

Communiqué

DIABETES across the LIFECOURSE: Northern Australia Partnership

Annual Investigator, Clinical Reference Group and Indigenous Reference Group meetings

Darwin, 25th to 27th September 2019

The Partnership takes a lifecourse approach to the management and prevention of diabetes and related conditions, including better understanding and preventing intergenerational diabetes.

The Partnership's annual Investigator meeting, as well as Clinical Reference Group and Indigenous Reference Group meetings were held in Darwin, September 2019. Three overarching priorities regarding the future direction of the Partnership were agreed.

Priority 1: Preconception care and postpartum follow-up

- a) Dissemination and promotion of the postpartum Key 5 resources to project champions, key stakeholders and the wider community as well as consideration of additional interactive resources;
- b) Planning for the sustainability of the NT and FNQ Diabetes in Pregnancy Clinical Registers;
- c) Continuing efforts to embed best practice into existing systems.

Priority 2: Prevention of and screening for type diabetes in children and youth

- a) Commencement of PANDORA Wave 2 in November 2019. PANDORA WAVE 2 will engage mothers and their children (aged 6-10 years) and will run until 2023.
- b) Support clinicians to screen for type 2 diabetes in young people 10-25 years by promoting the NT Diabetes Network's screening recommendations.
- c) Consultations are currently underway that will inform the pilot of a Central Australian project based on Tribal Turning point (USA). This project aims to prevent obesity and diabetes in Aboriginal children.
- d) Advocacy and urgent communication to communities, organisations and government to raise awareness of the increasing rates of type 2 diabetes in Aboriginal youth and that this is intergenerational diabetes.

Priority 3: Managing type 2 diabetes in youth

- a) Development of enhanced Models of Care for young people with type 2 diabetes (funded 2020-2022 by Commonwealth Health across NT, FNQ and WA);
- b) Opportunity to also address preconception planning and healthy pregnancies while working with young people with diabetes and thus reduce the risk of intergenerational diabetes.

The Partnership's work continues to be underpinned by:

- Acknowledgement of the important contributions of the Indigenous Reference Group and the group's work around Indigenous Knowledges and sovereignty;
- Building on existing human resources and opportunities (using immunisation checks for babies to also check in on mothers, skilling up existing staff, working proactively with Partnership champions to distribute resources);
- Continuing to learn from other successful programs and approaches;
- Recognising the contributions of the Indigenous workforce in the Partnership's work and continued investment in skills development and supporting Indigenous leadership;
- Acknowledging the importance of healthy settings approaches, the social determinants of health and the need for multi-pronged approaches.