

## The IPAC Trial

# Integrating Pharmacists within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to improve Chronic Disease Management

National Allied Health Virtual Research Forum 2024

30 April 2024

## SUPPORT

Funded by the Australian Government  
Department of Health under the Pharmacy Trial Program  
of the 6<sup>th</sup> Community Pharmacy Agreement

## AIM

To explore if quality of care outcomes for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander adult patients with chronic disease can be improved by integrating a practice pharmacist within the primary health care team of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs), when compared with prior care

## PARTNERSHIP

- Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (lead agency)
- The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)
- James Cook University – College of Medicine and Dentistry

## TIMELINE

1. Establishment Dec 2017–Jul 2018
2. Implementation Aug 2018–Oct 2019
3. Analysis and reporting Nov 2019–Jun 2020

## Alignment with national priorities



National Agreement on Closing the Gap, Priority Reform 2 –  
Building the Community-Controlled Sector



National Allied Health Workforce Strategy



National Strategic Framework for Rural and Remote Health

26 pharmacists recruited  
(total 12.3FTE)

18 ACCHOs  
involved

Some in very  
remote places!



# Pharmacist Core Roles

**Team-based  
collaboration**

**Medication management  
reviews & follow up**

**Medication  
appropriateness audits**

**Medication  
adherence**

**Preventative  
healthcare**



**Medicines use  
evaluations**

**Education and  
training**

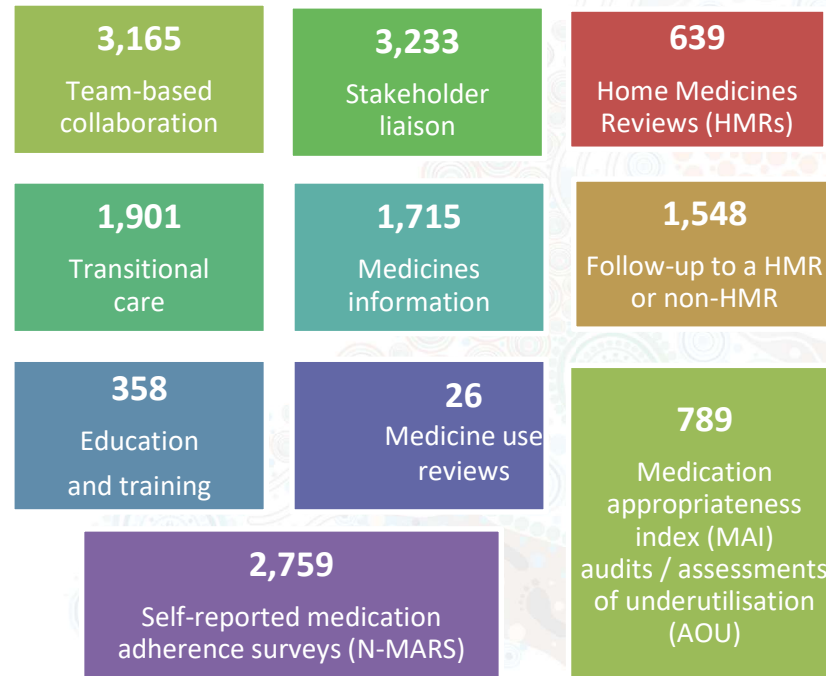
**Medicines information  
services**

**Stakeholder  
liaison**

**Transitions of care**

# Activity Summary

A total of 1,733 patients gave consent to participate in the trial



## QUALITY OF CARE MEASURES



- HbA1c for patients with diabetes
- Diastolic blood pressure
- Total cholesterol, LDL & TG
- CVD 5-year risk
- Rate of decline of eGFR

- HMR (Item 900) x4-fold
- Prescribing quality (based on MAI & MUEs)
- Adherence to medicines
- Self-reported health status

## SECONDARY MEASURES



## QUALITATIVE MEASURES



- Patients felt empowered, better understood their medicines & felt better
- Education sessions were valuable & increased staff knowledge
- Relationships with community pharmacy were strengthened



*The model of care examined in the IPAC project was an excellent example of an integrated, collaborative, patient-centred approach to primary care and has the potential to have a meaningful societal impact by improving equity of health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*



- Medical Services Advisory Committee  
MSAC Application No.1678



# Steps toward implementation



Deadly Pharmacists Foundation Training Course co-designed by PSA & NACCHO launched 2022



PSA Federal Budget submission 2024-25



PSA Position Statement – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health care

**Thank you**

**Questions?**