Socio-cultural determinants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing

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Outline

• Background
• Defining socio-cultural determinants
• Where the socio-cultural determinants fit
• What we know
• What we don’t know
• Progress in the area
Background

• The ‘gap’ and measuring the gap (what are we measuring?)
  – The ‘fundamental flaw of adaption of values and practices of western society’ (Yu, 2011)
  – Socio-cultural determinants (proximal and distal) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
  – Data availability and integrity/completeness
Definitions

The cultural determinants are a set within the social determinants, they concern features of a group that are bound in the vales, belief and behaviors within the group.


- Land/Country
- Spirituality
- Identity, Hx ancestry
- Family and community Hx
- Language/inc. reclamation
- Self-determination/Agency
- Cultural continuity
- Cultural economy
- Others

Focused on unique cultural elements and continuity of those elements
What we know

• Current data on cultural determinants
  – NATSISS
    • Living on country (9-40%)
    • Time spent with leaders or elders (23-48%)
    • Removal from family (limited useful data no account of intergenerational)
    • Psychological distress (30%- moderate to severe) 3 times
    • Language (40-70%), some words
    • Identifies with mob (62%)
    • Involvement in cultural events (63%)
  – Regional and local surveys (Yawuru, 2014)
What we don’t know

- Education
- Numeracy
- Literacy

- Cultural involvement/Cultural exclusion/Cultural transmission (Hunter & Harvey, 2002)
- Country (Burgess et al., 2008)
- Self-determination/Agency
- Cultural economy
- Language (Kickett & Tucker 2009) (Chandler & Lalonde, 2007)
- Racism Systemic/Individual (Paradies, Harris, Anderson, 2008)
- Cultural knowledge (d Souza & Rymarz, 2007)
A world in which all Indigenous peoples’ knowledge and cultures are recognised, respected and valued.