

Working and yarning together: a collaboration to support the knowledge needs of the health workforce

Presenter: Sam Burrow, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

For more than 20 years the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (the HealthInfoNet) has been harnessing the power of the Internet to make evidence and information available for health professionals working to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Over the same period The Fred Hollows Foundation (The Foundation) has been working in direct partnership with local service providers to develop and implement sustainable solutions to gaps in the current health system. Both these organisations are deeply committed to supporting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

In late 2016, the HealthInfoNet and The Foundation began collaborating to bring together the latest evidence and information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health through the HealthInfoNet's Eye Health Portal (www.eyehhealth.org.au). Together, these organisations are working to enhance knowledge exchange within the eye health sector to:

- support workforce development
- promote evidence-informed practice, and
- facilitate integration between research, policy and practice.

The Eye Health Portal provides an extensive online collection of relevant publications, policies, health promotion and practice resources, and organisation, program and workforce information. It also supports information-sharing and networking through electronic newsletters, social media (Twitter) and an online yarning place (community of practice). In addition, new initiatives have included the development of factsheets, infographics, animated infographics (short videos) and PowerPoint presentations, as well as the delivery of workshops, webinars and podcasts.

In this presentation, staff members from the HealthInfoNet and The Foundation will share the story of their collaborative journey to expand and enhance the Eye Health Portal and develop new knowledge exchange products to meet the knowledge needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health workforce. The presentation will adopt an interview format and will showcase some of the knowledge exchange products that have resulted from the collaboration.