



Cooperative Research Centre for
Aboriginal Health

More than Evaluation

Nea Harrison, Diane Walker,
Carol Watson

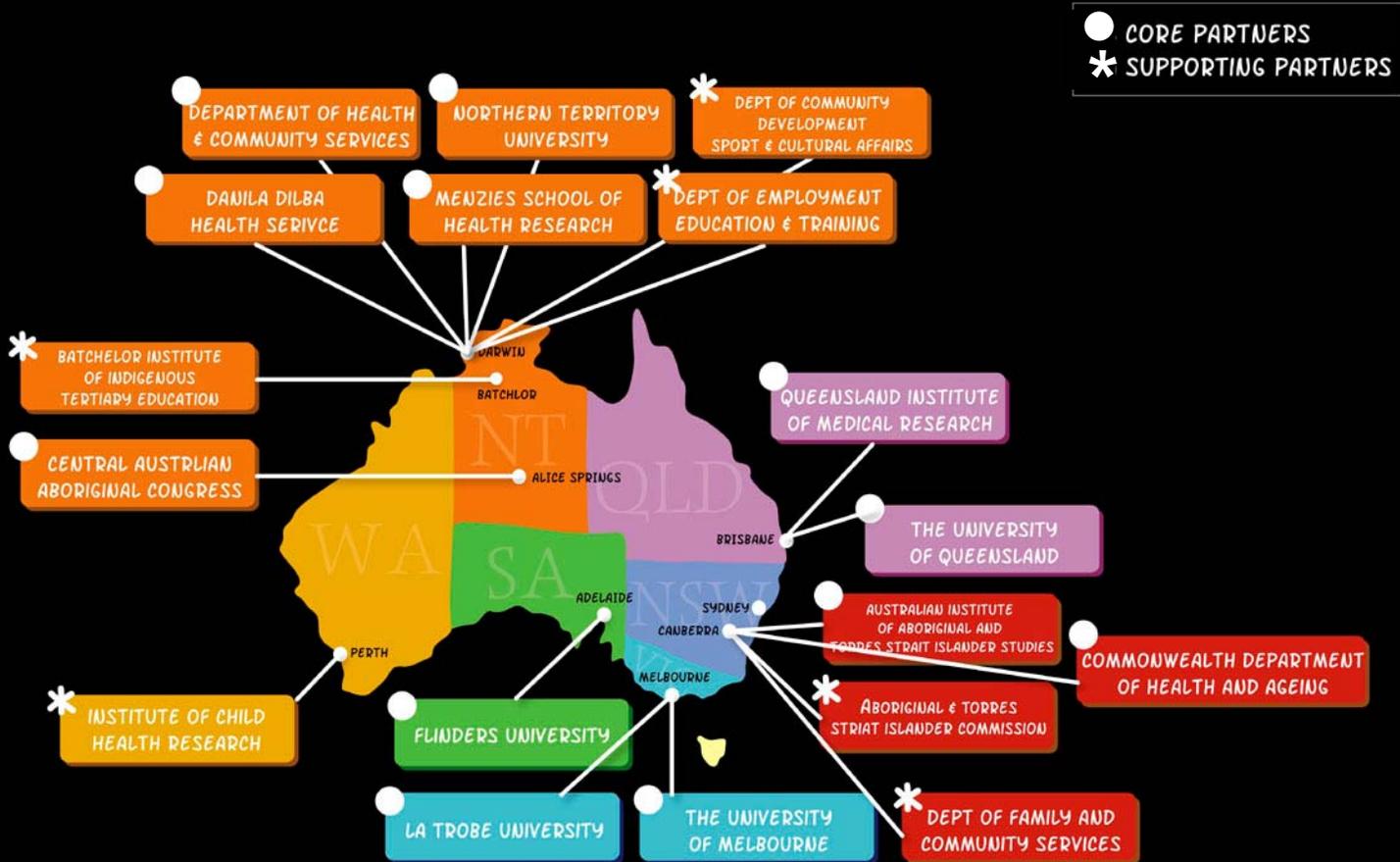
2008 AES Conference Perth

Adding value to our evaluation work

By:

- Negotiating
 - Relationship building
 - Information sharing
 - Capacity development
-
- Present 3 case stories to illustrate the process of adding value

Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health



CRCAH Vision and Objectives

Vision:

- Sustained improvement in Aboriginal Health through strategic research and development

Objectives:

- To ensure highest quality research is carried out with greatest impact on Aboriginal health outcomes through:
 - improved partnerships
 - greater Aboriginal participation and control and
 - better ethical practices that involves capacity building for Indigenous participants.

What is unique about the CRCIAH?

- Provides a neutral and culturally safe environment for Aboriginal organisations, government and research to meet
- Collaboration not competition
- Research Projects have to be academically rigorous
- Valid, feasible and relevant in the Aboriginal context

Evaluation of the design phase of the Longitudinal study of Indigenous Children



Australian Government
Department of Families, Community Services
and Indigenous Affairs

OCCASIONAL PAPER No. 17

Growing up in the Torres Strait region: A report from the Footprints in Time trials

Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health in collaboration with the Telethon
Institute for Child Health Research and the Department of Families, Community
Services and Indigenous Affairs

footprints in time
The Longitudinal Study of
Indigenous Children



2 day Evaluation data collection workshop with CLOs



Evaluation data collection workshop



Evaluation of the NSW Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Training Program



Rolling out the AMHWT Program using the Manual



Group interview with GSAHS Trainees



Summary of sound practice in workplace preparation

- Mental health teams who had the capacity to support a Trainee described the Trainee as fitting in with the overall work of the team. These teams usually had six or more staff, at least two of which were senior clinicians.
- Multidisciplinary teams were able to offer Trainees varied experiences and different occupational perspectives.
- Community mental health teams provided Trainees with the opportunity to observe the range of mental health services from prevention to acute care, home and inpatient visits.
- Support staff who had been briefed about the aim and objectives of the Program, the role and expectations of the Trainee and their roles and responsibilities in training and supporting the Trainee reported more positive experiences than those who were not thoroughly briefed.
- In teams that had prepared an office space and identified support people before hand, Trainees reported feeling welcomed and supported.

Evaluation of the Captain Starlight Program in the NT



Roundtable

- Roundtables bring a range of people from community organizations, government and research together to identify research and planning priorities
- Creates a safe environment
- Aboriginal people's voices are heard
- Builds relationships





Challenges and constraints: Negotiating the evaluation

- Ensuring that the CRCAH's principles are upheld
- Clearly communicate what can and can't be achieved
 - To commissioners during planning
 - To community informants during the evaluation

Challenges and constraints:

Information sharing

- Framing findings in a way that they will be heard
- 'No surprises policy' and continuous feedback

Relationship building

- Building good relationships and maintain an independence stance
- A 'critical friend'

Challenges and constraints:

Capacity building

- Make explicit when negotiating evaluation
- Balancing capacity building with conducting the evaluation in a realistic timeframe

Time constraints

- Good practice requires time and this needs to be negotiated



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Thank you for listening

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