

Rural Health and Research Congress #RHRC2019

Darlene Saladine CNS ARRH

Closing the Gap- One Shirt at a Time.



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Acknowledgement of Country

"I acknowledge the original custodians of the land that I live and work on as the First People of Australia, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and future – for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia"



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Where it all began:

- NAIDOC Week 2018- Huge change with Aboriginal patients, visitors & staff.
- Permission to wear Indigenous shirts every Friday- 'Fabulous Fridays'



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What a difference a shirt makes! My story



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The crew




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Artist- Bevan Quinlan



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Artists- Brian Irving



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Designing, process & how to do this right 😊

- So if you want to do a similar project:
- Permission from General Manager (Support), then those higher up in you Health District.
- We had a small committee of indigenous & non indigenous staff who were passionate about getting the project over the line
- Access, permission & collaboration with the artists
- Designers & clothing manufacturers (Bundarra or others)
- Ensure labels are correct
- Bank account etc....



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Samples & Prototypes



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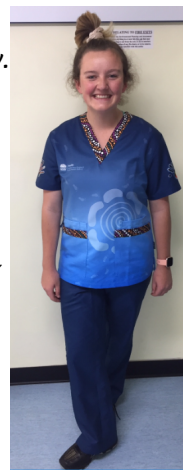
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Influence of Elders

'My Grandfather is an elder in the Armidale community. He believes it is a great idea for the Armidale Hospital to have these uniforms designed'
Ashleigh Richardson (School Based Trainee)

'Everyone in the community is so excited about the shirts. What a great idea.' (Rose Lovelock- Aboriginal Elder)



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NAIDOC week 2019

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So what was the response?

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112 items of clothing- Scrubs (Tops & bottom.
Polo shirt
Bamboo Polo shirt



85 staff members- Physio, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, X Ray staff,
Admin staff, Medical Staff, Nursing staff, Cleaners, Kitchen staff,
General Manager, NUM's (x4), Aboriginal Mum's & Bubs, Community
Health Staff, Car Pool Manager, ALO, Dietician etc....
Areas- Armidale Hospital, Community Health, Uralla, Orange Hospital &
Bankstown Hospital (Friends of staff members had heard
about our project & wanted to purchase items, with
permission from their area)



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Delivery Date: 4.10.19. Excitement +++



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Flow on effect & Sustainability:

- x40+ staff members requesting another order
- Theatre staff requesting hats to be made
- We are hoping to see a **reduction** in the number of "Did Not Waits" for Aboriginal patients
- We are hoping to see an **increase** in the number of patients that "Identify as Aboriginal" (with patients feeling more confident)
- Greater unity amongst staff
- - regardless of position



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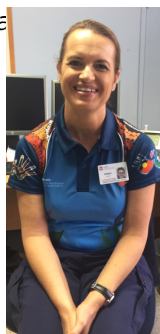
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Ability to be taken up by other Health Sectors

- *This project has the ability to be taken up by other health sectors.*
- *Contacted by Birra Li (Newcastle) & Quirindi.*
- *Our fabulous GM is moving to Port Macquarie*
- *(Relevance to Port & Kempsey Area)*



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Thank you & no time for questions 😊

- *There is so much chat about how great it is!*
- *Staff now have their own stories of what a difference the uniforms have made to an Aboriginal patient/visitor*
- *I would encourage anyone who is interested in 'Closing the Gap' to embrace this initiative. Wouldn't it be awesome to have all health services in NSW wearing indigenous scrubs & shirts that are significant*



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