10. Indigenous Health

The promotion of access to high-quality primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is critical to Australia’s future. Support of Continuous Quality Improvement in everyday primary health care practice is a key strategy to achieve this future. In 2008, Professor Semmens was requested by Dr Tarun Weeramanthri, Director Public Health WA DoH, to lead the WA platform of the Audit of Best Practice for Chronic Disease (ABCD) and base the project within the CPHR. The project developed out of a history of health service evaluation and best practice guideline development. The national project has nodes in all states and is essentially coordinated by the Menzies School of Health Research and the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. The project has formed the base for further discussion with the WA DoH about establishing a skills-based group of researchers and training program in the CPHR who specialise in Indigenous Health. During 2009 we were successful in obtaining continuation funding through the NHMRC Partnership grant to support primary care in Indigenous health. Ms Rhonda Cox provided the key role in collaborating with regional Aboriginal Health Services in the great Southern, and Kimberley regions.

Lead: Professor James Semmens
Team:
Collaborators: Professor Ross Bailie,
Clinical Professor Tarun Weeramanthri
Professor Sandra Thompson

Recent publications: