



11th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference, QLD 2017

Connecting environmental health through partnerships - a grassroots approach

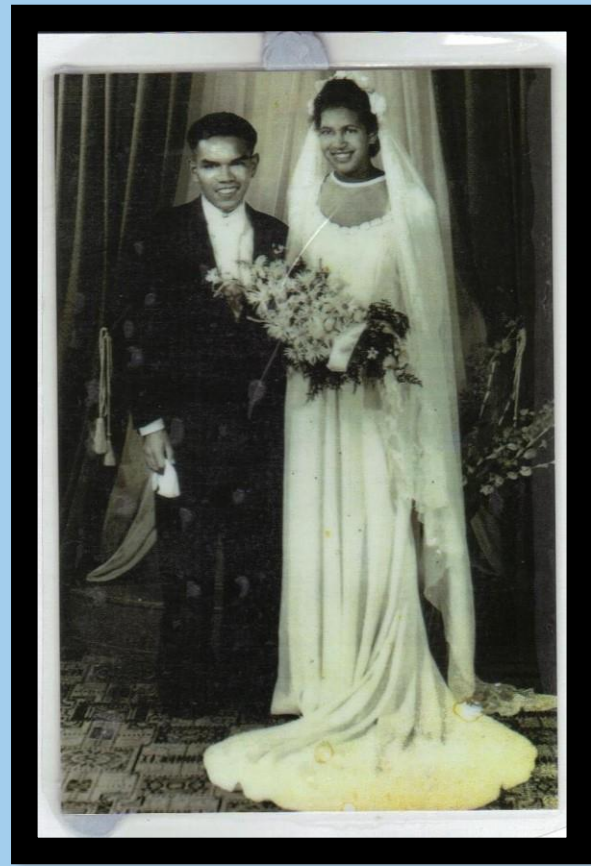
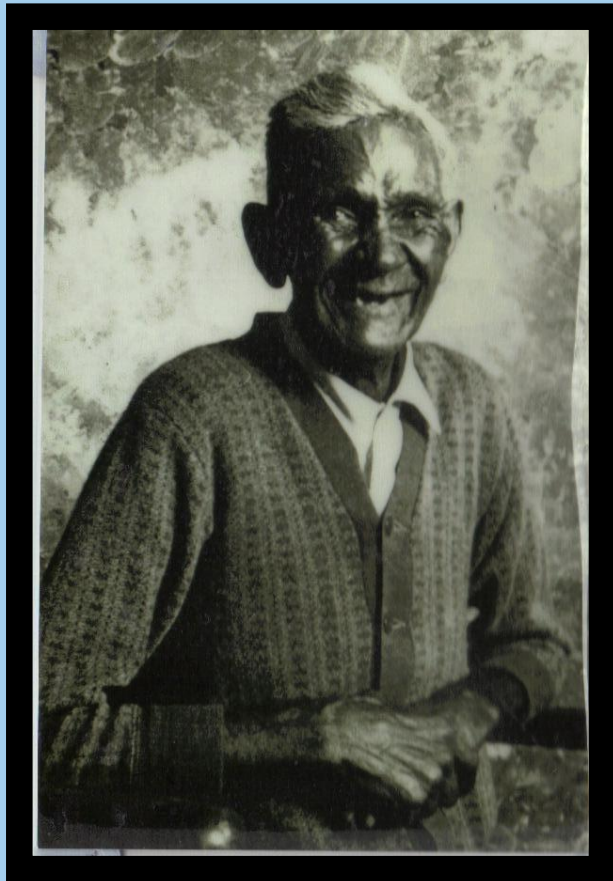


PROFESSOR GRACELYN SMALLWOOD

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2017



**Please be advised that this
PowerPoint presentation *will*
contain *images* of people who
have died.**





Nursing & Midwifery Graduation 1972
Townsville General Hospital

MY JOURNEY

- In 1972, I became a registered nurse and midwife.
- Worked in communities such as Alice Springs, Palm Island, remote Western Australia and South Australia.
- Volunteer member of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) in 1974, and worked as a volunteer Registered Nurse with two volunteer Doctors.
- Later I became a registered midwife and worked with the Remote Emergency Nursing Services, which took me all over remote Australia delivering babies in the late 1970s and early 1980s, with no benefits of modern technology.
- I have also worked in remote Australia with the late Dr Fred Hollows on the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program.



Graduation Master Science (Tropical Medical Science) May 1993
A/Prof Ian Wronski Joy Koehler Gracelyn Smallwood Dr Paul Turner A/Prof Rick Speare



In 2011, I completed my PhD Thesis *Human Rights and First Australians Well-being*. In 2015 my PhD was published by Routledge in London as a hardback monograph. The publication is titled *Indigenist Critical Realism*.





I have dealt with almost every disease, both nationally and internationally, however I have never been able to come to terms with the ugly disease of racism.



**Blood on the Wattle - Third Edition
Massacres and Maltreatment of Aboriginal Australians since 1788**

Background

Adds developed in 1987 addressing HIV/AIDS

- **For example Grim Reaper advertisement**

However, this advertisement was not applicable to Indigenous Australians



Aims

1. Develop a culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS awareness program in relation to remote North Queensland Indigenous Communities
2. Implement the program in targeted remote North Queensland Indigenous communities
3. Assess the program impact within these communities

3 main phases of Development

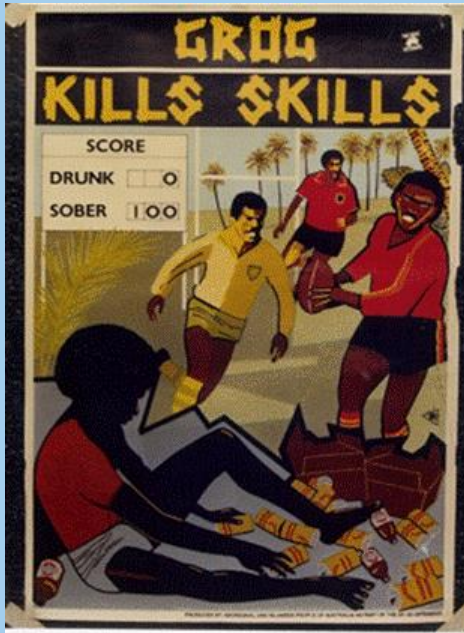
- **Consultation**
- **Development of audio-visual testing**
- **Market testing of materials and community feed-back**

5 Day Structure

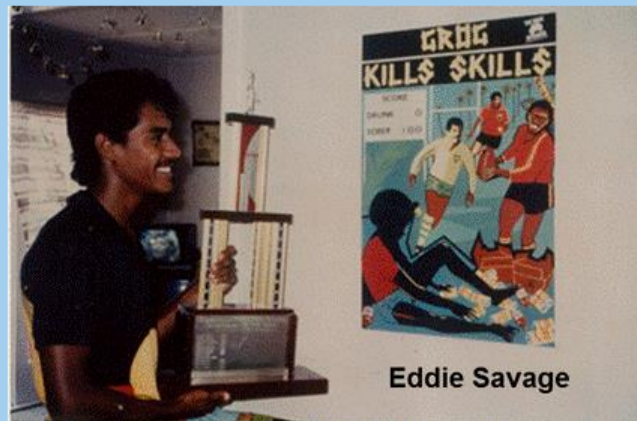
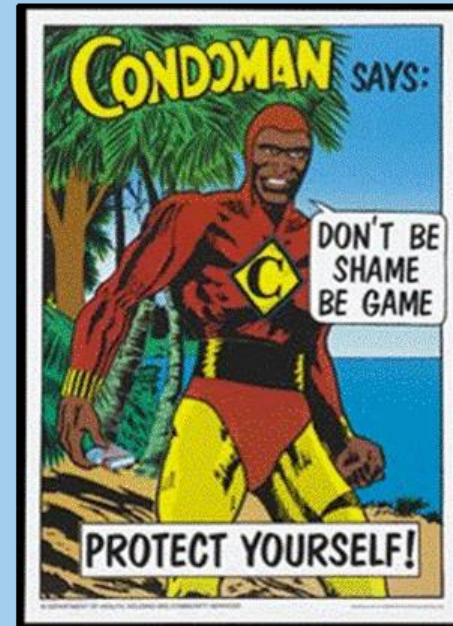
- **Education sessions on HIV/AIDS**
- **Development of graphics**
- **Market testing of graphics**
- **Development of audio resources**
- **Development of program implementation strategy and evaluation strategy**



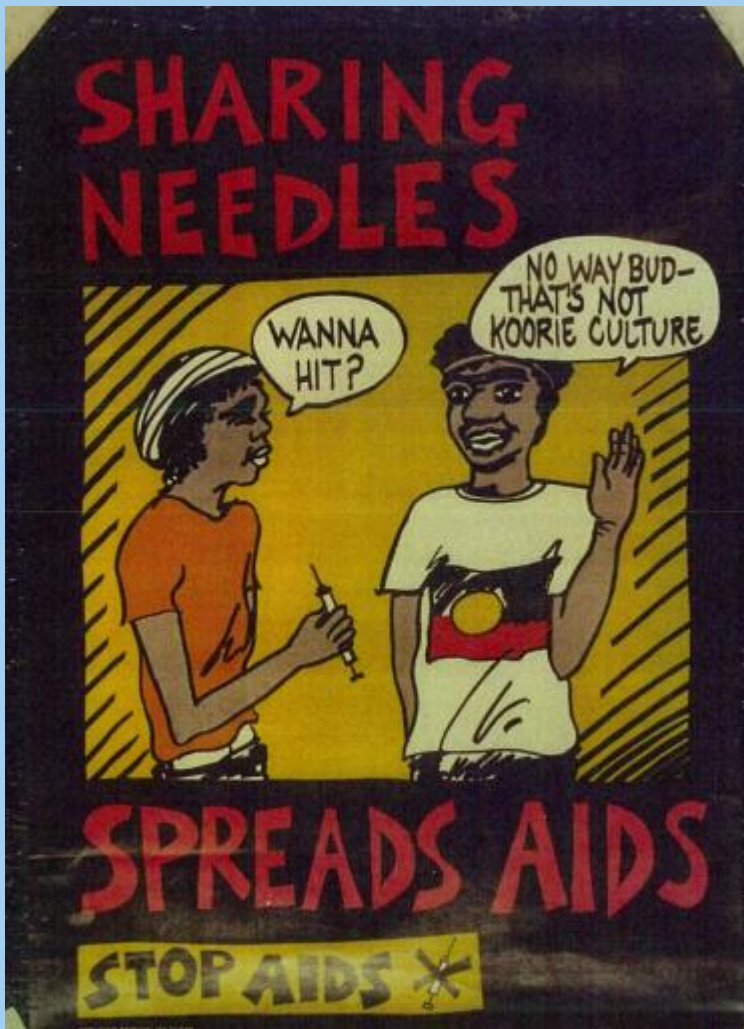
- **Along with other Community Representatives**



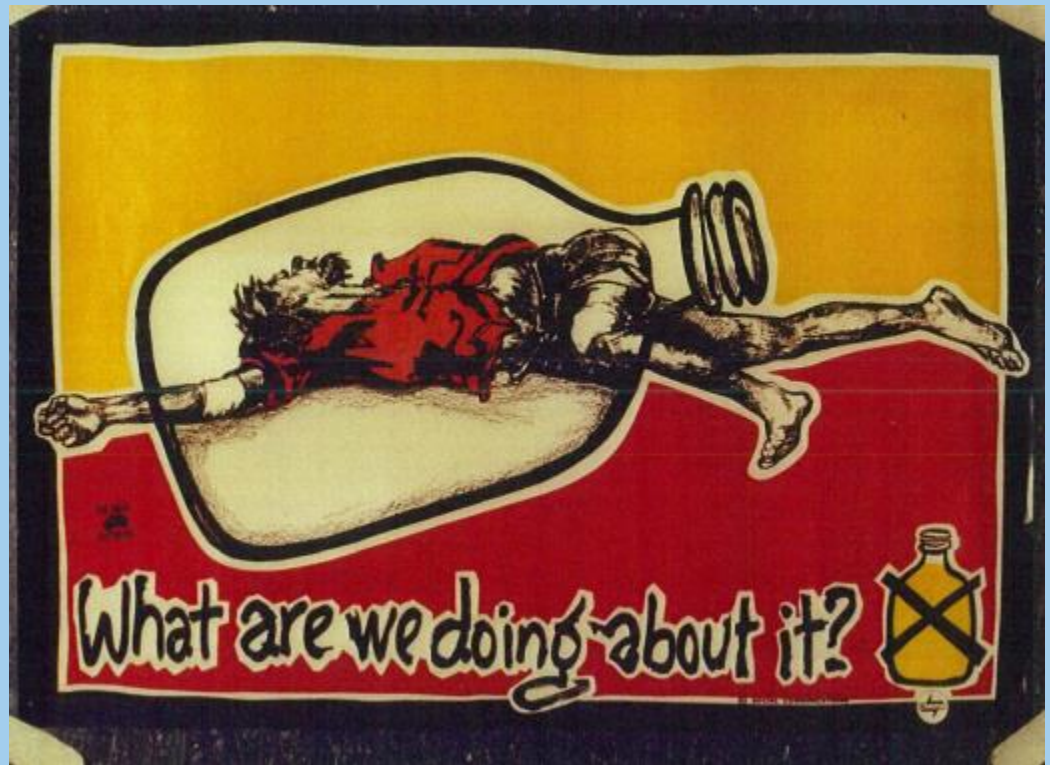
Masters of Science in Public Health for work in North Queensland Indigenous Communities (1993)



Eddie Savage



NSW



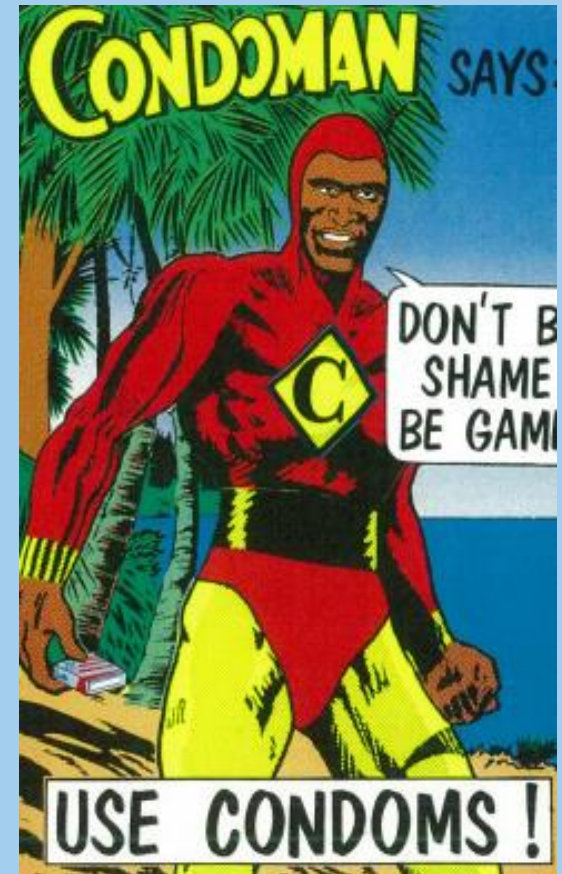
NT



1987



1989



1992

Report in Townsville Bulletin 29.11.89 about
Condoman T-shirts.

TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN



Sheree Pryor sports a Condoman T-shirt. With her is Ms Grace Smallwood.

MOVE over Golem Reager you've been outdistanced by Black superman in the fight against AIDS.

Condoman, the Phantasm character who warns people "use frenchies", has become international hero.

While the horrific Golem Reager campaign cost millions of dollars in advertising expense, Condoman was born in Townsville on a budget of nothing.

It was the initiative of a group of Townsville Aborigines and Islanders looking to start their own campaign.

Condoman has been taken up by the World Health Organisation and his message is reaching millions of people around the world.

AIDS consultant for the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Agency and WHO Ms Grace Smallwood said there had been concern Aborigi-

WHO supports the Condoman

nes and Islanders would not relate to the Golem Reager campaign.

become world acclaimed," she said.

Its success is due to the fact

Islanders got together and we did our own campaign," she said.

"Myself and a health team have covered 18 remote communities in North and western Queensland to promote AIDS awareness."

Condoman was taken to the World Health Organisation conference in Sydney last year and won instant acceptance.

"The Condoman poster has

resources and little money.

Condoman is now out in T-shirt form, drawing attention to the fact that December 1 is International AIDS Day.

An AIDS workshop is to be held in Townsville on the day and a march and rally is to be held in Cairns.

Ms Smallwood implored people learn about AIDS.

"Ignorance is so very dangerous," she said.

And we took it to the BRONX! In USA!



- Thomas Pryor, Palm Island
- 2 Community workers
- African AIDS researchers

I was invited to be special guest for the then South African President, Mr Nelson Mandela in 1997, and used the time speaking with activists including the sons of the late Steve Biko, and giving HIV-AIDS prevention talks and workshops. I was one of the small group of health practitioners who understood the risk of HIV-AIDS in Indigenous communities, and we devised the now mainstream and famous *Condoman* to promote safe sex in a culturally appropriate way.



What our Media Package contained

- AIDS Action and Planning Manual
- Condoman Poster
- “Which way” Poster
- Facts about AIDS poster
- “Just one more” poster
- “Drink little bit”
- “Grog kills skills”
- Don’t drink n drive whilst charging on

NO CONDOM



- NO WAY!



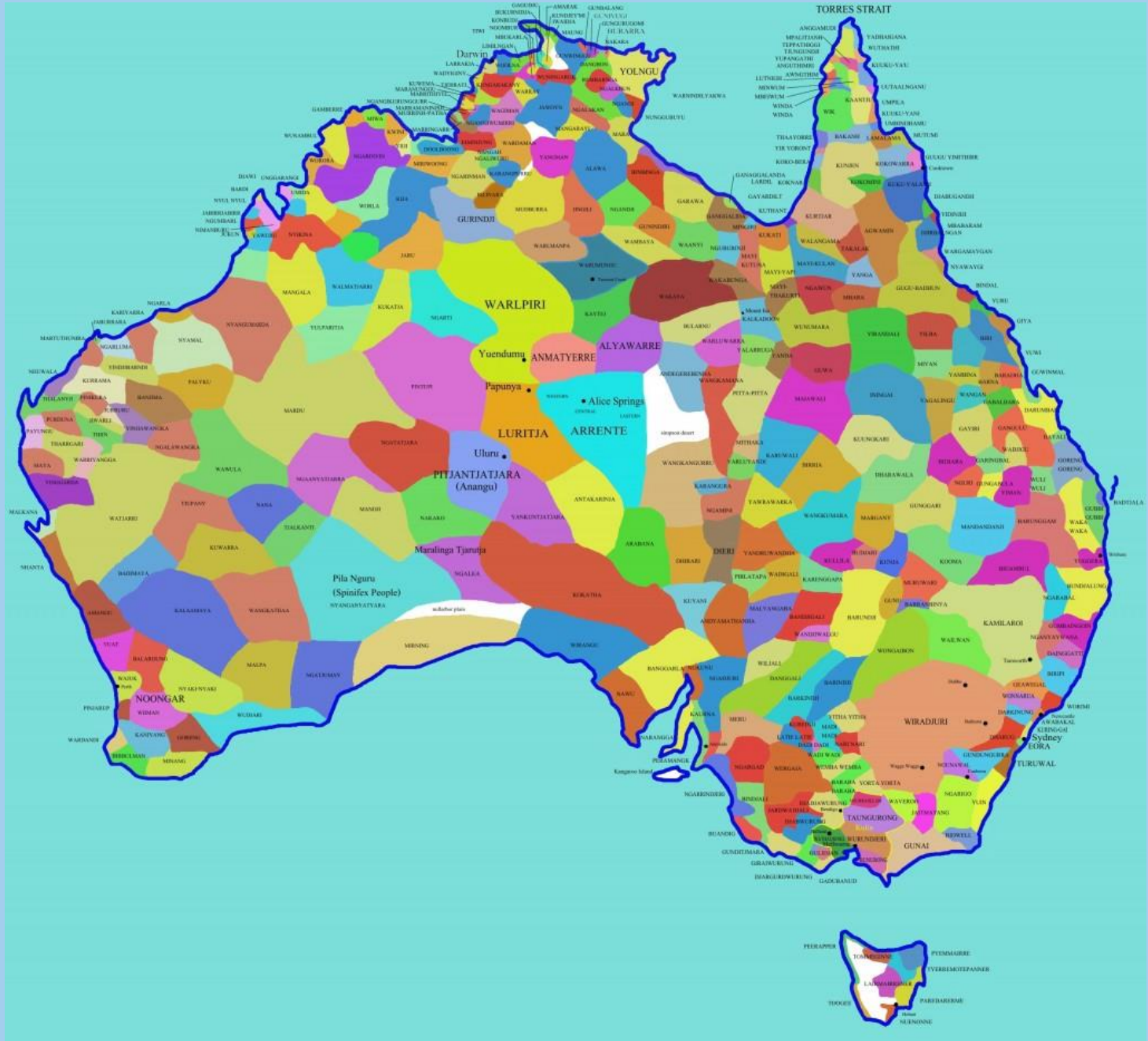
YOU CAN'T CURE AIDS, YOU CAN ONLY BE CAREFUL!

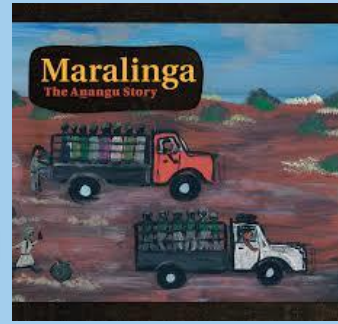
COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH. ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS OF AUSTRALIA (QUEENSLAND).

NACCHO Aboriginal Eye Health : Why is trachoma blinding Aboriginal children when mainstream Australia eliminated it 100 years ago?



Source: Naccho Communique





Yami Lester was just 10 years old when the United Kingdom began testing nuclear weapons near his home in Australia. A major test, named Totem 1, was detonated in the early morning of 15 October 1953, sending a thick, oily, radioactive cloud through his town of Wallatina – around 100 miles from where the bomb was detonated at Emu Junction. Mr Lester suffered vision impairment after being blinded by a nuclear test bomb that blew through his homelands in the far north of South Australia during the 1950s.

He spent his early years working on pastoral properties across South Australia, until losing his eyesight as a teenager and becoming completely blind — a consequence of dust from the nuclear bomb.

Maralinga remembered on 70th anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

by Prof Gracelyn Smallwood
12 August 2015

I'm reminded this week that at 8:15 a.m. of August 6, 1945 a US B-29 bomber launched the world's first ever nuclear attack on Hiroshima. With the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki I thought I'd like to share with First Nations Telegraph readers a paper I delivered in Salzburg in 1992. The conference was called The World Anti Uranium Conference. It was very scary for people from all over the world, bringing resources and information of radiation sickness. I was then invited to Japan and visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to a peace gathering. I spoke about the bombs tested in Maralinga. I discussed the stories of my friend Yami Lester going blind from radiation fall-out. They were all discussing Japan, but not Maralinga in South Australia where the Menzies government allowed Britain to conduct seven nuclear tests with approximate yields ranging from 1 to 27 kilotons of TNT between 1953 and 1963.

Thank you, Brothers and Sisters. I'd like to thank The World Uranium Hearing for giving me the privilege of being able to present today.

I have ten minutes to give you 200 years of colonization of Indigenous Australia. So, I commence by giving a quote from an Aboriginal woman in my

country, Jacki Huggins:
"Aboriginal Australians have lived in Australia over 40,000 years. It has been a long argued view of European anthropologists and prehistorians that modern humanity migrated south to Australia. This fails to explain however, why older forms of modern human beings have not been found outside the continent. The legends and religious beliefs of modern Aboriginal Australia have no stories of migration. There is no evidence of migration memories

anywhere in our country. This is a religious position taken by Aboriginal Australians, and science has failed to refute it."

Before 1788, Aboriginal Australians enjoyed a nomadic lifestyle where men, women and children lived in harmony with each other and the environment. Mother Earth was regarded as sacred which everyone respected and did not exploit. The healthy lifestyle changed dramatically when the invaders arrived from England headed by Captain Cook. The land





EQUALITY



EQUITY

My Message:

- to the world is equally simple - do not join the Restoration.
- do not help the process of oppression in doing things to your own people.
- stop the rubbish about “passive welfare”
- Welfare is not the problem.
- to Close the Gap, First Nation Peoples need quality health, education, jobs and most importantly, a Treaty on equal terms.

In order to Close the Gap

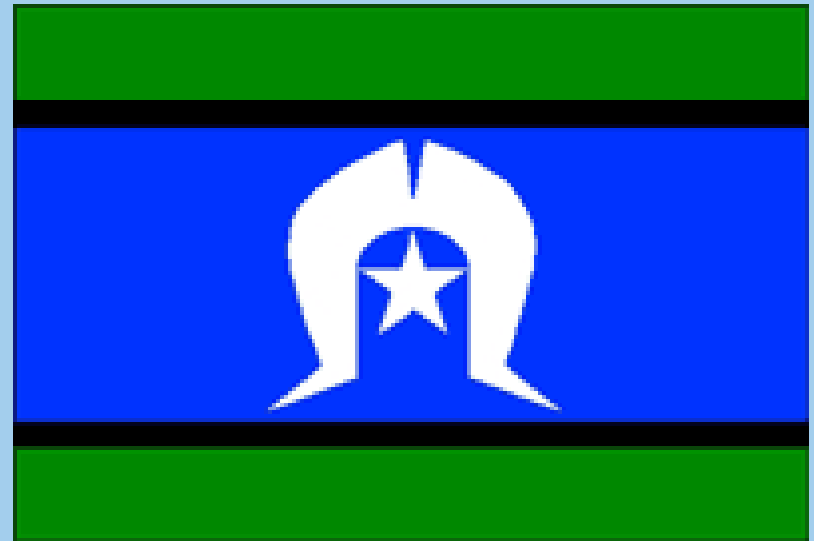
In order to close the gap we need to firstly address the social and cultural determinants that allow my people to start on a level playing field.

We cant manage our chronic disease if we don't have access to the basic essentials in life – education, employment, and housing.

That means we need to address the inequity that that exists within our various systems be it health, education, legal, child protection.

That's going to require more than Close the Gap targets developed by mainstream bureaucrats - its going to require both the **financial and policy instruments** to work together not in competition to each other and genuine engagement with grassroot communities.

GRACELYN 'GULLIDALA' SMALLWOOD



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