

Western Australia Indigenous Health Study Tour 2007



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Methodology

- International Literature Search
- Best Practice
- Study tour planned
- Tour report
- Implications for the future

Funding

- ❖ Submission to Oxfam, Australia
- ❖ Jointly funded through:

Aboriginal Health Council of WA

Derby Aboriginal Health Service

South West Aboriginal Medical
Service

Countries Visited

New Zealand

Maori People

Canada

First Nations and Inuit People

Alaska

Alaskan Native People

ALASKA
Anchorage
Dillingham

CANADA
British Columbia
Yukon Territory



NEW ZEALAND
Northland
East Coast

ALASKA



- Governed by USA
- Legislative base
- Focus on traditional healing
- Permeation of culture
- Use of technology

CANADA



- Legislative Base
- Land titles
- Reserves
- Status and non-status criteria
- Focus on traditional healing

NEW ZEALAND

- History - Treaty of Waitangi
- Legislative base
- Advisory Groups
- Indigenous and mainstream health providers



Differences

- Focus of promotion and prevention
- Focus on self-maintenance
- Focus on oral health
- Consistency of programs nationally



Differences

- Oral Health



Differences

➤ Elder programs



Differences

- Local foods
- Healthy diets
- Traditional medicine
- Combination of traditional and western approaches



Social determinants of health

Child Welfare

Education

Employment

Health

Housing

Income Support

Mental Health

The Future

- Strong legislative commitment
- Government funding
- Evidence based practice
- Strong culture
- Focus on promotion and prevention
- Focus on children and youth
- Focus on oral health
- Chronic illness self maintenance

Existing Issues for Countries Visited

- Health Information
- Education and training
- Income support
- Isolation



Where to from here...

- Government commitment
- Sustainable program funding
- Increased \$\$\$ for oral health
- Implementation of cultural programs
- Recognition of traditional healing





Thank You

