**Congress Stream:** No 1 Aboriginal health – Closing the Gap / opening the connections

**Alternate Stream**: NA

**Abstract title**: Tamworth Hospital Closing the Gap videos, connecting patients and staff in a regional centre.

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**Background**

The new North West Cancer Centre in Tamworth provides oncology services to the North West and New England regions of NSW. Collaboration during design and fit out has resulted in a facility that is culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal patients. To promote this and provide Aboriginal patients and families with information on what to expect, a video was project was initiated.

**Approach**

Staff from the Cancer Centre and Aboriginal Health Unit consulted with local Aboriginal Community representatives to determine the required content and preferred style. Consultation and subsequent interviews identified opportunities for additional videos including one for staff so they could better understand local Aboriginal patient perspectives. Video production was performed by staff on a largely voluntary basis.

**Outcomes/Results**

Three videos were produced. The information video for patients “A Place of Healing”, a breast cancer survivor’s story and recommendation to “Go and Get Your Girls Checked” and a “Welcome to Country” for new staff to augment existing cultural awareness training. Feedback from local Elders groups and the broader Community has been extremely positive, with the launch being well attended.

**Take home messages**

1. Community engagement and ownership was key to this success

2. Aboriginal Health is everyone’s business