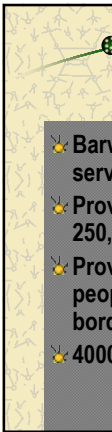
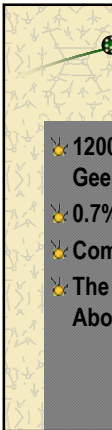


**The Barwon Health
Aboriginal Health Service**

Dr Alison Maclean



- ✦ Barwon Health is the largest regional health service in Victoria
- ✦ Provides secondary health services to 250,000 people in the greater Geelong area
- ✦ Provides tertiary health services to 750,000 people up to Hamilton and to the southwest border
- ✦ 4000 staff and growing!



2001 Census Figures

- ✦ 1200 Aboriginal people in the greater Geelong area
- ✦ 0.7% of total population
- ✦ Compares with 0.5% of the state population
- ✦ The Wathaurong Cooperative is the key Aboriginal organisation in the area

The Reality

- ✦ Probably 4000 Aboriginal people in the greater Geelong area
- ✦ From a variety of different clan groups
- ✦ Largely urbanised
- ✦ Geelong had the highest rate of Stolen Generation in Victoria
- ✦ Many have few social supports
- ✦ Few have a GP

The AHLO Role

- ✦ Lyn McInnes has been in this role for nearly 25 years
- ✦ Role has gradually evolved from a hospital-based Almoner to a mixed acute care / primary care model
- ✦ Lack of funding has prevented further development of the AHLO role



Change to WIES Funding

- Previously a 10% loading on WIES for admission of an Aboriginal person
- Money subsumed into meeting the bottom line
- Now 30% loading which must be spent on Aboriginal health
- At last, the money to implement the vision!

Our Initiatives

- Identification through data of the trouble spots: chronic health problems and maternal & child health
- Development of 2 new roles
- Application for STEP funding from the Commonwealth Department of Employment & Workplace Relations

The Aboriginal Health Workers

- Able to advertise for Aboriginal staff by having STEP funding
- One worker based with the Admission Risk Team in the community health centres.
- To focus on people with chronic health problems
- To increase hospital admission rates
- To develop culturally-appropriate packages of care
- To help staff develop culturally safe practice

Aboriginal Health Workers

- ✦ Second worker based on the Geelong Hospital site
- ✦ Primary care role with young mothers and their children
- ✦ Transport to Clinic & GP appointments
- ✦ Increase uptake of immunisations & hearing tests, & link families with GPs

A Key Task

- ✦ Both have the responsibility to increase the self-identification of Aboriginal people entering Barwon Health facilities



Aboriginal Management Trainee

- ✦ An opportunity for a graduate
- ✦ Will be rotated through a variety of management areas within Barwon Health
- ✦ 4 month placement at the regional DHS
- ✦ Mentored by experienced health managers
- ✦ ACHSE training & mentoring
- ✦ Sponsored for MBA or Grad Dip Mgmt

Cultural Sensitivity Training

- ⚡ A key issue from both CALD and Aboriginal communities' perspective
- ⚡ Intend to have all clinical & reception staff undergo this training
- ⚡ Will go out to tender in the next two months

A Bouquet

⚡ We couldn't have done any of this without the extra WIES funding from the Department of Human Services

Thanks guys!!
