**Abstract submitted for the 4th Rural Health and Research Congress**

**Armidale 4-6 November 2015**

**Congress Stream:** No 5 Rural health research in practice- connecting for change

**Alternate Stream:** No 1 Aboriginal Health- Closing the Gap/opening connections

**Abstract Title:** Aboriginal stories of diabetes care in Dubbo

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**Background**: A state-wide model of care for Aboriginal people with diabetes has been developed and implemented. Despite this, Aboriginal people have lower detection of diabetes than expected and still experience poorer health outcomes. This study details the model of care for diabetes as experienced by Aboriginal people in Dubbo.

**Approach**: Four Aboriginal Health Workers from three different organisations and one research academic formed a research team to design and undertake the study. Stories of care were explored using a qualitative approach informed by grounded theory and Indigenist research principles. This yielded five focus groups which are in the process of being coded and analysed. Supplementary semi-structured interviews are yet to be conducted.

**Outcomes/Results:** Analysis of the data has just commenced, but will be finalised by November. The normative models of care will be contrasted with the patient experience of that model. It is anticipated this will lead to improvements in care and recommendations to improvement the existing model.

**Take Home Message**: Undertaking research as part of practice connects research findings directly to their application. Clinician led research should be encouraged and supported in rural areas.