

Top End Diabetes-Related Foot Complications in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

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Context

- AIHW estimates that 27% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 18 have diabetes
- Likely underestimated; that this is underestimated is substantiated by preliminary findings from our research
- NT has a total of 26 podiatrists registered with AHPRA and a ratio of 10.2 podiatrists per 100,000 people (national average of 17.9 podiatrists per 100,000 people)

Significance

- Diabetes related foot ulcers are an indication that a person is at risk of premature death and should be used as an opportunity to reduce risk (Jeyaraman et al, 2019)
 - 25% of those in RDH with diabetes foot ulcer died within 5 years
- Lynar et al (2019) followed those admitted to hospital (RDH) with a diabetes related foot infection; after one year, 1 in 11 had died and for those also on dialysis, 1 in 4 had died
- Diabetes related foot infections are a significant burden on hospital resources (Commons et al, 2015)
 - 19.4 hospital beds each day (31% of surgical beds)
 - 29 day median length of stay

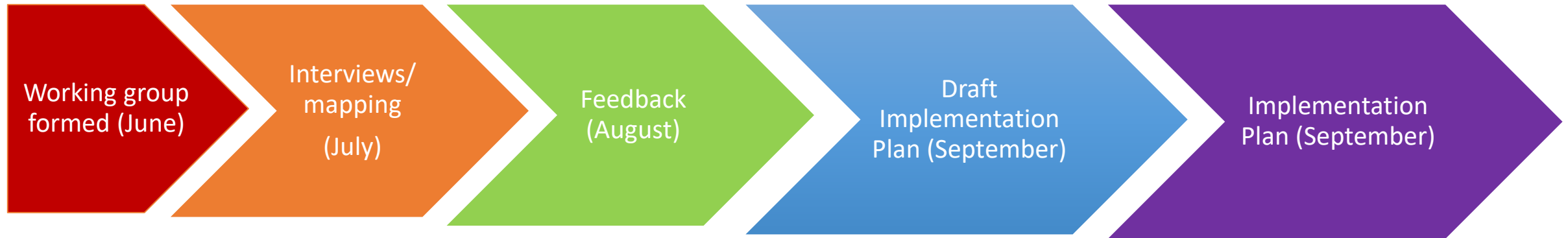
SAHMRI Project

Opportunity to:

Identify regional priorities for the Top End related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes and at-risk/experiencing foot complications

Collaboratively design and implement an Implementation Plan across sectors (government, Aboriginal Community-controlled, etc) and services (primary, secondary and tertiary)

Top End Process



Preliminary findings

Opportunities for improvement

1. Service integration
2. Strengthening access to services (regional and remote)
3. Building on the High Risk Foot Service
4. Education and Awareness

Next steps

Today is an opportunity to:

- Hear from other speakers;
- Discuss emerging priorities;
- Provide further feedback

Questions?

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