# LOCAL PERSPECTIVE : WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TORRES STRAIT?

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS - HIV PRE-CONFERENCE ON HIV & AIDS

SYDNEY

17-19TH JULY 2014

## Torres Strait Model for Primary Health Care

- Currently services within the Torres District is delivered with a Primary Health Care Focus
- Work collaboratively with the 13 program areas to deliver 5 core services that are essential to primary health care. These include- Primary Clinical Care, Diseases Screening & Prevention, Health Education, Health Promotion & Community

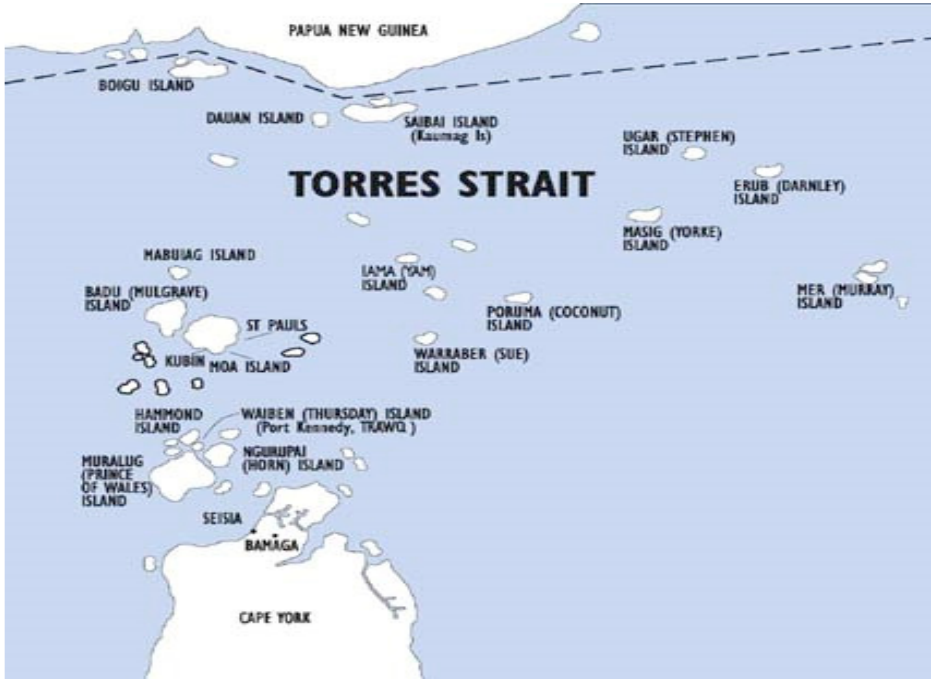
## Current staffing:

- Program Manager
- 2x Clinical Nurse Consultants (Sexual Health)
- 1x CNC- Mobile Women's Health
- 2 x HW- Health Workers – Sexual Health & Mobile Women's Health

# Service Provision:

District responsibility in that we:

- Work across program areas
- Provide a “wholistic” approach to clients care
- Provide Outreach visits at least twice a year to each community
- Management/monitoring of STI
- Maintain & monitor contact tracing



## Challenges:

- Contact tracing - transient population
- Getting staff to increase opportunistic screening with collecting a urine PCR
- Staff turnover
- Increased screening amongst young people

# PAST PROJECTS:

- Increase access to condoms 24/7
- KAP Study (Knowledge, Attitude & Practice)
- Establishment of YARN group
- Kasa Por Yarn (Radio Segment)
- YPC (Young Persons Check)
- Hep B Project
- Gonorrhoea Enhanced Surveillance

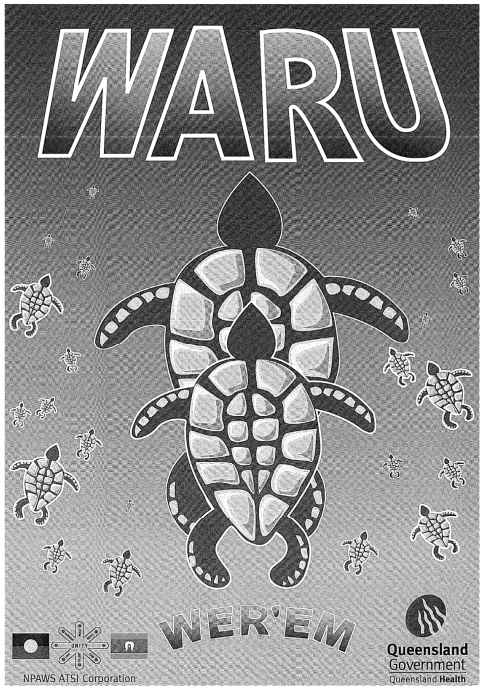
# Accessibility of condoms:

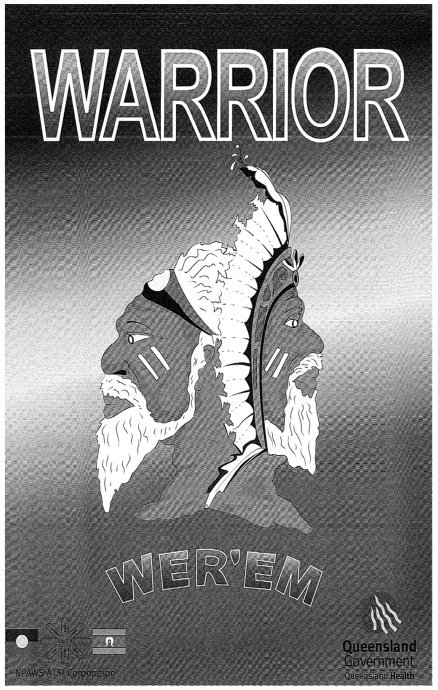
- Condom outlets have been installed around various public places on Thursday Island and the outer island communities.
- They are free- easily accessed 24-7
- Maintained and monitored by the Men's & Women's Health program on TI and Health Centres on the outer island communities.

Footy Oval

Cemetery

National Bank



# KAP (Knowledge, Attitude & Practice) Study 2010

Aim: Assess the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth living in far north Queensland in relation to sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and safe sex.

Methods: Local recruitment of a sample of young people of same gender focus group setting, completed a questionnaire followed by open discussion of the issues in a range of remote locations during 2007.

# KAP study 2010

Target population-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

Torres strait – one of 4 remote communities in FNQ in the study.

# KAP study 2010:

Results:

• Indigenous youth living in remote areas demonstrated lower levels of knowledge in relation to STI and HIV

• Higher levels of partner change than was demonstrated in the 2002 national secondary school survey.

• Extremely low level of awareness of personal risk in relation to STI and HIV

# YARN (Youth and Relationships Network Group)

• Established in 2007- recommendation derived from a feedback workshop of the Sexual Health social marketing campaign conducted in 2006

Consisted of :

• Community participation

• Met every 6 weeks

# YARN GROUP:

Aim :

- Ensure that informed local voices are heard when authorities are considering public health responses to high rates of STIs among our youth

- Advise Qld Health on specific proposals for addressing sexual health disadvantage in our young people

- Raise the awareness levels of authoritities to the increased vulnerability of our youth to HIV and AIDS

# YARN GROUP:

Achievements:

- Implementation of Kasa Por Yarn
- Development of local condom wallets with local designs
- Establishment of condom distribution outlets

Weaknesses:

- Lack of input/representation by youth
- Queensland Health driven
- Lack of continuous community representation

# KASA POR YARN:

What is it?

A sexual health communications campaign over the local radio station, Torres News & Facebook.

Goals: Increase community awareness and knowledge

Break taboos of silence: create community conversation about sexual safety

Address the lack of personal risk & increase confidence to act

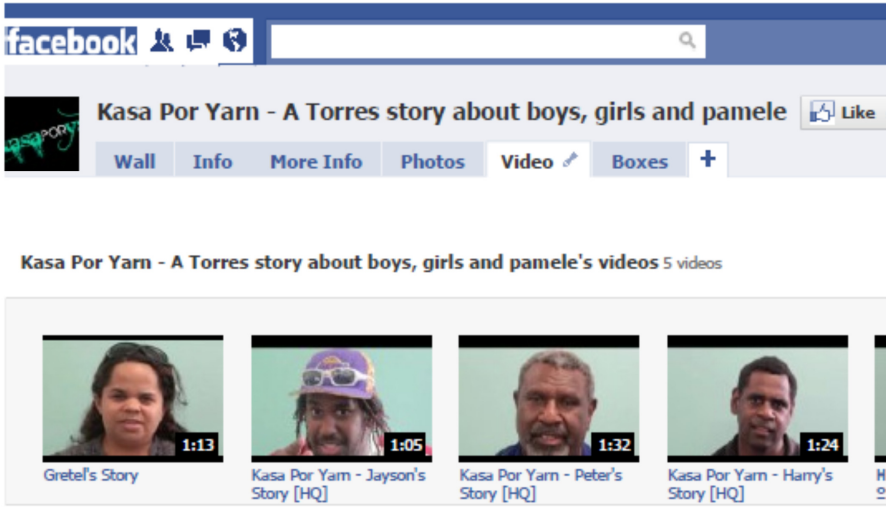
# KASA POR YARN:

Kasa Por Yarn 1 & 2- Radio segment (Local Radio Station) & Torres News (Local newspaper):)

Kasa Por Yarn 1Commenced in 2010 & Kasa Por Yarn 2 in 2012

Cast- involved local actors

## Facebook – featuring episodes, videos of cast, photos, songs



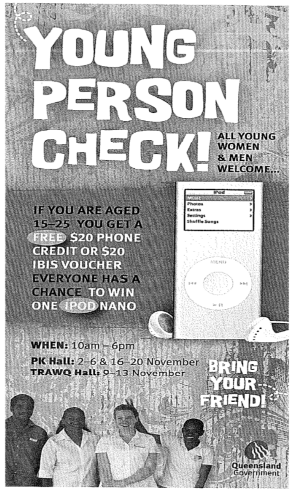
Theme song by local hip hop artist
Patrick Mau - MauPower

## YPC- Young Peoples Check

- Population screening targeting young people aged 15-24yrs.
- Joint effort by staff from Cairns Public Health Unit & Men's & Women's Health Program on TI.
- Implemented on TI/Horn in 2009, Badu/TI/NPA in 2010 and proposed for Badu/TI again in 2011

# WHAT'S INVOLVED:

- Quick 10-15mins check- no questions asked
- Provide incentives- $20 phone credit on completion of check & health promotion materials eg. water bottles, caps, wristbands, condoms
- Runs on average 1 ½ weeks for small communities to 3 weeks in larger communities
- Man power- requires (actual screening- 7 staff)




# YPC- what's in the check?

- Blood pressure,Ht, Wt, BMI
- Urinalysis- protein & PCR- gono/CT/Trichs (females)
- Bloods for syphilis, glucose & lipids (Random)

# Hepatitis B Project:

Two research studies conducted in 2011:

1/ Looks at the genotyping of the clients with Chronic Hep B in the Torres & NPA.

2/ Chart audit to look at current management and compare with national guidelines

3/ A situational analysis of public health responses to Chronic Hepatitis B in the Torres Strait.

# HEPATITIS B PROJECT:

- Results:
- Lack of awareness and/or knowledge of chronic hepatitis B at all levels of health services and assumingly the Torres Strait community.
- Lack of an agreed, systematic and sustainable model of care
- Need for development of a skilled workforce
- Need for the establishment of a small team (CNC & Health Worker) to manage and monitor Chronic Hep B clients.