Accurate Cognitive Screening
Capacity building in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within Australia
Diversity of Culture

60,000 years

600 plus language and/or dialect groups

majority now live in urban environments however......
Demographics

Current identified population is 670,000 or 3% of total population.
75% live in NSW, WA and Qld.
>35% of NT population is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.
>75% of Torres Strait Islanders are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.
Social Determinants of Health:

- Chronic Disease
- Disability
- Frailty
- Poorer health outcomes
- Low education levels
- Social and emotional stress
International comparisons

Lower life expectancy than other 1st world Indigenous populations

Higher all cause mortality rates 2x Maori and 2.3x native Americans

Males live between 8.8 and 13.5 years less than in Canada, USA or New Zealand
Dementia Prevalence

- Zann 1994 20% in remote Queensland
- Smith et al 2008 12.4% >45 and 23.4% >65 year in WA
- Broe et al in urban NSW 21% (age-adjusted) or 3x the Australian population
- Strivens et al 2013 2x the prevalence in Torres Strait

- Further studies are needed to plan appropriate resources, support and training
The story to date

• 2006 the Kimberley Indigenous Cognitive Assessment tool (KICA) was developed (culturally sensitive)
• 2012 modified Urban KICA in Victoria
• 2013 identified need to understand cognitive screening further in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities…..
• 2013 training module for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workers was developed……

• 2014 National pilot study of the training module

• Broad range of tools covered, no “One size fits all” approach……
• Changing the way screening is conducted in the communities
• Putting Aboriginal Health Workers in the drivers seat and gaining community buy in
• Developing flexible and adaptive Pathways for Dementia Diagnosis, care planning and awareness within diverse communities…..
YOUR STORY MATTERS
The path of our Journey

Developing a holistic approach to community Social and Emotional Wellbeing as well as sustainable and collaborative partnerships