

NSW HEALTH

KOORI KIDS KOORI SMILES Oral Health Program

To provide the health care that people need.

Prepared by:

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Koori Kids Koori Smiles Oral Health Program
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KKKS began as a \$5,000 Oral Health Demonstration Grant from the Center for Oral Health Strategies. The team includes:

Kay Franks – Manager of NSCCAHS Child Oral Health Services/Dental Therapist.

Hayley Gray – Part-time oral health educator/ final year primary school teacher. Not here today.

Carolyn Steff – Aboriginal Dental Assistant.

Janet Wallace – Dental Therapists/Oral Health Educator.

Aim

- 1. To improve access to dental services by providing culturally appropriate oral health services and literature for the Central Coast Aboriginal community.
- 2. To increase oral health knowledge in the Central Coast Aboriginal community.



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Koori Kids Koori Smiles (KKKS) is designed to provide Aboriginal children and adolescents between the ages of 0 – 17 years with culturally appropriate oral health information and clinical dentistry in a culturally appropriate environment, supported by Aboriginal staff.

Aboriginal community input and involvement has occurred in all planning aspects, including the program's logo which was designed by local Aboriginal artist, David O'Brien.

Outstanding results have been achieved in a short period of time. During the period from March 2006 to February 2007, 408 Aboriginal children and adolescents have accessed dental services; this is an increase of 24%, in comparison with 294 during 2005 prior to KKKS implementation.

Nature and Extent of the Problem

- Timely and culturally appropriate oral health information and dental services have historically been unsuitable and limited.
- Lack of Aboriginal staff.
- Poorly managed Aboriginal oral health.

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The Aboriginal community reports that timely and culturally appropriate oral health information and dental services have historically been unsuitable and very limited to Aboriginal people living on the on the Central Coast.

They reported that the lack of Aboriginal staff within dental clinics is a barrier to accessing dental services.

As a result, the dental and oral health of Aboriginal children on the Central Coast has historically been poorly managed. KKKS has addressed these issues.

NSW State Health Plan Goals

- **Keep People Healthy:** Strengthened promotion, prevention and early intervention programs.
- **Provide the Health Care That People Need:** Barriers to access have been removed, Accessible location, hours of service and culturally sensitive environments have been established and waiting times have been reduced.
- **Deliver High Quality Services:** Meet the guidelines in A Framework for Managing the Quality of Health Services in NSW.
- **Manage health services Well:** Resources are maximized to get best results for patients, clients and the community.

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KKKS meets the following NSW Strategic Directions for Health:

Keep People Healthy – Promotion, prevention and early intervention programs have been strengthened. To meet needs in a culturally appropriate manner.

Provide the Health Care That People Need – Barriers to access have been removed. Accessible location, hours of service and culturally sensitive environments have been established and waiting times have been reduced.

Deliver High Quality Services – service provision is based on principles of quality. Planning, delivery and evaluation meet the guidelines in A Framework for Managing the Quality of Health Services in NSW.

Manage Health Services Well – Resources to deliver health care are used optimally. Resources are maximized to get best results for patients, clients and the community.

Planning & Implementing solutions

- Culturally appropriate Aboriginal dental clinics
- No waiting lists.
- Complete dental care.
- Mouth guards.
- OHP qualification for DA. assistant.
- KKKS oral health literature.
- Oral health training to Aboriginal health workers.



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Timely dental services are now provided to Aboriginal children and young people aged 0 – 17 years in a culturally appropriate dental environment at Gosford Hospital Dental Clinic, these clinics are specifically for Aboriginal people.

Clients do not wait on an extended list; they are seen within a period of 2 weeks, provided with a complete course of dental care including restorative and preventive dentistry.

In addition, mouth guards are provided to patients who play contact sport and have completed all their recommended dental treatment.

The following strategies have been initiated:

Instigated oral health promotion training for the NSCCAHS Aboriginal dental assistant.

Developed and produced culturally appropriate oral health resources. (KKKS logo designed by local Aboriginal artist, written information edited by the Aboriginal community to an Aboriginal friendly format.)

Provided oral health information to Aboriginal health workers on the Central Coast.

Provided culturally appropriate dental clinics that suit the needs of the Aboriginal community – Aboriginal dental clinics running on Thursday evenings at Gosford Hospital Dental Clinic, providing culturally appropriate support from the Aboriginal dental assistant.

Specifically designed culturally appropriate oral health information is now displayed in local dental clinics, Aboriginal community health centres and Preschools on the Central Coast

Disseminated posters, pamphlets, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss to all patients attending dental clinics. In addition, during 'NAIDOC' day celebrations and 'Start School Smiling' clinics Aboriginal children and adolescents were provided with dental assessments, oral health literature and tooth brushing products.

Outcomes & Evaluation

Qualitative:

- Access is direct, effective and timely.
- Complete dental care – potential to improve oral health outcomes

Quantitative:

- 24% increase.
- 99% of survey participants.
- 47 Mouth guards.
- 3,000 pamphlets.
- 100 posters.
- 200 KKKS T-shirts, bags and drink bottles & stickers.

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Qualitative:

Aboriginal children are fast tracked from existing dental waitlists; access is direct, effective and timely. This is a very positive change in service delivery and one that encourages the Aboriginal community to seek dental treatment.

Dental treatment provided to all Aboriginal children attending the Thursday evening clinics is based on best practice dentistry, including full examination, radiographs, preventive and restorative care. This has the long-term potential to significantly improve Decayed Missing Filled Teeth (DMFT) in this target group.

Quantitative:

During the period March 2005 to February 2006, 294 Aboriginal children & adolescents accessed dental services on the Central Coast. The KKKS pilot program commenced in March 2006, from March 2006 until February 2007, 408 Aboriginal children and adolescents accessed dental services on the Central Coast. This is an increase of 24%.

100 client satisfaction surveys were distributed out of these 30 were completed. 99% of survey participants said they had improved knowledge pertaining to their oral health, which had lead to changes in their oral health behaviours, such as brushing more, brushing differently, flossing, having more dental check-ups or following a healthy dental friendly diet.

Mouth guards were issued to 47 clients attending the dental clinics, who advised that they were playing contact sport.

3,000 culturally appropriate oral health pamphlets were distributed to Aboriginal Medical Health Centres & Central Coast Health Dental Clinics, Preschools and Mothers groups. 1,000 pamphlets were distributed at NAIDOC Day.

100 culturally appropriate oral health posters have been distributed to Aboriginal medical health centres & Central Coast Health dental clinics.

200 Koori KKKS T-shirts have been distributed to the local Aboriginal community.

200 KKKS Logo bags have been distributed to the local aboriginal community.

100 KKKS drink bottles have been distributed to the local Aboriginal community.

Anecdotal evidence from Dental Clinics, Medical Centres and Preschools, report that the literature is well received. In support of this, additional posters and oral health pamphlets have been re-ordered. This indicates that the KKKS resources are being used.

Sustaining Change



- Ongoing funding.
- Colgate support.
- Continuing Aboriginal Community input.
- Implementation into Aboriginal Medical Services:
- Taree.
- Moree.

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NSCCAHS and COHS have given their commitment to the continuation of the program. COHS has provided ongoing funding of \$5,000 for the next 5 years, in addition Colgate will be providing product for the next 5 years.

The KKKS oral health literature will soon be available free of charge through the Better Health Centre and the program is about to be implemented at Taree and Moree Aboriginal Oral Health Services.

The program continues to change and grown with Aboriginal community support.

Lessons Learned

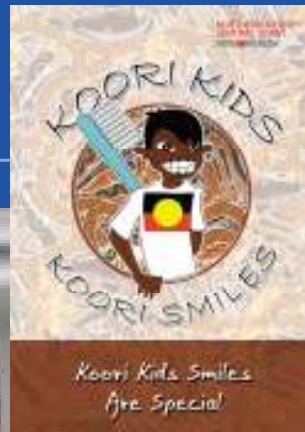
- Consultation.
- Partnerships.
- Ownership.



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The success of the KKKS program in essence can be attributed to the consultation and involvement from and with the local Aboriginal community. Input and advice has been provided during all stages of the planning and implementation process... this input continues to sustain the program by participating in ongoing Aboriginal health initiatives, including NAIDOC day celebrations, start school healthy and various other Aboriginal health activities.

Future Scope



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Taree and Moree AMS are about to implement the program. KKKS resources are being used in other areas of the state. KKKS has been presented at the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapists Association (ADOHTA) International Conference in Darwin, October 2006; it has been featured on Channel NSW, on the Good Health NSW TV program and also received a Commendation from the NSW Aboriginal Health Awards in 2006. KKKS has increased the growth and profile of Aboriginal oral health on the Central Coast. Referral pathways are in place for Aboriginal Health Services to provide timely access to culturally appropriate dental care. This is a complete change in service delivery for the local Aboriginal population. The KKKS program is evolving and growing through consultation, partnerships and most importantly Aboriginal ownership.

Thank you.