

**NATIONAL PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH NETWORK
FORMAT FOR REPORTS FROM JURISDICTIONS**

Organisation/State/Territory: NT Department of Health and Community Services

HIGHLIGHTS OF REFORMS AND NEW INITIATIVES

| Reforms and New Initiatives | Description |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Name of Reform/Initiatives | <p>Australian Government Intervention into Remote Aboriginal Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported roll-out of Australian Government health checks for Aboriginal children in 72 remote Aboriginal communities. Provided follow up PHC, and supported follow-up by specialists in ENT and dental care. • Worked in collaboration with Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT and with the Australian Government to detail the core PHC services to be delivered with the increased Australian Government funding for PHC in remote communities from 08/09 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ resources necessary to provide best practice Chronic Diseases management and care planning and self management support, ○ case management of advanced kidney disease and multi-strategy healthy lifestyle programs with public health coordinators and community based workers. ○ Supply of chronic diseases medication (including blister packs) ○ Annual health checks for people older than 55 years. |

- Fast-tracked the roll-out of a comprehensive electronic health information system to all DHCS remote health centres. System includes population register, medical and case records, recall system and a chronic disease register and recall system to support the management of clients with chronic diseases. Additional Australian Government funding under the “national emergency” allowed faster roll-out of the system.
- DHCS Nutrition team provided training on how to improve the availability, quality and cost of food in remote stores for new Australian Government-funded Remote Store Managers.

Smoking Initiatives

- Finalised Tobacco Framework for Action 2006-2009 to complement the Tobacco Control Act 2002. (www.smokefree.nt.gov.au)
- Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health funded a 2 year study into Aboriginal smoking:
 - trends and patterns
 - why people smoke, quit or never smoke
 - evaluation of DHCS tobacco control interventions in five remote Aboriginal communities
- Commenced implementing tobacco control interventions in five Aboriginal communities. Interventions include activities at a number of levels including point of sale, legislation, brief interventions with Adult health checks, chronic disease care plans and antenatal care, Quit programs, provision of nicotine replacement therapy etc.

Physical Activity

- GoNT: NT Physical Activity Strategy 2007-2011 continues.
- Palmesstonnes: a community program to promote weight loss and physical activity- healthy lifestyle challenge from March to May 2007 resulted in the collective loss of 225kg and 540cm waist circumference from participants. Now managed through the Top End Division of General Practice.

Chronic Diseases Prevention and Management

- Formal evaluation of NT Preventable Chronic Diseases strategy. Report currently being finalized.
- Adult health check forms revised, and remote staff trained in the effective delivery of screening programs to detect chronic disease.
- Chronic diseases care plans revised as a basis for best practice care for people with a range of chronic diseases.
- Continued support for Chronic Diseases Network to promote collaboration and communication across the NT, especially through the regular newsletter, *The Chronicle*.
- Audit and Best Practice in Chronic Disease Extension project (ABCDE) continues across the NT ie collaborative action research/ continuous quality improvement program on Chronic Diseases Management

Other key areas

- Continued the development and implementation of **Aboriginal Health Key Performance Indicators** in both Government and Community controlled health services across the NT. All health services will be required to commence reporting against the KPIs from July 2008. The KPIs will be an essential element of system-wide reporting, analysis and continual quality improvement.
(<http://www.nt.gov.au/health/ahkpi/>)
- Workshop for key government and non-government service providers on how to work more effectively together to focus on **Aboriginal male health**.
- Independent Report into Aboriginal Child Sexual Abuse
The report findings informed a 20 year NT Government (NTG) ***Closing the Gap Framework for Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage*** and directly resulted in substantial additional long term investment in a number of areas, including family support and child protection systems.
- Guidelines and tools for health practitioners in managing the **sexual health of young people** finalized, distributed and promoted across the NT.