



Here's the truth: We know how to close the gap!

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Key gaps for my mob

- Hib disease
 - 10 x higher in children <5yrs
- Hepatitis B
 - 10 x higher in children <5yrs
 - 8 x higher in people aged 15-<25yrs
 - 3 x higher in people aged 25-<45yrs
- Influenza
 - significantly higher hospitalisations and deaths across all ages
- Meningococcal B
 - 11 x higher in children <10yrs
- Vaccination timeliness
 - 40% with delayed receipt of 3rd dose of DTPa and 2nd dose of MMR



Gaps and Barriers through my lens as an Aboriginal woman...

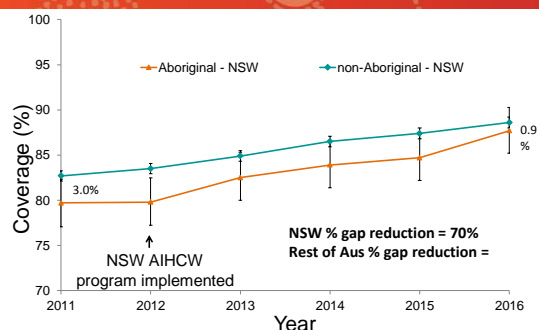
- Racism
- Institutional racism
- Past and current policies – forced separation of families
- Entrenched discrimination
- Unsafe workplace
- Transgenerational trauma
- Influenza age eligibility gap – (5yrs to 15 yrs old)
- Deaths

Let me tell you a little story on how we closed the immunisation gap

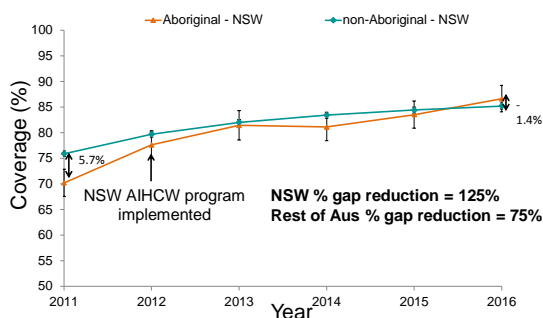
NSW Aboriginal Immunisation Healthcare Worker (AIHCW) Program

- Funded by NSW Health since 2012
- 13 FTE AIHCWs based in PHUs across NSW
- Main activities of AIHCWs
 - Improving Indigenous identification
 - Pre-call notices
 - Enabling providers
 - Promoting immunisation & AIHCW role in local community
- Various KPIs, including assessing coverage at 9, 15 & 51 months of age
 - ie 3 months after vaccines due (rather than 6-12 months)

'Fully immunised' coverage at 15 months of age – NSW



'Fully immunised' coverage at 51 months of age – NSW



My ultimate wish list for closing the gap...

- Place more value in our Aboriginal Health Workers
 - National approach to allow Aboriginal Health Workers/Practitioners at Certificate IV – to vaccinate independently
- Embed cultural safety within the workforce
- Increase tailored and sensitive programs that meets community needs and priorities
 - Adopting similar programs NSW Ministry of Health Aboriginal Immunisation Health Care Worker Program
- Fund vaccines
 - Meningococcal B
 - Influenza age gap

Be proactive – not reactive

Call to action

Be bold to redesign current mainstream health policy and systems to incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health community needs and priorities.

“Do things with us, not to us!”
Dr. Chris Sarra

'Rom Watangu' The law of the land

“What Aboriginal people ask is that the modern world now makes the sacrifices necessary to give us a real future. To relax its grip on us. To let us breathe, to let us be free of the determined control exerted on us to make us like you. And you should take that a step further and recognise us for who we are, and not who you want us to be. Let us be who we are – Aboriginal people in a modern world – and be proud of us. Acknowledge that we have survived the worst that the past had thrown at us, and we are here with our songs, our ceremonies, our land, our language and our people – our full identity. What a gift this is that we can give you, if you choose to accept us in a meaningful way.”

Thank you