The design, quality and community acceptance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing in primary health care research: A systematic review

Sara Farnbach on behalf of Ms Anne-Marie Eades, Dr Jamie Fernando, Dr Josephine Gwynn, Prof Nick Glozier and A/Prof Maree Hackett

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Definitions

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

• Social and Emotional Wellbeing: land, culture, family, community
  - Mental health, smoking & alcohol use, depression & anxiety

• Primary Health Care - Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services

• Research Teams - Indigenous Community members and non-Indigenous researchers
Aims

How are Research Teams conducting Indigenous-focused SEWB PHC research?

• Design
• Quality
• Conduct

Methods

• Systematic Review
• Medline, EMBASE, CINAHL, Informit, HealthInfoNet
• 2003 to 2015
Search Results
Electronic: 2051
Website: 237
Total: 2288

Excluded by 2 authors
Electronic: 312
Website: 36
Both searches: 9
Total: 395

Excluded on title/abstract
Electronic: 1307
Website: 184
Duplicates: 402
Total: 1893

Full text review
Electronic: 342
Website: 53
Total: 395

Included
Articles included: 32
Studies included: 25

Total: 357
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study focus area</th>
<th>N = 25</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEWB</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol misuse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smoking cessation</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual diagnosis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression &amp; anxiety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health worker program</td>
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SEWB: Social and emotional wellbeing

### Study design

- Qualitative: 18
- Qualitative & mixed: 6
- Quantitative: 5
- Quasi-experimental: 1
- Case study: 1

### Primary outcome identified

- Identified: 17
- None identified: 8
- Identified & met: 13
- Two outcomes: 3
Results 1: Risk of bias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unable to assess</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High/unclear</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community acceptance - common aspects of key documents*

1. Community governance

Community representation in:

2. Study development
3. Study conduct (data collection, data analysis)
4. Reporting

*Jamieson, Paradies, Eades et al. Ten principles relevant to health research among Indigenous Australian populations, 2012
*NHMRC. Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, 2003
*Arabena, Moodie, Lowitja Institute: Building a national strategic research agenda to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, 2011
Results 2: Community acceptance

Number of studies meeting criteria

- 3-4 criteria met: 9
- 1-2 criteria met: 12
- Unclear: 4

Assessment of studies according to 4 criteria

- Governance: Yes - 16, No - 5, Unclear - 4
- Design: Yes - 12, No - 12, Unclear - 1
- Conduct: Yes - 17, No - 7, Unclear - 1
- Reporting: Yes - 7, No - 12, Unclear - 6

2 were low Risk of Bias and high Community Acceptance
Results 3: Values and Ethics guideline

- Value and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research
- Keeping Research on Track: A guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about health research ethics
Respect (endorsed 62 times)

*Incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and experience*

- PHC/Community in *key study positions* - planning, steering committee, as Investigators, during intervention development (n=7)
  - *Consultation* to develop resources or instruments (n=5)
Reciprocity (endorsed 20 times)

Willingness to modify research according to communities’ values and aspirations

- **Flexible methods**, time, location (n=4), flexible intervention (n=2), research plan (n=1), visits to develop method (n=1), varied number of visits (n=1)

- Community feedback lead to modification to non-randomised design (n=1)
Enablers

Strong relationships (n=3)

• Enhanced through visits

• Lead to:
  - Productive research environment
  - Provided researcher credibility

• ‘Right ways of working together’ *

* Haswell-Elkins, Reilly, Fagan et al. Listening, sharing understanding and facilitating consumer, family and community empowerment through a priority driven partnership in Far North Queensland. 2009
Discussion

• Few have high scientific quality & Community acceptability
• Reporting is lacking
• Enablers relate to Values and Ethics
• Re-consider ‘quality’