



Please be advised that this PowerPoint presentation *will* contain *images* of people who *have died*.









# My Journey

- In 1972, I became a registered nurse and midwife.
- Worked in communities such as Alice Springs, Palm Island, remote Western Australia and South Australia.
- Volunteer member of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service (TAIHS) in 1974, and worked as a volunteer Registered Nurse with two volunteer Doctors.
- Later I became a registered midwife and worked with the Remote Emergency Nursing Services, which took me all over remote Australia delivering babies in the late 1970s and early 1980s, with no benefits of modern technology.
- I have also worked in remote Australia with the late Dr Fred Hollows on the National Trachoma and Eye Health Program.



Graduation Master Science (Tropical Medical Science) May 1993 A/Prof Ian Wronski Joy Koehler Gracelyn Smallwood Dr Paul Turner A/Prof Rick Speare



In 2011, I completed my PhD Thesis *Human Rights* and First Australians Well-being. In 2015 my PhD was published by Routledge in London as a hardback monograph. The publication is titled *Indigenist Critical Realism*.







### Background

Adds developed in 1987 addressing HIV/AIDS

For example Grim Reaper advertisement

However, this advertisement was not applicable to Indigenous Australians



## Aims

- 1. Develop a culturally appropriate HIV/AIDS awareness program in relation to remote North Queensland Indigenous Communities
- 2. Implement the program in targeted remote North Queensland Indigenous communities
- 3. Assess the program impact within these communities



## 3 main phases of Development

- Consultation
- Development of audio-visual testing
- Market testing of materials and community feed-back

- **5 Day Structure**
- Education sessions on HIV/AIDS
- Development of graphics
- Market testing of graphics
- Development of audio resources
- Development of program implementation strategy and evaluation strategy



 Along with other Community Representatives





Masters of Science in Public Health for work in North Queensland Indigenous Communities (1993)









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NSW







#### And we took it to the BRONX! In USA!



- Thomas Pryor, Palm Island
- 2 Community workers
- African AIDS researchers

I was invited to be special guest for the then South African President, Mr Nelson Mandela in 1997, and used the time speaking with activists including the sons of the late Steve Biko, and giving HIV-AIDS prevention talks and workshops. I was one of the small group of health practitioners who understood the risk of HIV-AIDS in Indigenous communities, and we devised the now mainstream and famous *Condoman* to promote safe sex in a culturally appropriate way.



#### What our Media Package contained

- AIDS Action and Planning Manual
- Condoman Poster
- "Which way" Poster
- Facts about AIDS poster
- "Just one more" poster
- "Drink little bit"
- "Grog kills skills"
- Don't drink n drive whilst charging on





# In order to Close the Gap

In order to close the gap we need to firstly address the social and cultural determinants that allow my people to start on a level playing field.

We cant manage our chronic disease if we don't have access to the basic essentials in life – education, employment, and housing.

That means we need to address the inequity that that exists within our various systems be it health, education, legal, child protection.

That's going to require more than Close the Gap targets developed by mainstream bureaucrats - its going to require both the **financial and policy instruments** to work together not in competition to each other and genuine engagement with grassroot communities.

