

Abstract Form

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Title of abstract: *Whisper No More: Sharing our stories for better cancer outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*

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Background:

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Indigenous Australians with many factors contributing to poorer outcomes: more advanced cancer at diagnosis, reduced access to/uptake of treatment, higher comorbidities, lower socio-economic status and language barriers. Earlier research highlighted the need of specific training for health care providers and students to assist their understanding of specific needs of Indigenous people with cancer and their families.

Aims:

The *Whisper No More* online teaching/learning curriculum package was developed to address identified needs and encourage deep reflection on current practices and the potential to improve cancer outcomes for Indigenous people.

Embedded videos enable Indigenous consumer voices into the teaching space. Health providers and students can access powerful personal experiences and research evidence.

Method:

Indigenous people with cancer shared their experiences and wishes for cancer care. Their testimonies were firstly captured by video recording within a safe environment. Editing resulted in a series of personal and themed videos developed and embedded in the teaching and learning resource *Whisper No More*. Themed topics include symptoms and diagnosis; treatment and care; individual examples of resilience and end-of-life wishes.

With development guided by an Indigenous Reference Group, the online package and supplementary Facilitator's Guide combine Indigenous health research and knowledge with teaching and learning principles aligned within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework.

Results:

Whisper No More health provider facilitated workshops has garnered interest with key stakeholders and plans are underway to develop general practitioner webinars. The online curriculum package is freely available via the WA Centre for Rural Health's website. Knowledge gained is transferable to other health conditions within Indigenous populations throughout Australia.

Implications that impact on your project:

The *Whisper No More* resource provides flexible learning opportunities for health science students and health care providers to increase knowledge and enhance understanding of delivering health care within a cultural context. Combining cultural empathy and competence with clinical capabilities can lead to improved cancer outcomes for Indigenous people. The resource has resonance to enhance care beyond cancer treatment.