



Dental Hygienist Cultural Safety & Kidney Health Training and Clinical Placement at Kanggawodli Aboriginal Hostel

Dental Hygienists Association of Australia National Symposium 2023

22nd September 2023

Panel: Wade Allan, Kelly Clemente, Janet Kelly, Kelli Owen,
Sylvia Reynolds, Nari Sinclair, Margie Steffens





Acknowledgements

Country, Elders, Kidney Warriors who have passed

This presentation contains images and names of people who have passed. We include their images and names with permission and encouragement of their families, to honour their work as kidney warriors

Aboriginal people with lived experience of kidney disease, their families and communities, hostel, renal and health care staff who care for them, lecturers at TAFE SA, dental hygienists, AKAction research team members and students involved this project

Funding – the AKAction project is funded by a NHMRC Ideas Grant, and the interprofessional learning day at TAFE SA was funded by Colgate Palmolive.

Kelli Owen



- Kurna, Narungga & Ngarrindjeri woman
- Mother of five and Mutha (nanna) of two boys
- Has lived experience with kidney disease, peritoneal dialysis, haemodialysis, kidney transplantation and being a carer of her son on his kidney disease journey.
- Uses her personal and family experiences and knowledge of kidney disease to advocate for and support others on their journey
- Chief Investigator & Reference Team member of AKtion - – Aboriginal Kidney Care Together – Improving Outcomes Now project
- National Community Engagement Coordinator, National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation taskforce

- Ngarrindjeri and Yorta Yorta woman, mother and aunty
- Extensive lived experience of kidney disease, dialysis, transplantation co-comorbidities, health care access and mobility access challenges.
- Co-founder of the AKction 1 Reference Group and Chief Investigator and Reference team member of AKction 2
- Keen advocate for improvements in transport, accommodation, financial assistance and improved care delivery, particularly for rural and remote renal patients.
- Successfully lobbied politicians, attended parliament and conducted radio, television and newspaper interviews.

Nari Sinclair



Sylvia Reynolds

- Gooniyandi woman from the Kimberley
- Aboriginal Health Practitioner – renal
- Vital role in supporting Aboriginal people commencing dialysis and kidney transplantation work up
- At Kanggawodli for the clinical placement visit
- Strong advocacy, cultural safety and health information role

- Malak Malak man from Daly River region in the Northern Territory
- working on Kurna country
- Accommodation and Administrative Services Manager with Kanggawodli
- Works for the SA Department of Health, Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, Watto Purrinna, Aboriginal Health Division
- Previously worked as a Senior Aboriginal Consultant with Housing SA and held varying roles within the government sector over 29 years
- Has been instrumental in the development and support of the Dialysis project at Kanggawodli

Wade Allan



Kanggawodli is a residential facility providing accommodation for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people travelling to Adelaide to receive medical treatment which is not available within their regional or remote community.

Janet Kelly

(Panel facilitator)



- German/Welsh/British woman
- Grew up on Kangaroo Island, now live in Kaurana/Peramungk County, Adelaide Hills
- Mother of two daughters
- Nurse Researcher/Educator at University of Adelaide Nursing School
- Co-lead AKtion
- Coordinate Aboriginal health care and cultural safety teaching
- Professional background – community health nursing

- Scottish, Irish and Danish woman
- Grew up in Mid North of SA, Ngadjuri Nation
- Mother of two sons
- Dental Hygienist, educator, mentor, networker, advocate
- Worked in special care dentistry, homelessness, University of Adelaide, TAFE SA, chair for special care dentistry special interest group, TAFE course advisory panel,
- OAM, Red Cross Humanitarian Partnerships Award

Margie Steffens



Kelly Clemente



- Italian & German woman
- Grew up in North of Adelaide, Kaurana country
- Mother of two sons
- Dental hygienist, senior lecturer TAFE SA
- Australian Dental Council Accreditation Committee, SA Oral Health Plan Monitoring Group

Collaboration timeline

Bringing together kidney health care, oral health, an Aboriginal hostel and research



AKtion2

Aboriginal kidney care together -
improving outcomes now



Kanggawodli Hostel



TAFE SA Dental
Hygienist students

June 2018:

First kidney care community consultation



- Co facilitated by Ina and Nari, researchers & kidney health nurses and doctors
- Held at Kanggawodli Hostel
- Seeking funding through a Health Translation SA MRFF Grant

March 2019:

Kidney Care & Oral Health & Researchers



Discussion Kidney
Health and Oral
Health



- Early meetings between nephrologists (kidney doctors), dental staff/researchers, and Aboriginal health researchers
- Possible kidney health – oral health collaboration?

AKtion 1 (2018-2021)

Aboriginal Kidney Care Together- Improving Outcomes Now

Aim:

To provide opportunities for Aboriginal people with kidney disease, families, communities and health professionals, health services, academics and researchers to work together to improve kidney care in South Australia.

Methods:

- **Community consultations**
- **Health journey mapping**
Based on *Managing Two Worlds Together Project* 2008-2015



AKtion1 project - Community Consultations

December 2018
Kanggawodli

February 2019
Port Augusta

June 2019
Ceduna

*In collaboration with
Kidney Health
Australia*



AKtion 1 key stakeholder meetings

November 2019

Transport & Accommodation

- Aboriginal kidney warriors/people with lived experience, kidney health staff, transport and accommodation services

Priority: Kidney care at Kanggawodli Hostel



November 2020:

Dental care & Aboriginal workforce

- Aboriginal kidney warriors, dentists, dental hygienists and oral health services, researchers, kidney health staff

Priority: Improving access to dental care

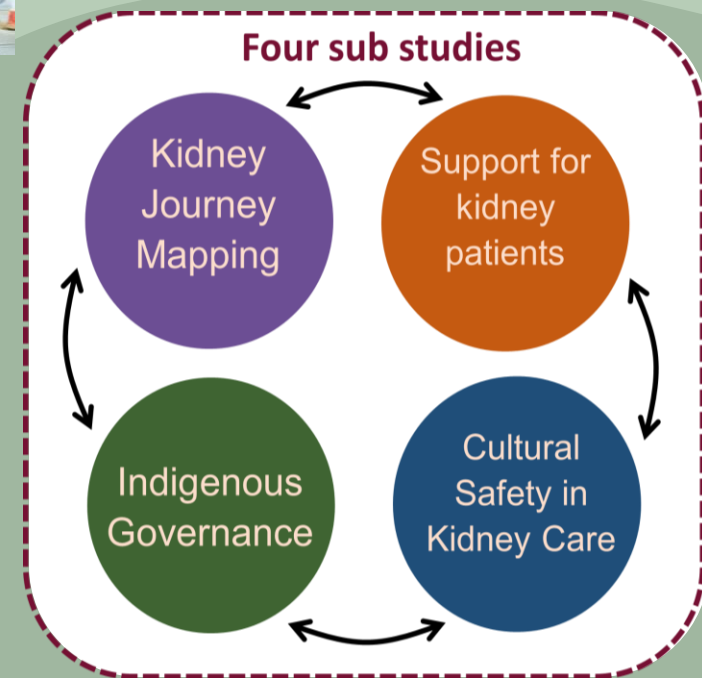
2021

AKction 2

NHMRC funded 5-year project

April 2021- March 2026

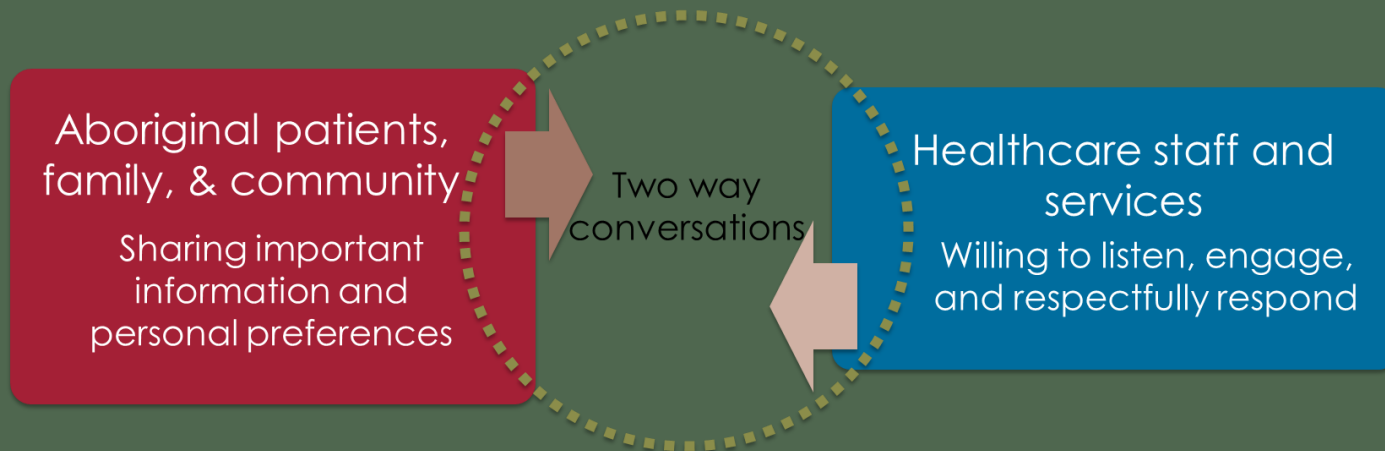
Aim AKction2: To improve the experience and outcomes of kidney care for and with Aboriginal patients, families and community members and kidney health services in South Australia



AKtion 2 approach

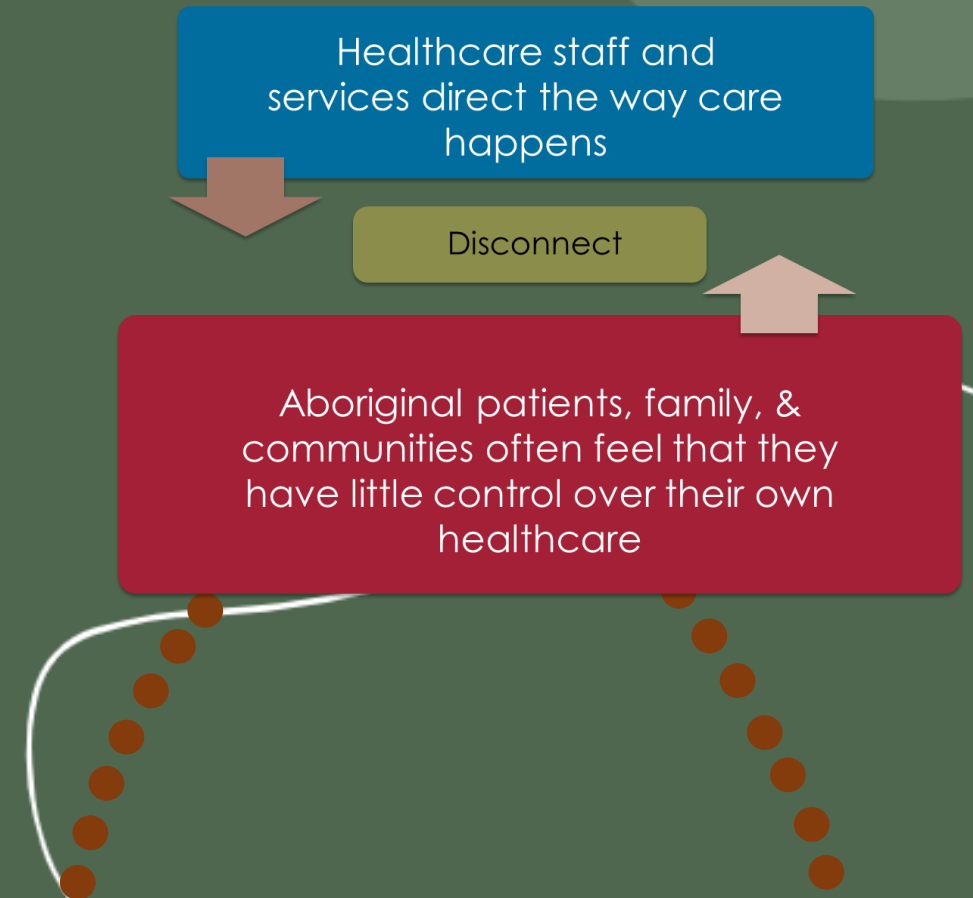
Co creation & codesign

What should happen in healthcare & research



Top down

What often happens in healthcare & research



AKtion 2

Participatory Action Research



2021

What is happening? What is available?

- Referring people staying at Kanggawodli to dental care - *Wade*
- AKction meetings – Reference Team members seeking referral
 - *Kelli Owen* asked Lisa Jamieson for help, referred to *Margie*
 - Mini case study – 2 dental students & 1 medical student
 - Assumptions and implicit bias
- Ongoing issues for kidney patients and transplantation workup
 - *Sylvia*

Access to dental care
and oral health



January 2021

Adelaide Dental
School & visit to
Kanggawodli

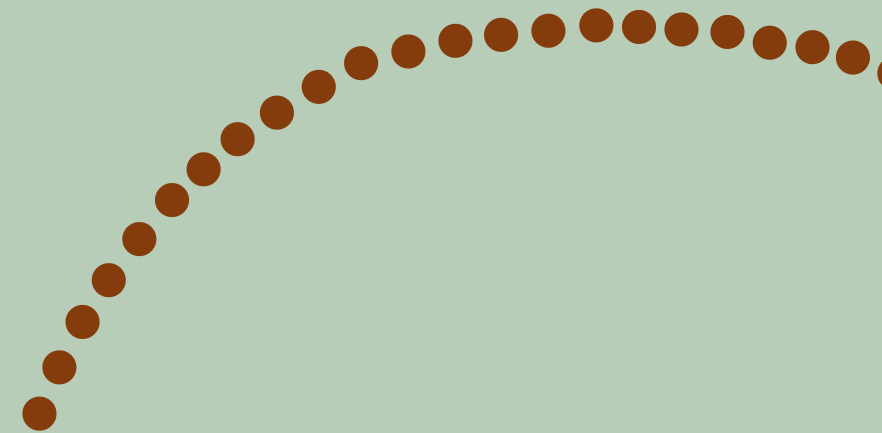
November 2021

Planning meetings
AKction, TAFESA &
Dental Hygienists

February 2022

Ideas:
Cultural safety, kidney health,
clinical yarning training
Clinical placement at
Kanggawodli

How can we
increase
access to oral
health?





April 2022

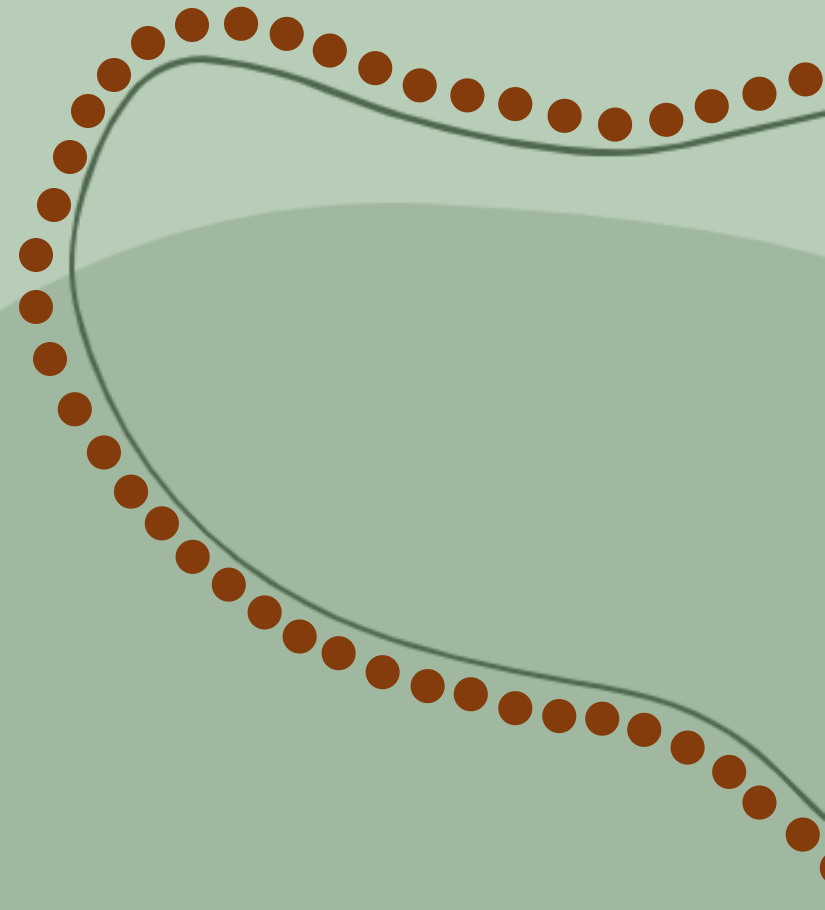
Online
meeting

May 2022

Meet and greet at Kanggawodli

Kelly, Margie, Sylvia, + Kate Tyrell &
Jo Hedges

- Food and yarning session around the fire pit.
- Checking out site suitability for student clinical placement





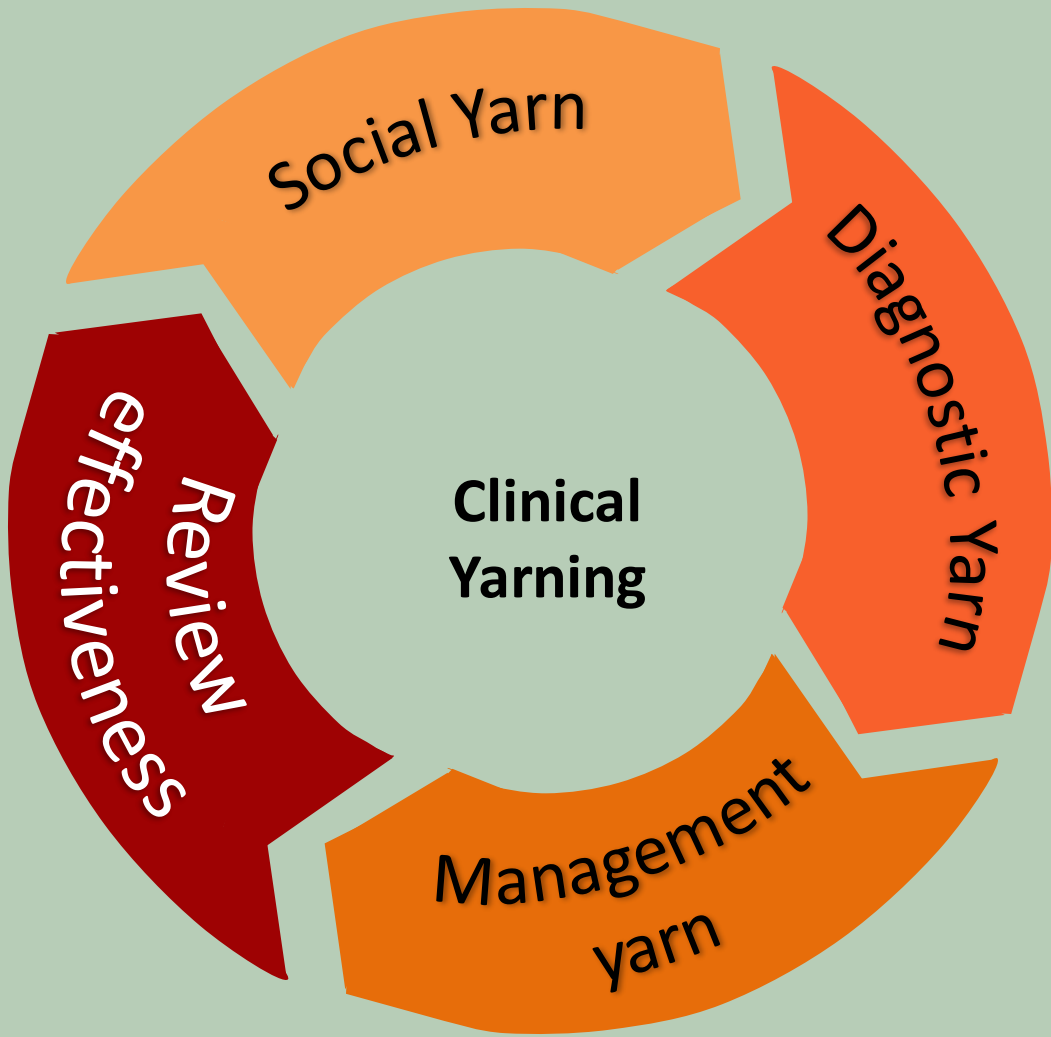
July 2022

Interprofessional day

- Overwhelmingly positive experience for students and staff
- Key industry stakeholders attended
- Great concern for Nari and her transportation needs – sent the wrong cab
- Impacted strongly by Nari’s story
- Invited to do this presentation

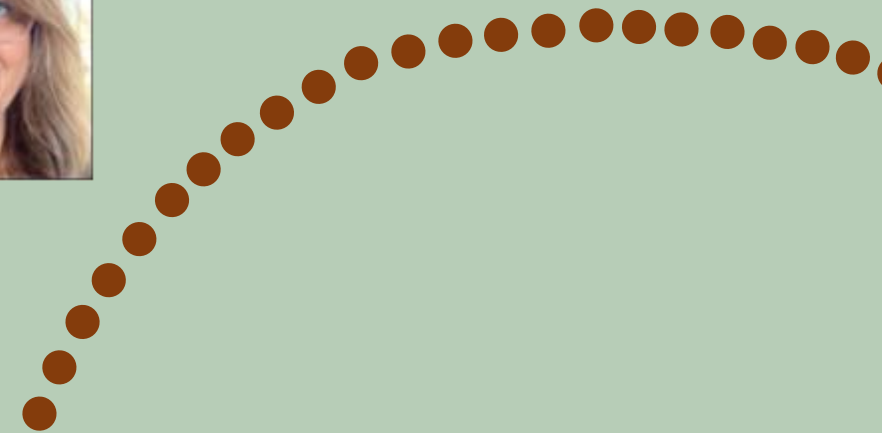


A promotional poster for the "Interprofessional Learning Day" event. The top section contains the text: "Centre for Dental Studies Interprofessional Learning Day Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kidney care and oral health." Below this, it says "Friday 1 July 2022 | Warren Neale Theatre | TAFE SA Gilles Plains campus." The "tafesa" logo is in the top right. The middle section shows a close-up of a dental professional's hands in blue gloves holding a dental model. The bottom section features the text "Proudly sponsored by Colgate" and the "Colgate" logo. At the very bottom, there is a row of logos including "tafesa.edu.au/dental 1800 882 661", "Aktion", "NIKKT", "THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE", and "Health". A small note at the bottom left reads: "If you are a person who is Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service on 1800 555 717." The poster is decorated with orange and red circular accents on the right side.



April 2022

Cultural Safety Training for students
at TAFE SA, prior to clinical
placement



Semester 2, 2022

1st Clinical placement



Semester 1, 2023

2nd Clinical placement at Kanggawodli



Evaluation of student experience - survey

Pre and post clinical placement survey questions

1. What age, gender mix and living arrangements do you expect to be seeing during your visits?
2. What do you expect to encounter regarding, physical, cognitive and social abilities?
3. Given your current knowledge and experience, how comfortable do you feel about providing culturally safe care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
4. How do you perceive the role of the Oral Health Professional, as part of support and allied health services, including types of dental care that will be provided during your visits?
5. Do you believe your visits will influence your understanding of holistic care and inter-professional relationships?

Post survey - Qu 3

Do you believe you now feel more aware and comfortable about providing culturally safe care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

11 responses: *10 yes*

Survey free text responses

Oral health professionals, with consideration to the past & present experiences of Aboriginal Australians in oral health, play a vital role in helping to close the gap between non-Aboriginal Australians and Aboriginal Australians... building a bridge to hard to reach communities... and ultimately deliver culturally safe healthcare practices.

Education in general is a fundamental right for everyone, ...providing oral health education & promotion to these communities, can potentially enhance lives (health wise) and promote feeling of cultural safety.

Survey free text responses

I do believe it would be beneficial to have a screening/ treatment program at Kanggawodli. It can be something that is provided in house which means they do not need to travel into town. It is important to allow access to all health services including dental.

It would be great to eventually have an oral health screening/provide oral hygiene education at Kanggawodli- including denture care.

I feel more comfortable talking to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and should hopefully translate into being more comfortable in providing culturally safe treatment.

Our collaboration

A graphic in the top right corner consisting of a red arrow pointing upwards and to the right, with the word "Review" written vertically in white text inside the arrow. The arrow is set against a background of orange and green geometric shapes.

Review

Learnings, outcomes and impacts

What worked?

- Increased student and staff awareness and knowledge
- Observed appreciation of the silences, slow down the pace, importance of listening
- Community members took on role as teachers

What have we learned?

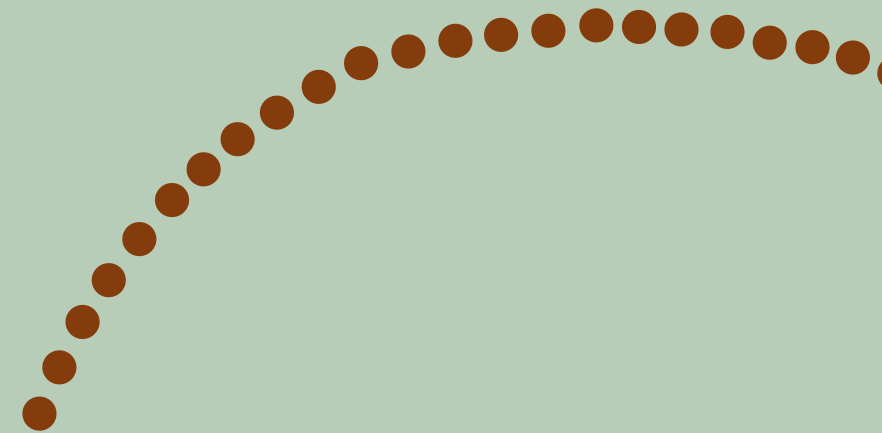
- Dialysis and dialysis free days for appointments and check ups
- A greater understanding why people miss appointments – people's priorities, family comes first, long term impact of grief and loss, different expressions of culture

What difference did it make?

- Opened up possibilities of different and responsive ways of working
- Using our independent practice to work in community locations as part of allied health teams, focusing on prevention as well as treatment
- Importance of ensuring that dental hygienists are part of allied health teams

What made it work?

A group of people coming together, willing to make a difference, and working together toward a shared goal.



Indigenous Oral Health Alliance (2022-2023)

- To bring together dental services and projects across mainstream and Aboriginal health, federal and state services, TAFE and University sector
- Aim: To improve access and reduce wastage / doubling up
- Feed into Aktion group and work on living document – this is where services are at, these are the key people to talk to
- Meeting 3-4 x per year

Close the Gap Day March 2023

- AKtion and Margie – Kidney care and oral health stall and give aways was very popular
- Planning a larger stall in 2024 with Dental Hygiene students and staff.
- This will promote the Advanced Diploma of Oral Health to encourage Aboriginal students



Next steps

Funding :

- to support student engagement
- for hygienists to be involved in education, screening and support
- to provide education, consumables, portable light for screening.

ADHF Grant

2023-2024

Suggested by Dr Jessica Leonard Public Health Medical Officer, AHCSA
– *Kelly Clemente*



Thank you

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