



Canning Division

# Getting Started in Aboriginal Health : An Urban Experience

By  
Carolyn Lawrence





Canning Division

can we **improve**  
the **health** of  
**Aboriginal** and  
**Islander people?**



ABORIGINAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAM  
CANNING DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



## Canning Division of General Practice believes we can

Canning Division

**How?**

**By:**

- ***Building collaborative partnerships***
- ***Engaging the community***
- ***Developing culturally appropriate and sustainable health programs***
- ***Supporting Aboriginal and Islander people to improve their health***



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



## Canning Division of General Practice believes we can

Canning Division

**Thirty percent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people in the Perth metropolitan area reside within Canning Division (Census data 2001)**



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



# Canning Division of General Practice believes we can

Canning Division

## First Approach

- **Appointed an Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO)**
- **Appointed a GP Consultant with experience in Aboriginal health**
- **Developed a plan**



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



## Canning Division of General Practice believes we can

Canning Division

### Results:

- **Established some formative links to the ATSI community**
- **Project staff failed to initiate specific strategies with ALO**
- **The ALO failed to identify specific strategies within programs**
- **ALO resigned**



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



# Canning Division of General Practice believes we can

## Second Approach

- Developed an Aboriginal Primary Health Care Team
- Conducted cultural sensitivity training for ALL staff in the office
- Specific project grants provided a focus with defined objectives and strategies
- Staff roles were clearly defined and lines of management clarified
- **Strategies were developed to maintain project continuity**
- Linkages were established with ATSI agencies
- **Established a network to provide professional and peer support to ATSI employees**

Canning Division



Quality Endorsed Company  
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



# Aboriginal Primary Health Care Team

Canning Division





# Conducted cultural sensitivity training

Canning Division



Quality Endorsed Company  
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia





## Specific project grants provided a focus

Canning Division

- **Boyulyardu Karda Mardoo**  
*(Darling Ranges Healing Group)*



- **Kworbidak Yorgas**  
*(Strong Healthy Women)*



- **Health Partners**  
*(Chronic Disease Self Management)*

- **Integrated Diabetes Care**  
*(Needs Analysis for ATSI people)*



Quality Endorsed Company  
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia





# Staff roles were clearly defined and lines of management clarified

Canning Division

- **Aim for composite skills in the team**
- **Recognise skill sets including literacy skills, local community knowledge / networks, etc**
- **Black fella / white fella partnership**
- **‘Aboriginal’ way Vs contract accountability**
- **Elder role different to line manager role**



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

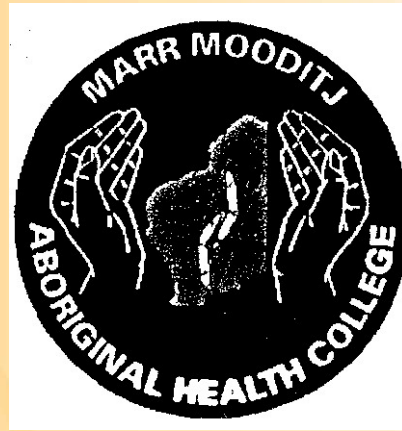
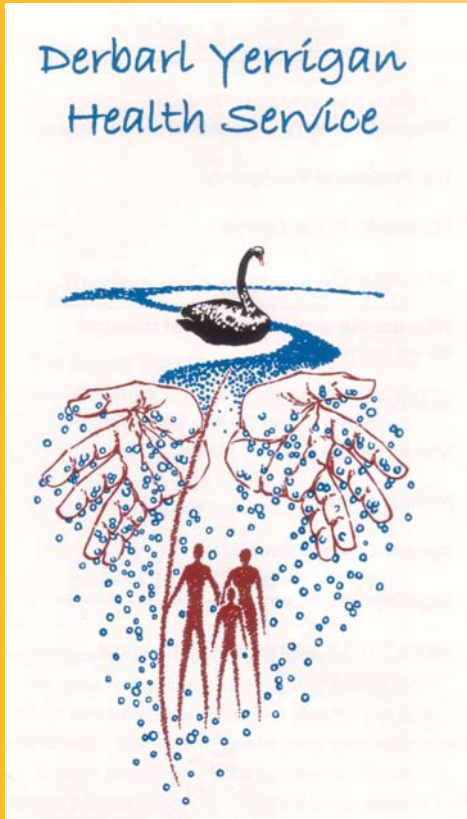
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia





# Linkages were established with ATSI agencies

Canning Division



Department of Health  
Government of Western Australia

**ARMADALE  
HEALTH SERVICE**



Quality Endorsed Company  
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



# Linkages were established with ATSI agencies

Canning Division



Quality Endorsed Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia





## Canning Division is committed to:

Canning Division

- **Creating a supportive work environment for ATSI employees**
- **Building expertise and skills of the team to support GPs in Aboriginal Health**
- **Promoting Aboriginal Health within the region**
- **Forming effective, sustainable strategies involving GPs in Aboriginal Health**
- **Facilitating community and agency partnerships to improve Aboriginal Health**



Quality System  
Quality  
Endorsed  
Company  
ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia



Canning Division

can we **improve**  
the **health** of  
**Aboriginal** and  
**Islander** people?



ABORIGINAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TEAM  
CANNING DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE

**Canning  
Division of  
General  
Practice  
believes we can**



Quality  
Endorsed  
Company

ISO 9001 QEC 14616  
Standards Australia