Indigenous Dementia Services Study

Thank You Central Australia
Hooray for the Kimberley Steering Committee

We would like to thank the following people on the Steering Committee; Michelle Skinner (Looma), Janet Oobagooma, Heather and Ruth Umbagai (Mowanjum), Andrew Cox, Yvonne Bangmorra (Mowanjum Pensioner Units), Maxine Nixon, Pauline Manning, Helen Cox (KACS), Ivy Till (Nindilingarri) Ronald Mosquito, Linton Mosquito (Balgo), Nicolette Dezoete (Balgo Clinic/KAMSC), Mena Lewis (KAMSC), Murray Chapman (NWMH)
The first meeting of the Central Australian Steering Committee for the IDSS Study was held in Alice Springs on the 13th November.

Steering committee members include Sylvia Wright (Carers Respite, Frontier Services), Gail Marsh (Alzheimer’s Aust), Terry Dunt (Centre for Remote Health) Karina Penhall (Aboriginal Interpreter Service), Louise Dennis (Palliative Care), Kathy Robinson and Elaine Campbell (Congress, Frail Aged & Disability Program).

Kate, Geraldine, Herbie and Melissa from the IDSS team first gave a brief history of the Indigenous dementia project (starting in 2003), and then information on what has been learnt about Indigenous dementia over this time.

Geraldine and Herbie spoke about seeking council approvals and meeting with people in Central Australia (as mentioned on front page). The project will reconvene again in Central Australia in February 2009.

The Steering Committee discussed the need for training (for carers, for Aboriginal Health Workers, for other health staff and for care workers), and problems with staffing.

It was also thought that the traditional reasons people give for dementia (ie been sung, going ‘mad’) may be the same in the Kimberley and Central Australia.

Also that better resources (ie flip-charts) were needed to help explain dementia in culturally appropriate ways to carers and staff.
Hello to everybody in Maroon, Weipa and Yarrabah

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

See you all at the end of August and enjoy the photo's.
Congratulations Dr Kate!!!

After a lot of work Kate Smith is now officially a doctor (PhD)!
Kate wrote about the development of the KICA tool, and that the KICA was a valid tool for screening for dementia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote areas.
She wrote about the high numbers of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley that have dementia compared to other populations around the world, and the need for more support for people affected by dementia.
Kate also wrote about some of the causes of dementia in Aboriginal people including older age, male, no formal education, smoking, stroke, head injury and epilepsy.

This information was fed back to the communities at the end of the study in 2006. They kindly approved it to be published in journals and written up into the PhD. Kate is now the project manager of the current dementia study.
She went on a holiday after she finished writing her thesis with her ‘nuba’ (Patrick). As you can see from the photo of Slovenia (between Italy and Croatia) it was really beautiful.
Kate would like to again acknowledge project officer Anna Dwyer, all of the participants in the different studies and all of the workers and interpreters. This information will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with dementia and their families around Australia.

Welcome on Board Herbie

My name is Herbert Cox. I was born in out at Balgo Hills Mission the old original mission. My mother was a Bardi Woman, my father was a Nimumboor man.

Been working in health since the early seventies, worked in the age care nursing home in Derby for over twenty years.

Did my certificate 3 in aged care and diploma in aged care through Bachelor College in the N.T.

I am now employed as a Project Officer assisting in the Indigenous Dementia Services Study. I found this study very interesting, it's a good way of helping the older and not so older people with dementia.

Naomi is leaving the IDES Team in February 2009. She plans to finish her studies and spend some time with family. We wish her all the best and thank her for her deadly contribution to the project.