ABSTRACT SUBMISSION TEMPLATE

Title: Keeping Seniors Safe in Community

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Overview:
Keeping Seniors Safe in Community identified the need to provide more support to regional and remote communities across Queensland. The Project Team travelled to communities in regional towns & First Nations remote communities to provide information & awareness of elder abuse, identify gaps in health & aged-care support for older people, identify social & emotional wellbeing needs to reduce social isolation and identify resources that are needed.

Abstract:
What we would like to achieve?
To grow the project's initiatives and create suitable resources and ongoing support for Communities. To grow the awareness of elder abuse more broadly across Queensland. Initial visits focussed on North West Queensland including the lower gulf remote communities, Doomadgee, Mount Isa and outlining towns where a majority of First Nations peoples live.

How the project team connected with communities, older people and service agencies across regional and remote Qld through our partnerships
The Department of Treaty, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (TATSIP) offices across Qld offered guidance and shared knowledge of regional & remote communities they serve and introduced the project team on our shared visits to community
The Project Team established a reference group, involving key stakeholders in the elder abuse field in Queensland, who were able to respond to on-going issues and concerns raised by communities visited.

Scoping and observation in regional & remote areas.
Barriers
- Lack of information around elder abuse and services that can support them
- Particularly noted was a lack of knowledge older people had of services available for them through aged-care. Many stumbling blocks to consider are technology use/access to internet/no devices or ability to navigate and understand systems
- Lack of aged-care facility, respite options. In one community, a residential aged-care facility not operating for the past 2yrs that could serve as a multi-purpose building for residential aged-care, NDIS services and accommodate respite /meeting place for Elders groups
- Lack of staff in many of the communities visited

- Qld data place perpetrators of elder abuse as mainly sons, daughters and grandchildren. Elders need to have their own space where older people feel safe, connected and supported. Over the past 12months, the project identified the lack of (or no) respite or meeting places for older people to feel safe and supported

Opportunities

There is opportunity to better serve the health & aged-care needs for older people and support their social & emotional wellbeing (reducing social isolation)

Outcome / Where to from here

Develop a new suite of resources co-designed with remote communities (brochure,poster, 3-5min video clip and broadcast messaging for local community radio)

The project recommended that a new *identified* position be established in Mount Isa to service far-north west Qld regions

Keeping Seniors Safe project team continue to work in collaboration with TATSIP service centres to provide awareness more broadly across Queensland and the Torres Strait

Format:

Co-presented as an abstract presentation