My journey in Indigenous Health in Alice Springs

Don Campbell
How did it come about?

“I get it”
Why go to Alice Springs?
What have I learned?
Indigenous investigations

'People are scared': the fight against a deadly virus no one has heard of

A failure to recognise the right to health of Indigenous Australians to ensure Indigenous Australians had the same opportunities to be as healthy as other Australians to take effective action to remedy longstanding and substantial health inequalities (with, for example, special measures) • to address a range of rights subject matters that impact on Indigenous health - social and cultural determinants of health.
Spirituality and Aboriginal culture

Culture Kin Country Language
What have I brought back to Melbourne from Alice?

- Indigenous Health Unit
- Community of Interest
- Transitions
  - School-Uni
  - Uni-Employment
- Pathways to employment
- Affirmative action
  - Education
  - Employment
- Advanced trainee rotations
  - Gen Med/ Renal/Endo/Cardiology

- I have much to learn from indigenous Australia
  - Cultural safety
  - Language and culture
- Sentinel syndromes
  - Violence

Dadirri – Listening to one Another

- Ngangkunyungkurr - dadirri – listening to one another in contemplative – reciprocal relationships.
- Pijiningatjara - kuliri (listening), or pulgkari Kuliri (yukuku (deep) listening, and wanting to listen).
- Bungarry – gen’u’a hearing, listening, feeling, thinking, understanding.
- Gunmbaynji – jinga-agaranga mangyi – hearing, learning, understanding, knowing from the heart.

Artwork: Christopher Edwarth-Nabees 2004
What advice would I give to specialists wanting to work in this space?

- The Health care system works very well
- Advanced Trainees love it
- Its deeply satisfying and rewarding work
- Holistic approaches that focus on the social determinants and engage with the community are essential
- You will be changed
Thankyou

- Adam Goodes
- The people
- RACP
- The Gen Med team at Alice Springs Hospital