

# Supporting Aboriginal residential rehabilitation services to measure treatment outcomes

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Acknowledgement of Country



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CEOs and staff of six Aboriginal resi rehabs in NSW

Namajira Haven Orana Haven

Mayuu Mali The Glen

Weigelli Oolong House

# OVERVIEW



- Aboriginal specific residential rehabilitation services in operation for 50+ years in NSW
- Little evidence to guide quality improvements in resi rehabs
- In general outcomes tend to be based on abstinence or how long people stay
- This talk will focus on systematic review (under review)
- Part of my PhD studies



### NEED



- Aboriginal Australians x8 more likely to be hospitalised for substance-related harm
- Disproportionately higher rates of substance use disorders linked to intergenerational trauma
- Few resi rehab beds in NSW
- Pressing need to validate treatment outcomes in resirehabs

### METHODS



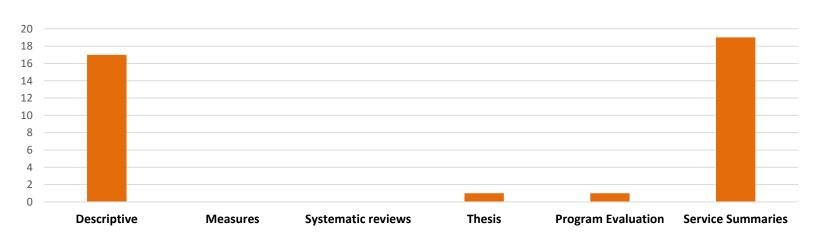
- Based on pilot work at in one site, NSW (Orana Haven)
- Evaluating tools used to collect data across resi rehabs in NSW
- Overall aim: to improve ability of resi rehabs to measure treatment effectiveness
- For the systematic review: articles from 2000-present;
  "Aboriginal", "residential" and "AOD"
  - Identify assessments used by services & improvements
  - Consider opportunity for aligning models of care across services

# FINDINGS (1)



- Six electronic and four grey literature data bases searched; 796 articles identified
- Few published records identified that met criteria
- 38 records identified for review: 17 descriptive, 1 pre-post evaluation, 1 thesis, 19 service summaries

#### Classification of articles



# FINDINGS (2)



- Published studies generally were qualitative (8) rather than quantitative (5). Two used quantitative and qualitative methods
- Indicators of successful outcomes include:
  - A positive relationship with workers
  - Culturally safe place to heal
- Services mostly multi-component but little alignment between care offered and how this interacts with off-site services

# FINDINGS (3)



- No evaluation on effectiveness of on- or off-site services on program completion
- Outcomes will likely improve if future research can establish:
  - Best practice culturally accepted models of care
  - Quantitative measures to assess impact on treatment outcomes of cultural programs

### CONCLUSION



No systematic reviews of Indigenous resi rehabs identified

No evaluations of resi rehabs programs identified

 Little alignment between programs offered and measurable outcomes (KPI'S)

# WHAT IS NEXT?



- Describe client characteristics
- Identify trends in client information collected: entry, mid-point, exit
- Review and evaluate assessment tools used
- Describe substance-use trends over time
- Identify predictors of successful program completion
- Design and evaluate more standardised assessment tools and models of care



# QUESTIONS?

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