Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Care (IROC) Program

5 September 2014

An initiative of the Queensland Statewide Respiratory Clinical Network
IROC Program

• A statewide Program and an initiative of the Queensland Statewide Respiratory Clinical Network

• Commenced in 2011 and currently funded under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Investment Strategy in Queensland through to 30 June 2016

• Hosted by The Prince Charles Hospital, Metro North Hospital & Health Service, Queensland Department of Health
Respiratory Disease

• Respiratory disease, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia, represents a significant burden of ill-health and hospitalisation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly among the very young and older people. It is estimated to contribute to 11% of the health gap.

• Asthma and cancer, including lung cancer, are both national health priority areas.
Program Aims

1. Provide a multidisciplinary specialist respiratory outreach service for, and improve respiratory health outcomes of, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (adult and paediatric) in rural, remote and urban locations in Queensland.

2. Enhance local capacity for managing lung disease in identified sites in Queensland.

3. Provide a service that incorporates a combined medical and community development approach that embraces community engagement, cultural and holistic health care practices.
IROC Approach

The approach involves a step-wise process of:

• Community engagement

• Delivering respiratory health interventions to improve health outcome by multi-disciplinary teams in a local community

• Providing training to primary care workers with respect of the detection, intervention and treatment of lung diseases

• Building community capacity to self-manage chronic illness and promoting health and wellbeing with the aim of community self-governance of chronic disease and health promotion
IROC Program: Components

1. Coordination and administration
2. Specialist respiratory outreach clinics (adult and paediatric) to urban, rural and remote Indigenous communities
3. Community engagement and education
4. Culturally appropriate resource development
5. Training
6. Research
7. Partnerships
IROC Clinics

- Outreach service currently provided to 17 Indigenous communities in Queensland – adult and/or paediatric
- Paediatric outreach service commenced on 30/5/11 and adult outreach service commenced on 11/11/11
- Phased approach used for establishment of clinics
- Clinics commenced in 2014 are Charleville (paeds), Cunnamulla (paeds), Caloundra (adults) and Gympie (adults)
- IROC continues to expand
Specialist Respiratory Outreach Clinics

- IROC clinic teams comprised of respiratory physician, respiratory nurse, respiratory scientist and Indigenous project officer from across the state. The paediatric team also has a physiotherapist.
Outreach Clinics
Training

1. Asthma 8 Ways of Learning training program for Indigenous health workers in partnership with Asthma Foundation Queensland

2. IROC outreach clinic teams provide onsite respiratory health training, information sessions and case discussions on request as time permits – eg. Mt Isa
Training

3. IROC Program provides the Indigenous Spirometry Training Program for Health Workers
1. **Community PAIRS: Pneumococcal and Influenza Resources in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities** research project

2. Conducting **Aboriginal Knowledge, Attitudes and Perception of Respiratory Illnesses (AKAPRI)** research study

3. Completed **Lung cancer in Indigenous communities in rural and remote Queensland** research project

4. Conducting the **Indigenous Respiratory Reference Values (IRRV)** research study
Community Engagement & Education

• Initial community consultation and engagement with key community members, which include Elders, and other local stakeholders

• Ongoing community consultation and engagement with establishing and providing outreach clinics, conducting research and training and developing resources

• Promote respiratory health and IROC Program at relevant community events – e.g. NAIDOC event at Musgrave Park, Health & Wellbeing community expo at Roma
IROC stalls at community events
Resource Development

A suite of culturally appropriate respiratory health education resources have been developed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Health Workers.

- i.e. flipcharts, posters, brochure, talking boards, DVD, video clips, action plans, colouring in story book
Other Projects

IROC Mobile iLearn Project

• Use of iPads as a communication and education tool in clinic and community settings

• IROC health professionals find that, after yarning with a patient, the use of an iPad device is as equally helpful as the use of flipcharts or diagrams and pictures to discuss health issues with the patient (adult or child) in outreach clinics or community
IROC Partnerships

The IROC Program team has partnered with a number of organisations and the community, to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in rural, remote and urban areas of Queensland to have access / greater access to a specialist respiratory service and respiratory health information.
IROC Team Culture

- Fun
- Offered professional challenges
- Family
- Colourful
- Dedicated
- Committed
- Innovative
- Positive
- Caring
- Supportive
- Competitive
- Unique
- Outside the square
- Cultural understanding
- FOOD
- Humour
- Cohesive
- Passionate
- Creative
- All equal
IROC Culture

IROC - Testimonial 1
Our Partnership

Strategically, our partnership with Safe Food Production Queensland aligns with:

- The Queensland Government’s *Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland* (2013)
- The Queensland Department of Health Strategic Plan 2014-2018
- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023
Partnership Initiative

Production of 3 short promotional video clips for IROC Program by Safe Food Production team in collaboration with the IROC team (within a timeframe of 8 months):

- IROC Spirometry training program
- IROC Clinics – How the Kookaburra got his laugh back
- IROC Program – Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Care (testimonials)
Why the Partnership

• Supports strategic direction of greater use of social media and audiovisual resources to promote activities of both organisations

• Provided opportunity for 2 different Departments / Industries to work collaboratively together to achieve outcomes, utilising existing resources and skill mix

• Provided opportunity for networking, training, upskilling of staff and resource development that can be utilised for other activities of both organisations
Approach used

- Opportunistic
- Needs identified (i.e. training, upskilling, promotional tools required)
- Management supportive
- Professional and flexible
- Formally informal but within a loosely structured framework
Approach used (cont)

- Consultative
- Honest open communication (via phone, e-mails and some face-to-face meetings)
- Respect for - and appreciation of - different ideas and ways of doing things
- Opportunity for further training provided
- Upskilling of team members to achieve project outcomes arranged
Why Did Partnership Work?

- Friendly
- Timely responses
- Courteous
- RESPECT
- Approachable
- Creative
- Innovative
- Flexible
- Can do attitude
- Humour
- Supportive Management
- Positive
- Listened
- Honest & open communication
- Responsive

Thinking & functioning outside the box
Benefits of Partnership

- Training opportunities (film making) for Safe Food and IROC staff
- Production of 3 quality short promotional video clips (project deliverables)
- IROC Program now has resources to promote the Program, its spirometry training and outreach clinics
Benefits of Partnership (Cont)

- Networking and expansion of professional contacts
- Professional development and rediscovering of skills
- Opportunity to observe how teams from another department / industry approach and undertake tasks
- Having an appreciation of different people’s varied thinking, communication and working styles within and between teams
Benefits of Partnership (Cont)

• Observe potential difference in interactions and project management

• Beneficial learnings of what other industries do and how they operate

• Demonstrated successful and positive working partnership / collaboration between Government departments and industries
Safe Food Production Queensland Partnership

SFPQ – Testimonial 2
Safe Food Production Queensland Partnership

IROC - Testimonial 3
Video 1: Spirometry Training
Video 2: Kookaburra

How kookaburra got his laugh back
Video 3: IROC

Respiratory disease, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia, represents a significant burden of ill-health and hospitalisation among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Great partnership - thank you
Contact details

Indigenous Respiratory Outreach Care (IROC) Program

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