 2001 to **1,426** in 2006

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health labour force statistics and data quality assessment. Cat. no. IHW 27. Canberra: AIHW.



CoAG Funding Package: Indigenous Reform

National Partnership on Indigenous Health -
\$805.5 million over 4 years

Specific activities focus on:

- Adult Health Checks
- Chronic disease self management
- Improving access to PBS medicines
- Children and Family Centres
- Eye, ear and dental care



Messages

- National partnerships need to be developed between governments, community, education providers and industry
- Review funding models and evaluation frameworks for clinical placements
- Build on workforce mechanisms that address the needs of all regions are required – recruitment and retention