

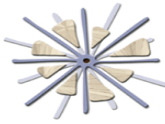
# Tharanban Research Project:

Connecting Academia with Aboriginal Communities and Connecting Aboriginal Communities with Academia



## Troy Combo and James Ward

Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW and  
The Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and  
Related Diseases



The Consortium



AH&MRC

### Introduction

The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC) in partnership with the Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (Consortium) are working in a three phased program to increase research capacity of Aboriginal Health Workers in NSW.

### Aims

- increase research capacity of Aboriginal Health Workers.
- Familiarity of research and research processes among AHWs
- Participation of AHWs in a multi-site research project in NSW.
- Aboriginal ownership and custodianship of Aboriginal sexual health research in NSW

### Rationale

Commonwealth and State, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Hepatitis C Strategies particularly the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander STI and BBV Strategy 2005-2009 state the importance for research to be conducted in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector ensuring culturally appropriate, and ethical processes are adhered to.

### Historically

Negative connotations associated with research conducted without proper ethical and cultural considerations always in mind.



### Phase I-Introduction to Research for Aboriginal Health Workers (March 2005 Mudgee)

#### Topics included:

- the role of research and how it can apply to AHWs roles and workplaces;
- differentiating different types of research particularly qualitative & quantitative;
- understanding research reports;
- ethical, legal and cultural issues associated with conducting research in Aboriginal communities in NSW.

23 Aboriginal Health Workers attended  
The model of training was practical based.



### Phase II- Planning Research

#### Topics to be included

- prioritising research questions
- considering appropriate methodologies
- development of ethics applications.
- engaging relevant communities
- establishing reference groups.
- considering how research will be of benefit to the community

Phase II will be delivered over two days in Sydney in early October 2005.



### Phase III-Conducting Research in Aboriginal Communities and Research Mentoring Program.

After participants have completed phases I & II they will be encouraged to participate in Phase III.

Phase III has several components including;

- Conducting a research project across many sites in NSW.
- Analysis of data and identification of key themes.
- De-identification of services, individuals and communities.
- Writing up of results.
- Publishing and dissemination of relevant results.
- A Research mentoring program.



### Phase III (cont'd) Mentoring Program

Each Aboriginal Health Worker who participates in the project will be allocated a research mentor from the The National Centre in HIV Social Research. The staff come from a variety of methodological backgrounds and are well placed to fill the role of mentor to the Aboriginal Health Worker.

Acknowledgements to staff from National Centre for HIV Social Research for their dedication and commitment to this program including Heather Worth, Susan Kippax, Rodney McDonald, Christy Newman, Patrick Rawstone, Asha Persson and Jeannie Ellard.

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