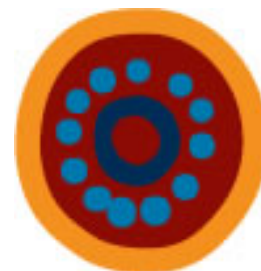


ABIOS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

Research and Development

Central to the ABIOS research and development program is a focus on research that is relevant to people with ABI, their families and communities and informs both service and policy development.

ABIOS has partnered with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities since 2006 to look at the best community rehabilitation model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with brain injury.



A Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities has been developed out of this work and has subsequently been endorsed by key stakeholders in Indigenous health and disability agencies.

CBR offers a complementary model of rehabilitation service delivery to address service gaps and works in partnership with communities to provide appropriate services to people with ABI and their families. It aims to build capacity of all involved in a socially inclusive way, using community development strategies. CBR strategies are used to engage with communities to determine community needs and plan level of participation.

The aims of this CBR approach are to:

- work at the community level
- learn from local people
- foster community awareness and activity
- with the aim of achieving community change.

Further, CBR aims to:

- increase capacity of communities to support community members with ABI and their families
- increase access to medical, rehabilitation and disability support services, and
- increase ABI preventative strategies

One of the major findings of ABIOS research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has been the need for culturally appropriate and relevant resources. As part of this research, ABIOS worked with communities to develop relevant resources, e.g. posters and DVDs.

ABIOS has also produced a DVD specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities with stories of and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with brain injury and their families.



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