

Use of action learning to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander information and communication technology resource – ‘Howsyoursugar’

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The internet and web technologies are becoming increasingly used for social communication and information. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics an estimated 50% of urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have broadband access at home. Almost all health education resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the internet are static, written materials outlining what people ‘should do’ they are essentially like pieces of paper available on the internet. We utilised one of these resources, the Diabetes Australia’s recommended 10 steps to living well with diabetes to develop a web resources that drew on the maximum potential of web technologies with information in a how to format. We combined learnings from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with diabetes and Aboriginal Health Workers to design an interactive tool that reflected the contemporary and decolonising world these people live in and struggle with at times. In this presentation we will show and share with you in a fun and interactive way the elements of the website and how these enhanced people’s stories and reinforced their messages. This includes such things as, use of particular graphic styles, sounds, settings, exploration and navigation. We discuss the things we learnt along the way, how we responded to these and how these are currently being evaluated. Some of the skills we learnt included: identification of appropriate information and communication technology partners, listening to story, responding to story, oral history skills, advertising campaigns and links to other quality health education resources.