

“Doing It Right Aremella Arratyenye-ileme: lessons learnt from concept mapping core research values with Aboriginal people in central Australia”

Authors: Glen Sharpe, Jeff Tan, Leisa McCarthy, Amunda Gorey, Danielle Woods, Roxanne Highfold, Walbira Murray, Annette McCarthy, Ken Lechleitner, Bronwyn Silver.

Introduction:

For over 40 years the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) has provided services through an equity and social justice lens and is now one of Australia’s leading Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. Congress is committed to building capacity and understanding of health research in the Aboriginal communities it services. In 2015, the Congress Research Section was established.

Aim:

To improve research understandings between researchers and the community and for Community Health Boards to have more control over health research, its outcomes and benefits.

Approach:

A community –based participatory research and a both ways’ approach was used to assist Aboriginal community members, the health service and board members to understand health research processes benefits, outcomes and be empowered to become an equitable partner to lead the research agenda.

Methods:

Qualitative methods were used to workshop the NHMRC six core values of ethical conduct of research with Health Boards using an evolving process of learning, rethinking, evaluating and changing to a conversational process. This included discussing how past research had been done, how the community would like research to be done, the health issues of the community and how they would like health research messages communicated.

Results:

A key component has been contextualising the fundamentals of good research practice for the Central Australian Aboriginal community. A concept map of the core values was used to show the relationships within each core value and facilitate the use of appropriate words and language.

Conclusion:

In this presentation, we will share lessons learnt from the process and the findings of the concept mapping.