



NHMRC

CREATE

The Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal
Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange

Program Fact Sheet

Background

Chronic diseases make up the bulk of the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Supporting the Aboriginal health sector to deliver comprehensive primary health care services is vital for success in closing the gap and improving chronic disease outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. CREATE is a 5-year NHMRC funded collaboration between the University of Adelaide, the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). CREATE has been established to assist the Aboriginal health sector to use existing knowledge (published and unpublished) on best practice chronic disease prevention and treatment as well as sustainable primary health care funding and service delivery models to improve the coverage and appropriateness of their services and care.

Objectives

- Use existing evidence and, where necessary, develop and collate new evidence to inform guidelines, policies and/or other tools focused on improving care and outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with, or at risk of developing, a chronic disease.
- Strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service providers and researchers to conduct and use 'evidence' to improve health outcomes.

Collaborating Organisations & Chief Investigators

Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit, SAHMRI

Prof Alex Brown

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Prof Ngiare Brown

School of Population Health, University of Adelaide

Prof Annette Braunack-Mayer

Joanna Briggs Institute, University of Adelaide

Assoc. Prof Edoardo Aromataris

Leadership Group

To align the work of CREATE with priorities and issues affecting Aboriginal Health Sector, a leadership group has been established. The Leadership Group is comprised of representatives from the Aboriginal health sector including NACCHO, their affiliates and member services as well as other Aboriginal Medical organisations and services. The Leadership Group has played the lead role in defining the scope of the CREATE program of work. At each stage of the program, the leadership group's guidance will ensure that the outputs are of the greatest relevance for improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The CREATE Knowledge Translation Process

CREATE has and will continue to engage with the Aboriginal health sector throughout the entire process. Initial engagement identified CREATE's priorities. Five of eight domains that are important for comprehensive primary health care delivery were selected for CREATE to focus on (shown below). New methods for synthesising evidence are being developed. They are designed to capture and privilege insights from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems. Evidence-based guidance tools will be produced to assist the Aboriginal health sector to use evidence to improve practice and services. Services and organisations that would like to trial the guidance materials will be supported to do so and assisted with evaluation of the outcomes. CREATE will also endeavour to influence policy to assist the sector to deliver comprehensive primary health care services. This process is cyclical and will continue throughout the life of the program.

Opportunities & benefits of involvement

There are a number of different ways in which individuals and Aboriginal health services can participate in CREATE. The success of CREATE is highly dependent on Aboriginal Health Sector participation. Aboriginal Health Sector guidance and knowledge sharing is essential to ensure that the CREATE team focuses on the most important chronic disease health issues and service delivery challenges. It is also important to ensure the teams implementing CREATE use the right evidence, interpret it correctly and develop useful best practice guidance and other tools.

CREATE offers an opportunity to become involved in defining best practice for the sector and also in shaping government policy, for example, the Medicare Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS).

Various training programs on how to collate, summarise and use evidence to promote evidence based health care in the sector will be offered through CREATE. These will include master classes on how to use research to improve practice, short-courses on summarising evidence, fellowships to support services that wish to trial and evaluate a CREATE developed project, and Masters and Doctoral Research positions.

Research Staff

Within the program, Research Fellows Carol Davy, Karla Canuto, Judith Streak Gomersall and Stephen Harfield will work closely with the Leadership Group and key stakeholders to ensure that tools and resources developed as part of CREATE will be appropriately and effectively utilised within Aboriginal Health Services. CREATE has several Associate Investigators to assist in the program of work and will also be recruiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD students.

Further Information

For more information please visit our website (www.create.joannabriggs.org) or email one of the Research Fellows: Carol.Davy@sahmri.com, Karla.Canuto@sahmri.com, Stephen.Harfield@sahmri.com, Judith.Gomersall@sahmri.com

Primary Health Care Domains

- Best Practice Care*
- Sustainable funding*
- Workforce*
- Health promotion*
- Key performance indicators*
- Accreditation
- Governance
- Continuous Quality Improvement

*CREATE's initial priorities