



**We acknowledge the traditional custodians, the Arrernte people; and pay our respect to their Elders both past & present.**

**We further extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present today.**

## PRESENTERS

**KERRY WALKER:**  
**ABORIGINAL PROJECT OFFICER, HEPATITIS NSW**

**BONNIE BRIGGS:**  
**HARM MINIMISATION OFFICER, ABORIGINAL HEALTH & MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**



**HEPATITIS C PEER EDUCATION**

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

- The YMMOM project is a hep C Aboriginal peer project.
- The project was developed by the Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council
- Initiated in June 2012, in partnership with Hepatitis NSW (HNSW), due to:
  - higher and increasing rates of hep C amongst Aboriginal people in NSW
  - lack of innovative hep C programs, targeting Aboriginal young people

## PROJECT AIMS

To pilot a Peer Education (PE) program to Aboriginal young people to prevent the spread of hep C in Aboriginal communities across NSW

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To increase awareness of hep C and related issues amongst young Aboriginal people across NSW at risk of contracting the hepatitis C virus.
- To increase the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) to create a sustainable peer education program.

## TARGET GROUP

14 to 25 years  
Aboriginal Young People  
Juvenile Detention Detainees  
Aboriginal Communities



## PEER COMPONENT

Peer education was incorporated into the project because:

- It was a noted strategy of the NSW Aboriginal STI HIV & Hepatitis C Implementation Plan (2006 – 2009)
- Peers are in the best position to pass on health info., encourage health values and influence behaviour changes to each other

## STAFF TRAINING & PEER RECRUITMENT

- Week One
- 1 x day of staff training
- 1 x day of Peer recruitment
- This involved basic hep C education, with an overview of the project for all participants

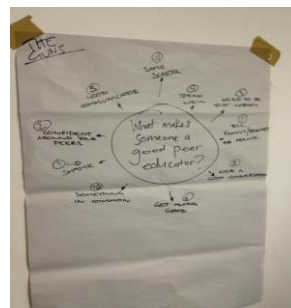
## HEPATITIS C AND PEER TRAINING

- Week Two
- 2 days of training for young people with interactive activities on hep C, and peer education. Young people designed street art murals under the guidance of a professional street artist.
- A graduation ceremony was held on day three to acknowledge Peer Educators and showcase the street art mural.

## HEPATITIS C & PEER EDUCATION

### Workshops:

- Brainstorming
- Group Work
- Games
- Activities
- Quiz's
- Power-point presentation
- DVDs



## GRADUATION CEREMONY

- At most sites guests and services attended the graduation day and BBQ.
- Graduates were presented with certificates, goody bags of resources, logo beanies and drink bottles.
- Elected peers spoke of the project, what they learnt, and messages in the art mural



## STREET ART

- Street Art was the draw-card in attracting young people's participation in the project.
- The use of street art was very successful, and complements other AH&MRC evaluations that show arts based projects are effective at promoting health messaging among young Aboriginal people

## STREET ART Forbes High School



Forbes High School



Kariong JJC

## STREET ART - Katungal Outreach Van



## COLLABORATIONS, PARTNERSHIPS & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Collaborations and capacity building were essential components of the project.
- Local and state-wide partners involved were ACCHS's, NSW Juvenile Justice, NSW Justice Health and Forbes High School



## RESULTS

- Aims were met
- Delivered at 5 JJC's and 3 Aboriginal community settings
- 133 YP participated, 72 graduating as Peer Educators
- 43 staff trained, including their roles in supporting PE's
- 7 permanent locally developed hep C murals
- Posters & postcards of artworks developed and distributed
- Facebook page developed promoting project to young people <https://www.facebook.com/YourMobMyMobOurMob>

## Further Information

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- The Aboriginal Hep C Peer Graduates
- The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- YMMMOM project Advisory Committee
- Lisa Camillo & Lisa Panton - AH&MRC staff involved in the project
- Bruce Cherry & Kerry Walker - HNSW staff involved in the project
- Local partners at the various project sites
- The Street Artists involved in the project