STIs and BBVs and associated issues in our communities
March 3, 2018. ABC - NIT Syphilis (6th baby death)

Remove at-risk kids, leaders say

A CULTURAL RIGHT? NO, CHILDREN HAVING SEX IS ILLEGAL

We are suspending the ‘human rights of NT kids and creating a repugnant mess

JOHN ELFRINK

In the 1980s I watched an ambulance officer protectively cradle a newborn infant in Alice Springs and coo softly at the little girl.

‘You’re so beautiful. It’s a new

bodies have been expanded. From 2000 to 2010 the budget for child protection grew from $9 million to $18m.

Former federal Aboriginal affairs minister John Herron once sent a memo saying the

The Productivity Commission has recently reported that $380m is spent on Aboriginal outcomes

This represents a return to an era when children were seen as non-human beings.
Why are white people on Sunrise with no experience calling for Indigenous child removals?

ABORIGINAL ADOPTION
Proposal for white families should take in abused kids

OPINION: "Debates facilitated by the wrong people does little more than stir up emotions and reinforce negative stereotypes rather than focus on solutions," writes Summer May Finlay

By Summer May Finlay
Wednesday and Thursday 14-15 March

Hunt flagged STI issue year ago

EXCLUSIVE
GREG BROWN

Health Minister Greg Hunt wrote to Labor MPs a year ago detailing the sky-rocketing rates of sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal communities, declaring the government was “assessing” a $25 million policy to tackle the issue, but later rejected it in favour of smaller plans which is yet to be rolled out.

In a letter obtained by The Australian, written in March last year, Mr Hunt told opposition health spokeswoman Catherine King and Labor MP Warren Snowdon that he shared Labour’s concerns about increased rates of STIs in Aboriginal communities.

Hunt

alert of one-third of the programs as part of an $8.8m plan to tackle the syphilis outbreak in central and Northern Australia.

The two other elements of the proposed three-year program — to reduce HIV risks and broader STI risks in Aboriginal communities — were rejected.

This is despite Mr Hunt writing about his concerns there had written a cover letter on the policy when it was given to Senator Sull- lison, warning action on the issue was “critical”.

Writing in The Australian today, Senator Smith said: “More must be done and faster. Good intentions will not be enough to avoid a catastrophe. The response needs to be rapid and strategic.”

The two pilot sites of the new syphilis program will start in May, 18 months after the government received the policy.

Indigenous Health Minister Ken Wyatt said the syphilis response was stalled.

“It is well advanced including the purchase of medication, on-ground co-ordination and the targeting of areas at greatest risk of syphilis,” Mr Wyatt said.

Mr Hunt’s letter was sent to

EXCLUSIVE

An STI epidemic in young people does not signal sexual abuse

EXCLUSIVE
STEPHEN FITZPATRICK

A syphilis epidemic that has gripped remote Aboriginal communities has been stoked by ‘wilful blindness’.

EXCLUSIVE
STEPHEN FITZPATRICK

A $8.8m program to combat syphilis in remote indigenous communities is on the verge of being rolled out.
Tuesday 20\textsuperscript{th} March

[Image of three individuals discussing Indigenous children]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>CT</th>
<th>NG</th>
<th>Syphilis &lt; 2y</th>
<th>All</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-15</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% 13-15 in &lt; 16</td>
<td>98.0</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 and over</td>
<td>1,368</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>3060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% &gt; 16</td>
<td>90.2</td>
<td>90.9</td>
<td>91.4</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Indigenous</td>
<td>1,517</td>
<td>1,590</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>3376</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

• Many caveats around data - but one thing is for certain most media are not interested in caveats
• Know your data
• Let people know majority of STIs >16
• Think about who else in Australia has to justify a failure of public health system - syphilis case with child removal
• Health Departments ready to feed people who can speak to media
STRIVE STI co-infections in remote Aboriginal communities: females

Guy et al STI 2014
STRIVE: STI co-infections in remote Aboriginal communities: males

Guy et al STI 2014
Total STI testing by calendar year

Number of tests

Year

2010 2011 2012 2013

Chlamydia

Gonorrhoea

Trichomonas

9,830 10,660 12,733 13,855

6,452 8,861 10,386 10,853
Retesting at 2-12 months after a positive Dx

Garton et al 2016
Repeat positivity at 2-12 months, by infection type and sex

Garton et al 2016
### STI and HIV/syphilis testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Any + STI test</th>
<th>HIV and syphilis testing within 30 days of any positive STI test (incl. same day)</th>
<th>HIV and syphilis testing within 30 days of any positive STI test (excl. same day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>HIV test &lt;30 days n (%)</td>
<td>Syphilis test &lt;30 days n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>15260</td>
<td>4,858 (32%)</td>
<td>6727 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4190</td>
<td>2035 (49%)</td>
<td>2355 (56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>11055</td>
<td>2815 (25%)</td>
<td>4361 (39%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward et al MJA 2016
Figure 1. Epidemic curve showing outbreak cases of infectious syphilis notified in affected regions of Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia from commencement of the outbreak in each jurisdiction to 31 January 2018.

MJSO Commenced April 2015
## Table 1. Characteristics of outbreak cases of infectious syphilis notified in affected regions of Queensland, the Northern Territory, Western Australia and South Australia, to 31 January 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>North Qld (four HHSs)</th>
<th>NT (four regions)</th>
<th>WA (Kimberley region)</th>
<th>SA (three regions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Situation to-date, 31 January 2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outbreak commencement month/year</strong></td>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>November 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of cases</strong></td>
<td>1066</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent cases reported in 15-29 year age group</strong></td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Male / % Female</strong></td>
<td>48% / 52%</td>
<td>47% / 53%</td>
<td>37% / 63%</td>
<td>44% / 56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congenital cases, confirmed (probable)</strong></td>
<td>4 (4)</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
<td>0 (0)</td>
<td>1 (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-number of deaths in congenital cases</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last reporting months, 1 December 2017 – 31 January 2018</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of cases</strong></td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent cases reported in 15-29 year age group</strong></td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% Male / % Female</strong></td>
<td>37% / 63%</td>
<td>41% / 59%</td>
<td>50% / 50%</td>
<td>0% / 100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enhanced response to syphilis

- Advocacy dating back to 2012- 2013
- Ministerial level (MACBBVS Min of Health)
- BBVSS level (special Meeting August 2015 Adelaide)
- High Level Summit 2015 STIs and BBVs
- Proposal requested from then Min for Health Sussan Ley December 2016, submitted Dec 2016
- Outlining response to STIs and BBVs
- Government allocated 8.8M for 217/2018 FY
Enhanced response

• Proposal went first to AHPPC Nov
• Then AHMAC (December 2017)
• Initial sites Darwin TSV Cairns, then Katherine West and East Arnhem
• Plan is roll out a Test and Treat model
• Main components- workforce- Rapid tests- community engagement
• Trial sites Commence in May
the GOANNA study

• National cross sectional survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16-29 years

• Assessed knowledge, risk factors and health service access for STIs and BBVs

• Collaboration involving every jurisdiction health Departments and ACCHS orgs
Television commercials

Feel free to use these in community settings, educators health promoters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGxnPbSo0uA

Syphilis educational animation

Feel free to use these in community settings, educators health promoters

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a54pOp_3UOA
All available and downloadable from a website

- **Syphilis Resources**: 9 items, Yesterday
- **HEPB Resources**: 3 items, 19 hours ago
- **HEPC Resources**: 3 items, 19 hours ago
- **HIV Resources**: 6 items, 19 hours ago
- **Factsheets**: 4 items, 19 hours ago
- **Educational Animation...**: 3 items, Apr 26
- **STI's**: 4 items, 20 hours ago
- **Infographics**: 6 items, 19 hours ago