

Missed Opportunity

Under-funding Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services makes closing the gaps less likely

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services

- Est. 1971 – Redfern AMS
- Holistic
- Participatory
- Comprehensive primary health care
 - universal access
 - disease prevention & health promotion
 - community involvement
 - inter-sectoral collaboration

Alma Ata Declaration - 1978

- “Health for all”
- Primary health care
- Unanimous endorsement by WHO
- Promotes self-reliance
- Disease prevention
- Not just the health sector

Commission on the Social Determinants of Health - 2008

- Social, economic, political conditions
- Goal: health equity
- Community empowerment
- Representation
 - ACCHSs: representative, empowering, acting on SDoH!

Combatting social determinants

- Locally appropriate care
- Skilled health workers
- Employ community members
- Aboriginal Health Workers
- CPHC

Inequality & health

- Whitehall Studies (Marmot, Shipley & Rose 1984; Marmot et al 1991)
 - Morbidity and mortality linked to employment status
- “The Spirit Level” (Wilkinson & Pickett 2010)
 - Mental illness, infant mortality, life expectancy linked to income inequality

Is the Australian Government supporting ACCHSs and action on SDoH?

- Methodology: Policy/budget analysis, process tracing

Indigenous Advancement Strategy

- 2014 overhaul of Indigenous affairs
- Competitive tendering
- Government-determined priorities

- ACCHSs' special qualities not acknowledged
- Administrative overburden

Funding cuts

- \$121.8 million cut from health
- ‘Medical Research Future Fund’
- Biomedical over social
- Limiting community empowerment

Policy implications

- Closing the Gap?
- Restore funding
- Redesign IAS
- ACCHSs as preferred providers
- Capacity building
- Inter-sectoral collaboration
- Evidence-based policy