

**Injury Prevention Activity Among
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Peoples
Project Report**

**Volume II: Programs, Projects and
Actions**



Dr Kathleen Clapham



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

Injury Prevention Activity Among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Volume II: Programs, Projects and Actions

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by

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New Directions in Health and Safety

Photograph: 'Two boys from the Jigalong Community, Western Australia'

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Abbreviations

AHW	Aboriginal Health Worker
ALS	Aboriginal legal service
AMS	Aboriginal medical service
ATSIC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission
CRCATH	Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health
CDHA	Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
FaCS	Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services
FHBH	Fixing Houses for Better Health
IFVAG	Indigenous Family Violence Action Group
MNC	Mid North Coast [Injury Surveillance Project]
PADV	Partnerships Against Domestic Violence
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
NACCHO	National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
NDRI	National Drug Research Institute
NQIIPP	North Queensland Indigenous Injury Prevention Partnership
PAR	Participatory action research
PHCRIS	Primary Health Care Research and Information Service
RCIADIC	Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
SMA	Sports Medicine Australia
SNAICC	Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care
TEWLS	Top End Women's Legal Service
UNSW	University of New South Wales

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Overview

This volume presents the overview, methodology and findings of the consultation phase of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Injury Prevention Activity Project. To the extent permitted by the time frame for this project, it provides an overview of the current state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injury prevention activity, and the numbers and types of projects and their characteristics as well as a qualitative account of the experiences of key stakeholders. The discussion of the key findings and their implications, in this volume, is informed by current understanding of factors contributing to the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health projects and programs. Four appendices provide further details of the consultations; there are nineteen detailed case studies; and there is also a separate project database.

The consultation phase involved a limited, focused consultation of major stakeholders to assess their knowledge and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injury prevention activities. In order to describe the current state of injury prevention activity it was necessary: first, to conduct a broad search to identify existing injury-related projects and programs; secondly, to investigate the experiences of those involved in these prevention activities; and, finally, to make informed generalisations about factors influencing the success of their efforts. The search for relevant projects was not exhaustive; factors taken into account in deciding which projects were to be included as injury-related projects for the purposes of this study were: the broad nature of ‘injury’, the complexity of factors influencing injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and the wide range of prevention strategies employed.

What emerges from the consultation phase is that a large number of extremely diverse injury-related activities are currently being undertaken within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, mostly driven by community-based organisations. Some of the projects identified could be considered best practice in this field. Overall, however, current injury prevention activity concentrates its efforts on a few major areas of injury. There is little activity that addresses the whole range of external causes of injury which have been identified in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.