

The M&M Show - Mimmies and Minnies

Yarning about **breast** and **cervical** cancer with Aboriginal women in WA



LEANNE PILKINGTON

Indigenous Program Officer
BreastScreen WA

JANINNE GLIDDON

Indigenous Program Officer
WA Cervical Cancer
Prevention Program

6th Australian Women's Health
Conference - Hobart 2010



Background

Talking about WA only

- **Breast Cancer**
 - Most common cancer in Aboriginal women
 - 2nd highest mortality rate
- **Cervical Cancer**
 - Twice as likely to get
 - Four times more likely to die from



Common Issues/Barriers

- Shame, time, other priorities, lack of understanding about screening, access, language and cultural, cost of Paps
- Urban
 - Accessing services
- Rural/remote
 - Lack of services
 - Distance/travel (esp BSWA)



Common Issues (for us)

- Only 1 of us per program
- Large geographic area
 - Culturally diverse
 - Over 100 language groups
- Two yearly
 - Mobile visit – (BSWA)
 - Campaign times/areas (WACCPP)



Addressing the issues

- **BSWA**
 - Transport in rural/remote areas
 - Block bookings
 - Resources
- **WACCPP**
 - Pap Nurse/clinics available
 - Campaigns
 - Resources
- **Holistically**
 - Work together and link with other services/AHPs
 - Take the message TO the women
 - Comfortable environment – to our women



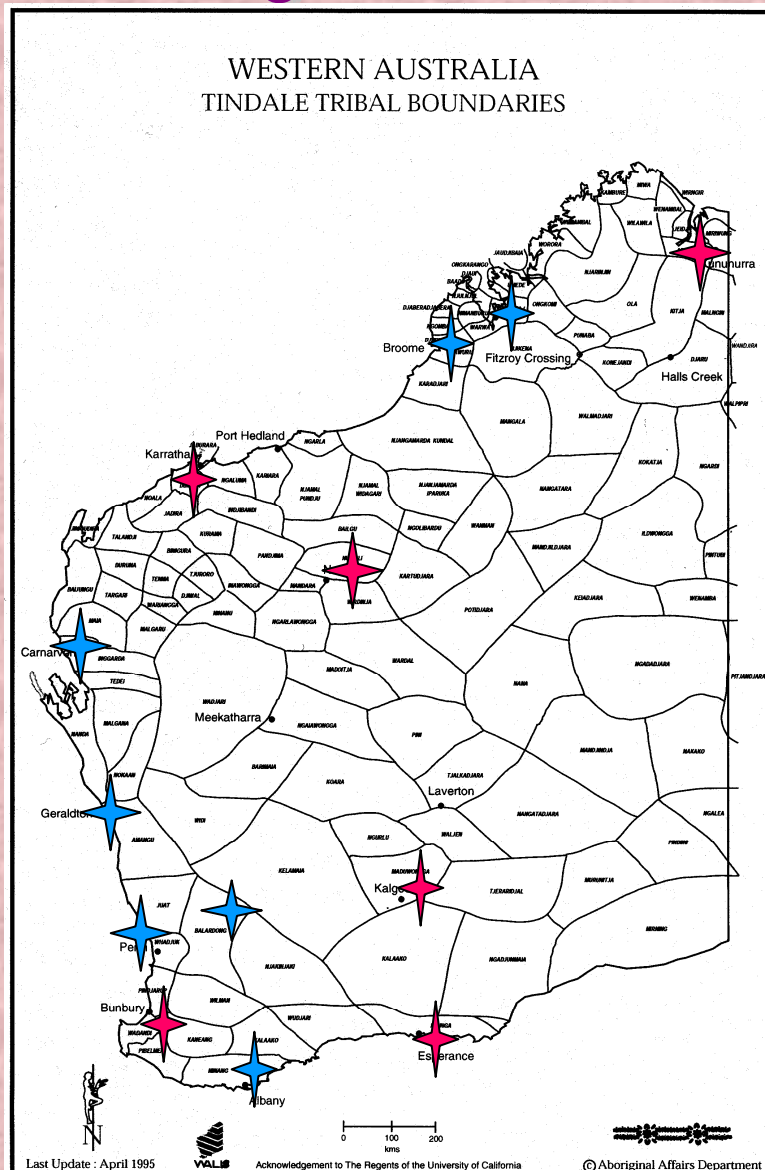


HEALTH MESSAGES

- Early detection is your best protection
- Cervical cancer **CAN BE** prevented
- Have a Pap smear every two years
- Over 40? Have a FREE mammogram every two years – once is not enough
- Stay strong and healthy for you and your family
- Be breast aware



Indigenous Women's Reference Group



- Aboriginal Women
- Statewide regional representation
- Know their communities
- Support during rural/regional visits
- Invaluable support and input!



Our best strategy



May 2009

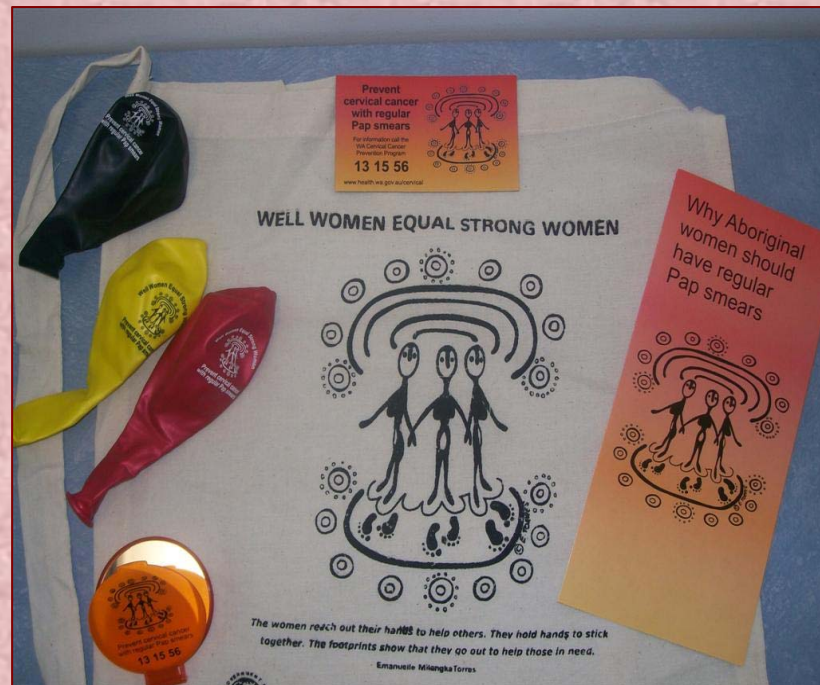


May 2010



Resources

- Culturally sensitive
- Input from communities around WA via IWRG
- Every two years



Acknowledgements

IWRG: past and present members

Past Indigenous Program Officers – BSWA & WACCPP



... and Finally

