The Interplay Project

Using Aboriginal research to inform policy and practice in Aboriginal health development

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Hypotheses

1. For Aboriginal people in remote Australia, strong attachment to culture, especially through involvement in land management enhances health and wellbeing.

2. Health services are more effective in enhancing health and wellbeing when provided with awareness of broader aspects of Aboriginal people’s lives.
Closing the Gap
Figure 22: Overall mortality rates by Indigenous status: NSW, Qld, WA, SA and the NT combined 1998 to 2031 (age standardised)
Aboriginal health

• “Not just the physical well-being of the individual but the social, emotional, and cultural well-being of the whole Community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being, thereby bringing about the total wellbeing of the community.

• It is a whole of life view and it also includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life.”
Interplay project: Wellbeing Framework

- health
- community
- empowerment
- education
- work
- culture

Wellbeing
Health vs headlines: Interplay Wellbeing Survey

Percent of respondents (n=841) who reported that health problems interfered with different activities in the last few weeks

Health vs headlines: Interplay Wellbeing Survey

Percent of respondents reporting current levels of wellbeing (n= 841)

Health related determinants of wellbeing from Interplay Wellbeing survey
Interplay Project | Miliwanga Sandy Wurrben | Health
Primary health care: WHO Alma-Ata Declaration 1978

• Essential health care, based on practical, scientifically sound, socially acceptable methods and technology, made available in the community
• Provides for basic needs beyond clinical health services
• Addresses community’s economic, socio-cultural and political needs
• Promotes individual, community self-reliance and self-determination
• Makes use of available local and national resources