**Abstract submitted for the 4th Rural Health and Research Congress
Armidale 4-6 November 2015**

**CONGRESS STREAM:** Aboriginal Health - Closing the Gap/Opening the connections

**ALTERNATE STREAM:** Partnerships and integrated care – connecting rural people and services

**ABSTRACT TITLE:** Sugar SNAP: Closing the Gap - **S**upporting the **N**eeds of **A**boriginal **P**eople *(the Dubbo Aboriginal Diabetes Project)*

**AUTHOR/S:** **Anne Field**, Manager, Performance and Service Development, Integrated Primary Care and Partnerships, Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD)

Tabitha Jones, Integrated Care Coordinator (former Western NSW Medicare Local)

Carey Golledge, Practice Manager, Dubbo Regional Aboriginal Health Service (DRAHS)

**BACKGROUND**

Despite a clear evidence base detailing how to prevent, manage and treat Type 2 diabetes; incidence and prevalence continues to rise - particularly amongst Aboriginal people, who are three times more likely to have diabetes and seven times more likely to die from it. This is magnified in rural and remote areas.

**APPROACH**

A partnership between the Bila Muuji Aboriginal Corporation, WNSWLHD and the former WNSWML was formed.

Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, a flexible integrated care model was developed which includes a focus on completion of the diabetes Cycle of Care. Research has been conducted which will be used to refine the existing model to better meet patient needs.

**OUTCOMES/RESULTS**

Early results include:

- Formation of a Diabetes Network to upskill Aboriginal Health Workers (23.8% increase in self-reported confidence)

- 46% increase in NDSS registrations

- Increase in completion of Diabetes Cycle of Care from 15.5% to 20.9% in first two practices

- Four Aboriginal Health Workers and one research academic presented at National Rural Health Conference in Darwin.

**TAKE HOME MESSAGE**

1. Partnerships between key players in the provision of healthcare can bring about positive change, but require significant time and cooperation from all parties.
2. Enhanced coordination of care can see direct improvement in key processes, which in turn will lead to improved health outcomes.