

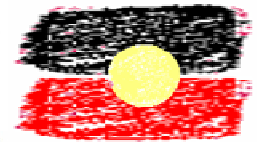
Walgan Tilly Project

NSW HEALTH

REDESIGN

Chronic Care for Aboriginal People

2010



Chronic Care for Aboriginal People

Facts

Only **28%** of Aboriginal people **live past the age of 64yrs** compared with 80% of non Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal population is young, a **median age 21yrs** compared to 36yrs for non Aboriginal people

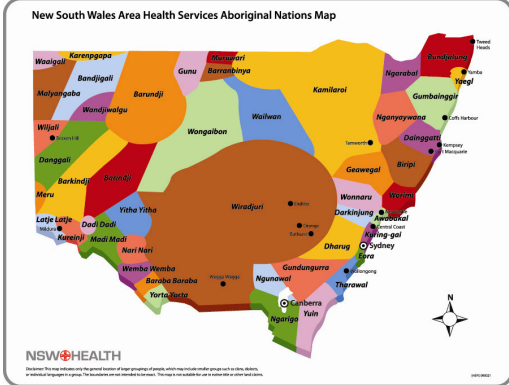
12% of Aboriginal deaths are people aged <25yrs, compared to 2% of deaths among non Aboriginal people

Aboriginal people are **twice** as likely to be hospitalised for **heart disease & stroke**

Aboriginal people are **3 to 5** times more likely to be hospitalised for **chronic respiratory disease**

Aboriginal people are **4 to 5** times more likely to be hospitalised for **diabetes**

148,178 Aboriginal people live in NSW, approx. 2% of the total NSW population & 29% of the total Australian Aboriginal population



The high burden of chronic conditions significantly contribute to **greater morbidity and premature mortality** in Aboriginal populations.

The Walgan Tilly project **interviewed and surveyed** many Aboriginal patients, carers, staff and community representatives. Many issues were discovered and solutions have been identified to overcome these issues.

The issues fall into **8 main themes**. They relate to; geography, prevention, affordability, workforce, cultural sensitivity, infrastructure/accountability, communication and provision of care.

6 state-wide solutions have been identified to combat these issues. They are: - Models of Care for Aboriginal People, Integration of Aboriginal Health and mainstream chronic care, Greater Aboriginal cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity of services, Justice Health linkages, improved access to primary care and improved data quality.

Over 20 local solutions have been identified at an Area Health Service level.

The Walgan Tilly project started **implementation across NSW in July 2008 and concluded June 2010.**

The **Chronic Care for Aboriginal People (Walgan Tilly) Project** is the **1st** Aboriginal Redesign project. It was developed from a number of established NSW Health initiatives in an attempt to address the gaps in health care & improve access to & use of chronic care services for Aboriginal people in NSW.

The Chronic Care for Aboriginal People project was named **Walgan Tilly**. Walgan is a Kamilaroi word meaning 'Aunty', a title of respect to Aboriginal women and 'Tilly' is short for the name Matilda.

Many people living in NSW have experienced significant health gains in recent years, these improvements have not been equally shared by Aboriginal people who continue to experience greater health risks, poorer health and shorter life expectancies than non Aboriginal people.

There is a **disproportionately high burden of chronic conditions** in Aboriginal populations, such as cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes.

Goals of the Chronic Care for Aboriginal People Redesign program

- 1 Practical steps and real solutions to improving access to chronic disease services for Aboriginal families and communities
- 2 Build working relationships between Aboriginal and chronic disease services
- 3 Identification and sharing of best practice in meeting the needs of Aboriginal people with chronic disease

