

LET'S CHATTER DEMENTIA

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PROJECT OVERVIEW

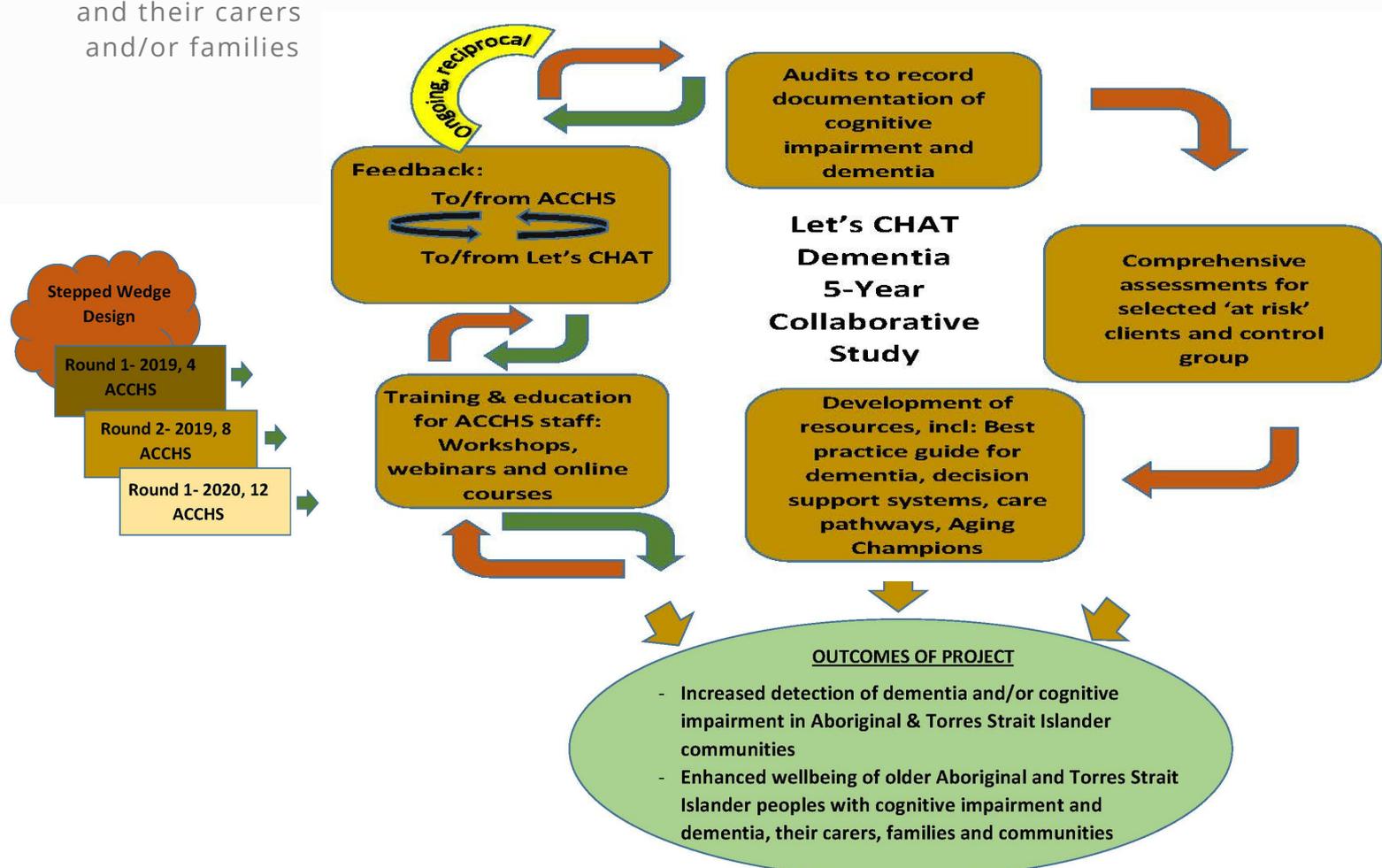
So what is the Let's CHAT Dementia Project? It is a five-year national research project funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Previous research by researchers on this team has demonstrated high rates of dementia and cognitive impairment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The aims of the project are to;

1. Increase detection of dementia and/or cognitive impairment (CI/D) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are attending Aboriginal primary care services and,
2. Enhance the well-being of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with dementia and cognitive impairment, and their carers and/or families

This will be achieved by co-designing and implementing a model of care embedded within Aboriginal Primary Care (APC) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs). This Model will be designed in collaboration with each partner ACCHS to make sure it suits the needs of each organisation. The model of care will consist of;

1. Training & education of health professionals
2. The development of a Best Practice Guide for dementia care & decision making support systems
3. Feedback from audits conducted every six months
4. Development of care pathways
5. Local Ageing Well Champions in health services.



RESEARCH ASSISTANT MEET, GREET AND TRAINING WORKSHOP

Earlier last month on the 9th and 10th of August the research assistant team had our very first meeting in Melbourne. We were attending a training workshop designed to provide an overview of the project and specialist training in data collection software, and to practice data collection techniques and the comprehensive geriatric assessment tool.

Of course, and most importantly, we were also there to get to know each other! On the final night we enjoyed some authentic Italian and a few glasses of wine on the infamous restaurant strip on Lygon St.

NEED TO KNOW AND UP AND COMING!!!

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group (ATSIAAG) is holding a Workshop on the 20th of November called "Exploring Appropriate Aged Care Needs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" (please contact me if you would like to attend at Kate.bradley@unimelb.edu.au)

FREE Dementia training!! The University of Tasmania provides free courses in Dementia education.... follow the following link to find out more!!

<https://mooc.utas.edu.au/courses>

The Australian Association of Gerontology conference is held between the 21st and the 23rd of November!! Find out more here...

<https://www.aag.asn.au/national-conference/2018-conference>



The team was in good hands, led by Lead Investigator A/Prof Dr Dina LoGiudice, Project Manager Dr Jo Hughson, and Project Research Consultant Dr Mary Belfrage.

The workshop attendees were Roslyn Malay (WA team), Wendy Allan (NSW team), Rachel Quigley (QLD team), Lorraine Sholson (WA team), Kate Bradley (VIC team), and associate investigator Sarah Russell (QLD team), and, lastly Chief Investigator Dr Kylie Radford (NSW team).

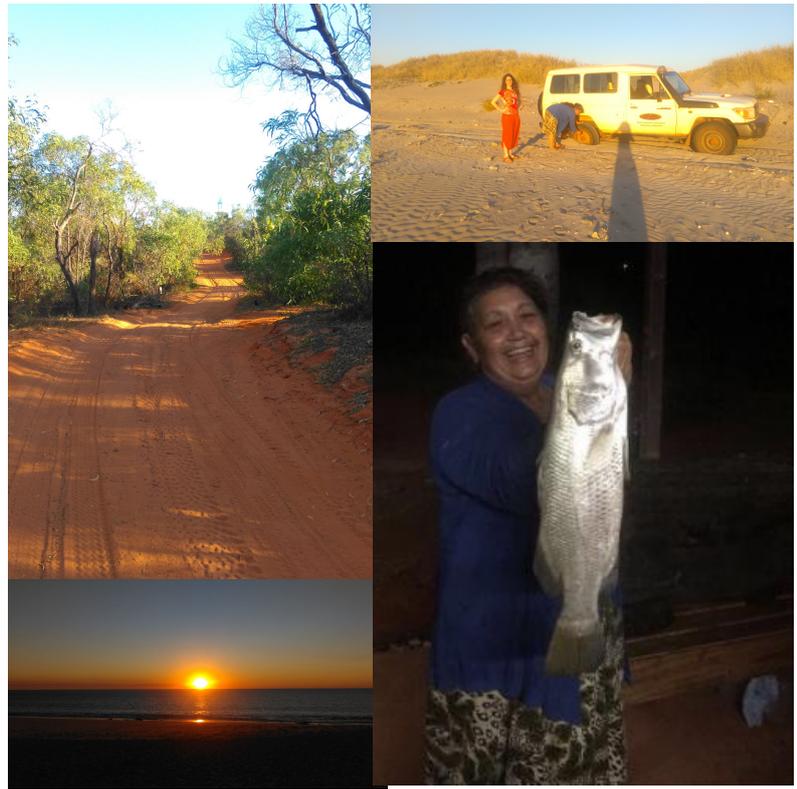
Left to right - Rachel Quigley, Sarah Russell, Lorraine Sholson, Roslyn Malay, Kate Bradley, Jo Hughson, Mary Belfrage, Wendy Allan, Dina Logiudice

FIRST KIMBERLEY AUDITS DONE & DUSTED!!

At the start of September members of the Vic team, Jo and Kate, travelled to the burnt soils and harshly beautiful landscape of the Kimberley. The objective was to meet up with local team researcher Ros Malay and bowl over 236 audits in two weeks!!

The team traveled first to the remote community of Bidyadanga, and the following week to Broome to work with the welcoming and hard-working teams at Bidyadanga Clinic and Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS).

During the trip, some of the team's adventures included, getting bogged on the beach, a local crocodile (& its intended trap), a thwarted flathead capture (made up for a triumphant Barra catch by Ros), eating Roo tail cooked over an open fire, oh, and of course, getting a few hundred of the audits done. So that's the first round of audits done in 2 health services, and only another 10 to go!



Ros Malay and Jo Hughson (we were bogged in the sand); Dirt road near Bidyadanga; Sunset on the beach; Ros Malay with her Baramundi

FLASH BACK: TRANSLATION WORKING GROUP

In March, the Let's CHAT Translation Working Group gathered to workshop the design of key toolkit resources. This group brings together researchers, ACCH representatives, and health and education consultants with expertise and experience working in Indigenous health and/or dementia resource development. Robyn Smith skillfully facilitated a dementia mapping journey and other activities for workshop participants and an abundance of rich data was collected to inform the design of the resources for the implementation phase of the project.

The team, under the guidance of Dr Mary Belfrage, is currently working industriously on developing a Best Practice Guide for Cognitive Impairment and Dementia Care in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. Training and resource implementation is scheduled to begin in April 2019.

Clockwise: Robyn Smith, Kris Garrett, Briony Dow, Diane Jones at the Translation group meeting.



The Let's CHAT Dementia Study Team and Co-researching ACCHSs

State	Co-researching ACCHS	Project Team
NSW	Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service Galambila Aboriginal Health Service Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Aboriginal Medical Service	Dr Kylie Radford (Chief Investigator) Gail Daylight (Associate Investigator) Wendy Allan (Researcher)
QLD	To be confirmed	A/Prof. Edward Strivens (Chief Investigator) A/Prof Mark Wenitong (Chief Investigator) Venessa Curnow (Associate Investigator) Sarah Russell (Associate Investigator) Rachel Quigley (Research Assistant)
VIC	Ballarat And District Aboriginal Co-Operative Mallee District Aboriginal Services Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-Operative	A/Prof Dina LoGiudice (Lead Investigator) A/Prof Irene Blackberry (Associate Investigator) Briony Dow (Associate Investigator) Noeleen Tunny (Associate Investigator) Paulene Mackell (Associate Investigator) Dr Jo Hughson (Project Manager) Kate Bradley (Research Assistant) Dr Mary Belfrage (Research Consultant) Robyn Smith (Research Consultant)
WA	Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services Aboriginal Corporation	Prof. David Atkinson (Chief Investigator) Prof Dawn Bessarab (Chief Investigator) Prof Leon Flicker (Chief Investigator) Dr Kate Smith (Chief Investigator) Prof Sandra Thompson (Chief Investigator) Dr Andrew Stafford (Associate Investigator) Roslyn Malay (Research Assistant, Kimberley) Lorraine Sholson (Research Assistant, Perth)
Other		A/Prof Kristen Jacklin (Associate Investigator) Prof Julie Ratcliffe (Associate Investigator)

If you would like more information about the Let's CHAT Dementia project, please contact Kate Bradley on 0481 900 008 or email kate.bradley@unimelb.edu.au