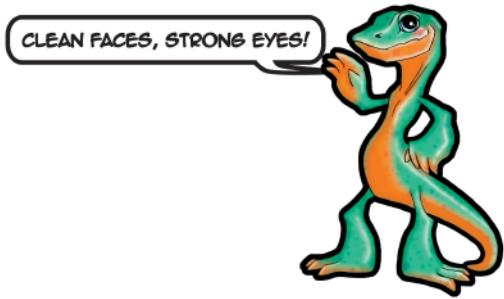


The Indigenous Eye Health Unit

Trachoma Elimination Update:

Dec 2010



The Trachoma Story Kits

The Trachoma Story Kits were developed with the support and contribution of the Harold Mitchell Foundation, the Ian Potter Foundation, Greg Poche AO, CBM Australia, the Cybec Foundation, the Aspen Foundation and the Melbourne Football Club.

In addition, we are most grateful to the individual donors who have given us very significant support – David Middleton, Rob Bowen, Peter Anastasiou, Tom Krulis and Benjamin Kohn.

From mid 2009, the Indigenous Eye Health Unit consulted extensively with the Ngumpin Reference Group, Katherine West Health Board, the Centre for Disease Control NT and many others to create a new suite of resource for clinics, schools and communities to eliminate trachoma in Australia.



Hon Warren Snowden Minister for Indigenous Affairs launched the Trachoma Story Kits 5th August 2010.

Completed in July 2010, the Trachoma Story Kits combine clinical and cultural knowledge and practice; they are easy to read with user friendly language and engaging realistic images of contemporary Aboriginal communities.

Thirty six kits were sent up to Katherine West Health Board and 800kg went to the Centre for Disease Control in Alice Springs for the rest of the NT.

The IEHU website has been developing alongside the Kits. Trachoma reports, photographs, videos, background information and the resources are available for download. The Kits are available at cost price and can be ordered.

The IEHU website is developing into a hub for trachoma resources and as variations of the Kits are developed they are uploaded by Rachael for all to share.



Judy, Rachael and Fiona and the stock pile for the NT July 2010

Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation provides primary health care services (clinical, emergency and preventative) to mostly aboriginal clients.

It is rolling bush and river country extending from Katherine through the Victoria River region, and down to Lajamanu on the edge of the Tanami Desert.



KWHB region covers 162,000 sq/km of the NT.

In 2010 the Melbourne Football Club committed to support the IEHU and Trachoma Elimination in Australia.

Indigenous players Liam Jurrah and Aaron Davey are program ambassadors, and in 2011 through a DVD, posters and an ambitious live link up with schools they will be taking the key messages of trachoma elimination Indigenous school children in many remote communities across the NT.

When Melbourne Football Club travelled to the Northern Territory for the Port Adelaide match in May, they invited the IEHU to along on the trip. Jim Stynes, his wife Sam, the club's top three executives and a group of 30 travelled to Alice Springs, and then drove three hours to Yuendumu.

Melbourne went on to win that match against Port Adelaide in Darwin. Jim described it as Melbourne's best win of 2010. Saying "It was such a good trip, we went up to see Liam's family again".

At the school Jim had a chat with the children and introduced the Trachoma Story Kits, while Channel Seven filmed it for the evening news.



Jim Stynes talking to kids at Yuendumu School May 2010

The trip gave Professor Hugh Taylor a chance to do some screening and Liam Jurrah was the 'head holder'. This young girl didn't have trachoma but a little boy was found to have some follicles (TF).



Professor Taylor and Liam Jurrah at Yuendumu May 2010

In 2010 Fiona made seven trips to the NT for kit development and running train the trainer sessions. When KWHB Healthy Skin and Eye Coordinator, Emma was appointed, Fiona spent 2 weeks travelling with her to do trachoma orientation, treatment and health promotion training in Timber Creek and Yarralin.

Interest in the resources has been very positive and widespread as people see how different components can be used and adapted for their specific work in improving general health and wellbeing in Aboriginal communities.

The 21 principals of the Katherine Primary Schools requested Kits for all their schools for the 450,000 sq/km in their region. Jenny Sherrington, the principal and two children from Timber Creek School made a 'Smartboard Presentation' which is now available on the IEHU website.



Fiona, Emma and Rhonda flying to Yarralin Nov 2010

The Kits have now being used by remote area nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers, school principals, teachers, teacher assistants, playgroup leaders, community workers, remote health service managers, public health workers, young mums, students and environmental health workers.



The Trachoma Story Kit for Clinics is available at cost and many components are free on the website www.iehu.unimelb.edu.au

In KWHB 36 Kits are being used and 15 large safety glass mirrors are going up in seven clinics and schools. Hundreds of posters are now in schools, clinics, shops and childcare centres.

Throughout the NT, from Aug to Dec 2010 the Kits were distributed and training sessions conducted in 41 schools, 31 communities and 54 clinics.

The IEHU supports the NT's Trachoma Elimination Strategy by conducting training and health promotion to staff who work in remote Aboriginal communities.

Dozens of organisations with health and teaching staff in remote Aboriginal communities have participated in training, and completed a pre-test survey of knowledge, skills and practice has been completed by 108 staff.



Public Health Managers training at Yulara September 2010

At Uluru, these young mums at the Child Care Centre came along to hear about trachoma because the clinic nurse introduced us.



Mutitjulu community, September 2010

The health promotion and team building efforts were very productive for the Centre for Disease Control staff in Alice Springs, with requests for ongoing support in 2011



After another successful meeting the CDC team took to Todd St Alice Springs, September 2010

At Kildurk (Mialuni)Clinic, Bec Cooney the Early Childhood Nursing Coordinator from KWHB met with Sophia, a teacher assistant and her family.



Delivering the Trachoma Story Kits to Kildurk Clinic August 2010

Sophia had moved as people do before the wet season, and she remembered us when we saw her at Gilwi community. She helped with the treatment and got the kids involved in face washing.



The mirrors in action at Gilwi Community, November 2010

Propped on a drum straight out of the packaging, the mirror was a great hit with the kids



Gilwi Community, November 2010

In November, Emma and Fiona ran health promotion sessions with the staff and children at Aminbidji School (Kildurk).

The kids always love watching "Jabby and Friends" shown here on the 'Smartboard' (interactive online whiteboard.)

The plan for 2011 includes using Smartboards across the KWHB region and beyond, for the live link-up with Indigenous players from Melbourne Football Club.



Aminbidji School, November 2010

After school the kids at One Mile community had oranges, trachoma treatment and health promotion with Emma.



One Mile Community, November 2010

Aboriginal Health Worker and Ngumpin Reference Group member, Dee Hampton said the mirror is always dirty as the kids are using it all the time, checking faces and off to the bathroom for a wash.



Kids in front of a mirror at Kalkaringi Clinic December 2010

In Katherine, Fiona and Emma met with Elder and Ngumpin Reference Group member Helen Morris, who had an idea to adapt the resources in Kits to include Language. Back at IEHU, Rachael quickly made a template poster so the reference group could discuss the idea further in 2011.



Katherine, November 2010



On the way to work...



This wasn't in the job description – the second flat in two days. Yarralin Clinic, August, 2010