

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diabetes-related Foot Complications Program

Program Summary

Background

The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity, has entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth Government to deliver a program of work to reduce diabetes-related foot complications, including amputations, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in South Australia (SA), the Northern Territory (NT, incl. the Top End and Central Australia), northern Western Australia (WA) and Far North Queensland (FNQ). The program will be delivered through collaborative partnerships of relevant stakeholder organisations and community within each of the 5 regions and through a range of governance and working groups across the regions.

Objectives

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Diabetes-related Foot Complications Program will address risk factors and health outcomes by implementing evidence-based initiatives that seek to improve the quality, accessibility and effectiveness of available care, ranging from prevention and management of diabetes-related foot disease and acute care of active foot complications to rehabilitation for people with amputations. The program further focusses on a range of enabling strategies, including through actively addressing cultural considerations, community learning and awareness, workforce strategies and service accessibility.

Phase 1: Development of regional implementation plans

Each region will develop an implementation plan, based on available evidence that describes (a) the burden of disease and (b) the existing services networks which provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with or at risk of diabetes-related foot complications. Priorities and strategies will be established through an engagement of stakeholders across the health systems and services networks as well as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives.

Phase 2: Implementation

The implementation of regional plans will occur between August 2020 and December 2021. Details will emerge through the development of the regional implementation plans.

Workforce

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) is developing a best practice, community-based workforce model for multidisciplinary allied health approaches to prevent and treat diabetic foot complications. In accordance with IAHA's cultural responsiveness framework, the model will be delivered through Aboriginal leadership and places culture at its centre. Its impact will address the aspirations and priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities.

Workforce training and professional development strategies will be developed alongside the workforce model and address the priorities identified in the implementation plans of the regions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

SAHMRI will develop an evaluation framework to facilitate future monitoring of the effect of health care and systems initiatives, informed by a baseline report that articulates the burden, determinants and impact of diabetes-related foot complications and available data on health services networks.

Contact

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