

Engaging Aboriginal Shire Councils in supportive environment approaches to health:

Preliminary learnings from the Healthy Indigenous Communities Project



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This Project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

Presenters

Dr Simone Nalatu

A/Manager – Prevention Division
Queensland Health

Tiffany Williams

Healthy Communities Project
Officer

Apunipima Cape York Health
Council

<http://www.apunipima.org.au/>



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Healthy Indigenous Communities (HIC) - pilot project



- Lead agency – Apunipima
 - Funded by QLD DoH & North Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN)
- Pilot being conducted with 3/16 Qld Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Shire Councils
- Engage with Councils & community to implement strategies

Health context



Council context

- Local governments play a role in shaping local environments through their work in planning & development
- Engaging Aboriginal Shire Councils
- Process has involved:
 - Gaining permission
 - Seeking & receiving advice
 - Establishing a working group

Project overview

HIC Project

Water story

Smoking story





How does environmental health play a role the prevention of chronic diseases?

Water story

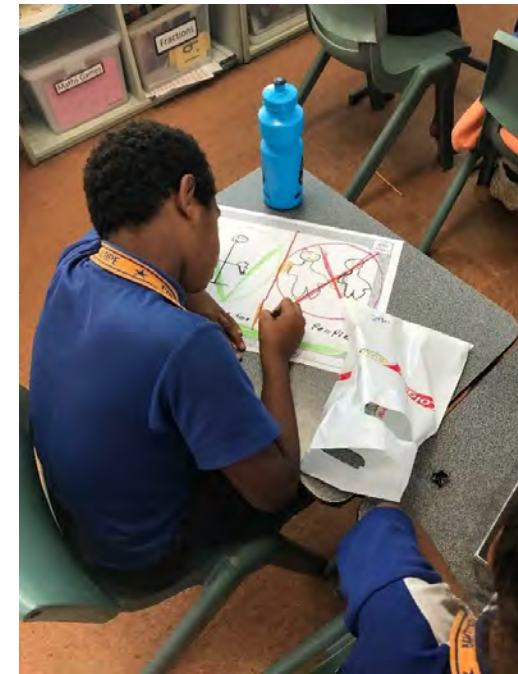


Vs



What we did?

- Developed sugary drinks social marketing campaign for Cape York
- Trialled modified Community Readiness Tool (CRT) to talk with Council, other stakeholders & community leaders
- Supportive environments approach – more water, less sugary drinks
- Community action plans



Working together

Everyone has a role to play in supporting and promoting water consumption...

Environmental
Health

Employment

Store

Ranger
Groups



Local Council

Health

Schools

Sport & Rec

Working together



- Linked in with Torres & Cape Hospital & Health Service Project – 6mo QI activity to implement QLD Government ‘Healthier Drinks for Healthcare Facilities: Best Practice Guide’
- 6 pilot sites included Mapoon, Napranum & Wujal Wujal
- Findings relevant to our work:
 - Staff & Visitors survey - 88% strongly agreed with the statement ‘sugary drinks are a problem in my community’
 - Access to safe, clean drinking water on outer island in Torres Strait was raised as a concern (staff surveys & stakeholder consultations)
- Project contact: Lisa Jolliffe, Dietitian - Weipa, lisa.jolliffe@health.qld.gov.au

Smoking story



What we did?

- Leveraged off national 'Don't Make Smokes Your Story' campaign
- Worked alongside local Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Workers
- Trialled modified CRT to talk with Council, other stakeholders & community leaders
- Supportive environments approach – more smoke free spaces, policies & events
- Community action plans



Working together

Everyone has a role to play in supporting and promoting smoke free spaces...

**Health (Tackling
Indigenous Smoking
Health Worker)**

**Environmental
Health**



Local Store

Employment

Local Council

Project Evaluation

- Used a number of tools at different time points of the project
 - Modified Community Readiness Tool (CRT)
 - Geographic Information System (GIS) Mapping
 - Modified Healthy Store Environment Tool
 - Store Sales Data
 - Community Member Survey
 - Project team reflections on engaging with Councils
- Results available late 2018/early 2019
- Planning to publish results in the academic literature



Next steps for HIC Project

- Social marketing – continue implementation of ‘Sugary Drinks Proper No Good: Drink More Water Youfla’ & ‘Don’t Make Smokes Your Story’
- Supportive environments – ongoing cycle of reflecting → planning → acting → observing
- Post-implementation data collection early 2018
- Prepare case studies to guide future efforts to engage Aboriginal Shire Councils in supportive environments for health



Future directions & The bigger picture

- Inter-sectoral collaboration is vital to progress the Healthy Environments agenda
 - Everyone has a role to play – big or small
- **Environmental health** has a crucial role to play in chronic disease prevention
 - Access to safe drinking water & smoke-free places are essential to help communities make easy, healthy choices – ‘Close the Gap’
 - Identify co-benefits to work together

Acknowledgments

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- QH Team: Gillian Myers & Dru Armstrong
- NQPHN



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Links & Contacts

- To keep up-to-date with Project activities and resources:
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Apunipima/>
 - Twitter: [@Apunipima](https://twitter.com/Apunipima)
 - Website: <http://www.apunipima.org.au/services>
 - Rethink Sugary Drink Alliance: <http://www.rethinksugarydrink.org.au/>
- To get in touch with us:
 - Cara Laws (Project Manager) – cara.laws@apunipima.org.au
 - Tiffany Williams (Project Officer) – tiffany.williams@apunipima.org.au



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