

The Lifetime expectancy gap

1. Environmental Health

We need to employ Aboriginal workers that live in their community and not the gaps with water, sewerage, waste, other surrounding problems. The water on some of the missions is like a third world country. I have seen some of these places when I was an Aboriginal Health worker. Each Area Health Service to facilitate the completion of environmental health and infrastructure (including water quality) surveys in Aboriginal communities the local strategy would be prepare background report on water quality and other relevant infrastructure. The 3 main things in these missions are water, lights, and sewerage. This should be ongoing with funds and work with a partnership with Shire and Council. There should be ongoing funds for road works on these missions, from State and Federal Government. These Governments should be working in partnership with Aboriginal Affairs this problems is everyone problems and all parties should be involve.

2. Health and Wellbeing

There is always trouble with transport and people can't get into services, and some clients need to trust in the people that work in the services. Support Aboriginal communities to develop appropriate health promotion projects. Implement Aboriginal Health promotion direction paper and consult with the community regarding local risk factors and priorities for health promotion. Increase Aboriginal Health project male and female workers. Each Area Health Services and NGO's in collaboration to develop strategies with the local Aboriginal communities to promote health and wellbeing. Partnerships are to be done for all services that have any contacts with Aboriginal people. We need to develop self determination and ownership of the land we live on this can be done through partnerships with non-Aboriginal people and funds from the Government. Some Aboriginal Health workers need to be more professional and to have more training in the areas they work in.

3. Education

To work with Aboriginal communities and organizations to address their Skills and to education and care with support needs to read and write. Education would help to support and affirm Aboriginal people's culture and heritage. The cost of the courses is high for some people to pay for education. There needs to be a better plan for these people within the education program. Develop an individualized package for these people to get work like TAFE education. TAFE focuses on getting a job for people which is more practical for our young people to get work. Train these people on the Center link payments to try and find work that they want to do. Non-Aboriginal people to do culture awareness training along with Aboriginal workers.

4. Employment

Implement the NSW Aboriginal Employment Strategy. The gaps are transport and not easy to get to these services and the understanding the rules that are put on Aboriginal clients. (To hard box). There should be a develop resources and programs for Aboriginal people that are not working and don't understand the employment strategy. There should be more CDEP programs develop in a better way then it was and more lending way for Aboriginal people. Aboriginal people have been working for the dole since the Social Services was first developed. There needs to be an Aboriginal employment group with Aboriginal male and female workers.

5. Housing

The housing department need to employ and Aboriginal male and female worker to show other clans of Aboriginal people how to maintain and live in the housing commission system. These

workers could be called case workers and they would show the person what the stove is and the floor board is not for burning etc.

The Aboriginal people have big families and they should be able to have family come and stay for awhile with out other people telling them (NO). There needs to be a local community worker who understand their culture and try to help improve the surrounding by letting the clients know of other Aboriginal services. There could be a Housing Conference for Aboriginal Tenants to up skill them with lots of information about the housing and how to keep the tenants housed. There needs to be more housing for Aboriginal people. There needs to be more Youth Sport clubs local and more funds to keep these young people alive, healthy eating and programs that are for parents to join. Have a healthy eating bush tucker project once a month and housing group with the tenants to meet monthly about problems.

6. Incarceration and the criminal justice system

Needle Syringe programs should be in all the jails this would help stop HEP C which is growing in our Aboriginal communities. There are no projects for inmates to join, there needs to be courses, education on all health issues. Inmate should be encouraged to participate to these projects has part of there rehabilitation.

There also should be condoms machines in the toilets for safe sex which will help stop HIV/AIDS and other STI's. There needs to be a review of the Justice system for some of the policies are not working. The inmates that are not Australian and have been sentence to jail for 12 years or more needs to be sent back to there country. This could help stop a lot of bashing of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the jail system. The staff in these prisons should have to do culture awareness training and update their training.

7. other infrastructure

Public/Population Health Units with in Area Health Services in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and relevant organizations, including the Aboriginal Health & Mental Research Council, Department of Aboriginal Affair, Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander commission and ACCHS's to facilitate appropriate environmental Health initiatives. They would prepare background report on number of houses potentially included in housing for health survey. Surveys completed with recommendations, and implementation plan developed.

The Aboriginal Missions need to be developed to living standard; if some of these missions have not got a school there needs to be transport for the children to get to school and a bus for workers to get to work. First there needs to be funds for these projects and other Aboriginal people from the local clan who are educated to help run these projects.