**ABTRACT: NATSIEH CONFERENCE PERTH 2019**

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**Mining Housing for Health Survey Data to prioritise primary preventative health projects in the home.**

**Summary Abstract:**

NSW Health has been delivering *Housing* *for* *Health* (HfH) projects to Aboriginal communities across NSW for over 20 years. The program works with local community members and trades to survey and repair over 250 targeted critical items in homes to maximise health gain. Safety is the overarching focus, followed by the nine healthy living practices (HLPs) giving priority to repair and maintenance. Most works are prioritised based on the top four critical HLPs. With additional resources and technical support by the Regional Aboriginal Environmental Health Project Officers, extra complimentary primary preventive health (PPH) are being implemented that focus on community wellbeing and the remaining five HLPs. This presentation will discuss how HfH survey data is being mined to maximise the information obtained during survey and how this is being used to prioritise and standardise complimentary projects to add value to HfH projects.

**Full Abstract:**

NSW Health has been delivering *Housing for Health* (HfH) projects; a health focussed housing repair and maintenance program to Aboriginal communities across NSW for over 20 years. The program engages local community members and trades to survey and repair critical items in Aboriginal housing, specifically targeted at improving healthy living in those homes. There are nine Healthy Living Practices (HLPs) given priority for focussing repair and maintenance under this program. Most works are prioritised based on electrical safety then the first four “critical” HLP’s, HLP1 washing people, HLP2 washing bedding and clothing, HLP3 removing waste water safely and HPL4 nutrition, the ability to store, prepare and cook food. In 2015 NSW Health established three Regional Aboriginal Environmental Health Project Officer positions who have piloted a variety of Primary Preventative Health (PPH) projects with the aim of improving community wellbeing linked to the home environment and HLP’s 5 to 9, including HLP5 reducing the negative impacts of overcrowding, HLP6 Reducing the negative effects of animal, insects and vermin, HLP7 reducing the health impacts of dust, HLP8 controlling the temperature of the living environment and HLP9 reducing hazards that cause trauma.

HfH program uses a standardised survey tool and on-site database to assess the initial condition of the houses (Survey and Fix 1 – SF1) and to prioritise urgent works for immediate repair; the database has the potential to be mined and reports can be run on selected HLP’s e.g. number of openings with damaged or missing screens, reported pests and number of dogs etc. This information can be used to ascertain the severity of maintenance and other issues like pests across all the homes surveyed in a community. The survey results are correlated with information received from tenants, property managers, project manager and other local service providers through consultation; to help build a business case for a PPH project proposal.

NSW Aboriginal Environmental Health Unit developed the Aboriginal Environmental Health Project kit to support Environmental Health Officers and Aboriginal Health Workers to develop and seek funding for complimentary PPH projects. The kit includes: a project proposal template, progress report template and final report template. The project proposal must include evidence of the problem using HfH data and additionally include an evidence based literature review to support how the HLP will be improved. All projects follow a similar integrated methodology and must include household education, fix work and community employment. Each PPH project builds upon the learnings from the last and this has resulted in the development of best practice project models. The effectiveness of the PPHs projects are evaluated at HfH Survey and Fix 2 (SF2).

This presentation will provide examples of where the data has been mined to guide the development of integrated PPH projects and their evaluation.