

Tailored Immunisation Programmes

Ms Katrina Clark



Background



- The National Immunisation Strategy for Australia
 - 2019 to 2024 strategy aims to achieve 95% coverage for all children
 - **2025 to 2030 strategy aims to improve understanding of barriers to vaccination with a focus on co design, including Immunisation strategies to build community vaccine acceptance and improving trust in health and prevention systems.**
- Immunisation coverage/timeliness is lower in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children compared to non Aboriginal children in all countries
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience high rates of Vaccine Preventable Diseases leading to poorer health and complications.
- Aboriginal people often face greater barriers when accessing health services:
 - impact of colonisation and social determinants
 - racism and lack of culturally appropriate health services
 - socio-economic factors (transport, cost, access to information)



Tailored Immunisation Programmes (TIP)



Developed by the World Health Organization

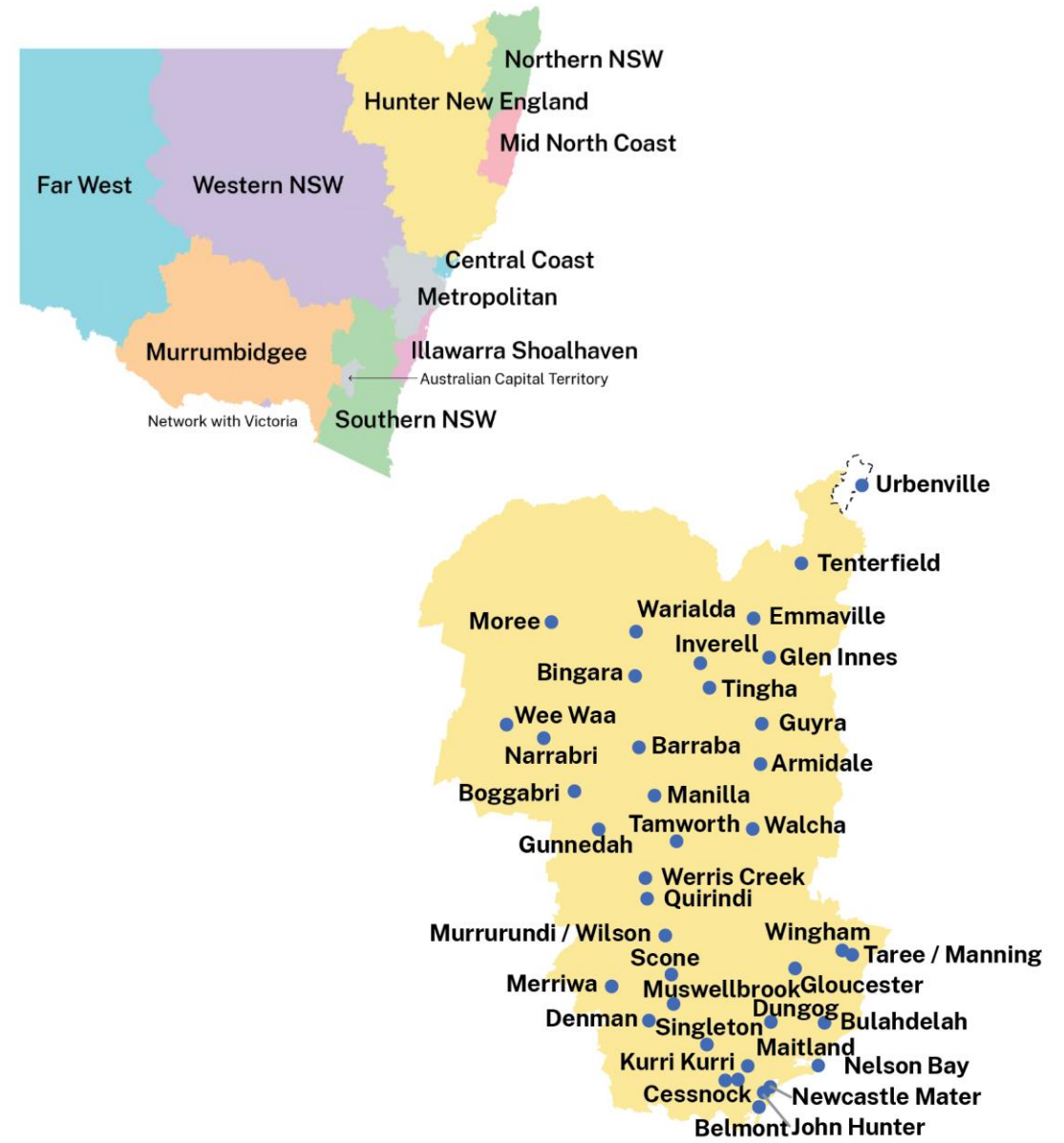
- ✓ Uses data to identify pockets of low vaccine coverage
e.g. Australian Immunisation Register
- ✓ Uses yarning to understand barriers to vaccination and what strategies are likely to be effective
- ✓ Involves co-design of tailored approaches with service providers and community partners
- ✓ TIP has been implemented in over 30 countries, primarily in the WHO European Region but also increasingly beyond.
- ✓ In Australia, HNELHD is the **first site to implement TIP in the Western Pacific Region** with a particular, but not exclusive, focus on Aboriginal infants.



Demographics of Hunter New England Region, NSW



Aboriginal People	Non - Aboriginal People
71,970	890,420
Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) covers a region of 131,785 km ²	
The population is projected to ↑ from 962,390 (2021) to 1,038,920 in 2030	
Aboriginal people make up 3.8% of the Australian population, and 7.5% of the HNE.	
27% of Aboriginal people in NSW reside in Hunter New England.	
Rural and Regional areas have the highest proportion of Aboriginal people.	
8 Discrete Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (Medical Services)	



Methods



Study Settings – areas of low coverage identified from Australian Immunisation Register data

- Maitland – a rural city, 166 kms North of Sydney
- Tamworth - a rural town, 420 kilometres north of Sydney
- Lake Macquarie – a large coastal city, 150 kilometres north of Sydney

Yarning Results

Maitland	Tamworth	Lake Macquarie
<i>Stakeholder interviews and focus groups (n=59)</i>	<i>Two focus groups (n= 6, n=15)</i>	<i>Two focus groups (n= 15, n=pending)</i>
Limited engagement with health services - unless need is urgent	Cultural safety in Immunisation services	Address service access issues
Multi-dimensional access barriers	Removing physical and cost barriers	Remove cost barriers
Need for supportive family centred, primary health care approach	Positive Immunisation stories needed	Re address misinformation
Data support and sharing	Data support and sharing	Data support and sharing

Tailored Immunisation Programmes (TIPs)



Maitland TIP

Who?

1 yr old not fully immunised.



Rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children increased from 57.7% in 2013

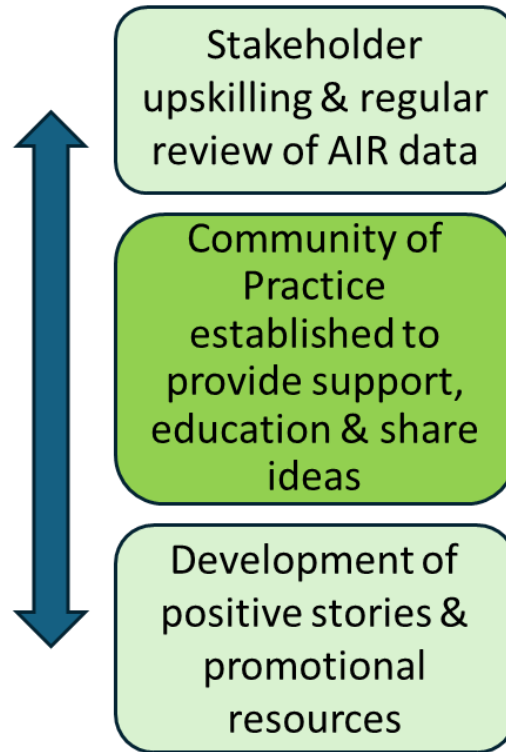
→ 92.6% in 2025



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

Tamworth TIP

Who? Aboriginal children <5yr old not fully immunised.



Rates for Aboriginal children increased from 63.9% in 2016

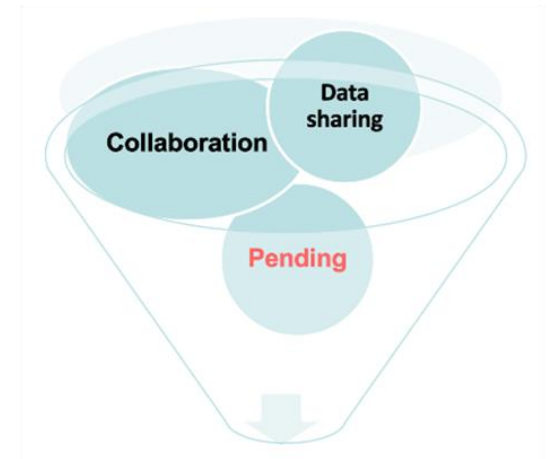
→ 98.4% in 2025

Lake Macquarie TIP

Expediated approach

Who?

12-15mth old not fully immunised.



Rates in December 2024:
Aboriginal children = 91.3%
non-Aboriginal children = 92.1%
.....not yet evaluated.

Discussion



Central to the success of TIP:

- ✓ involvement of local health services and communities
- ✓ embedded Aboriginal staff

In contrast to a one-size-fits-all intervention:

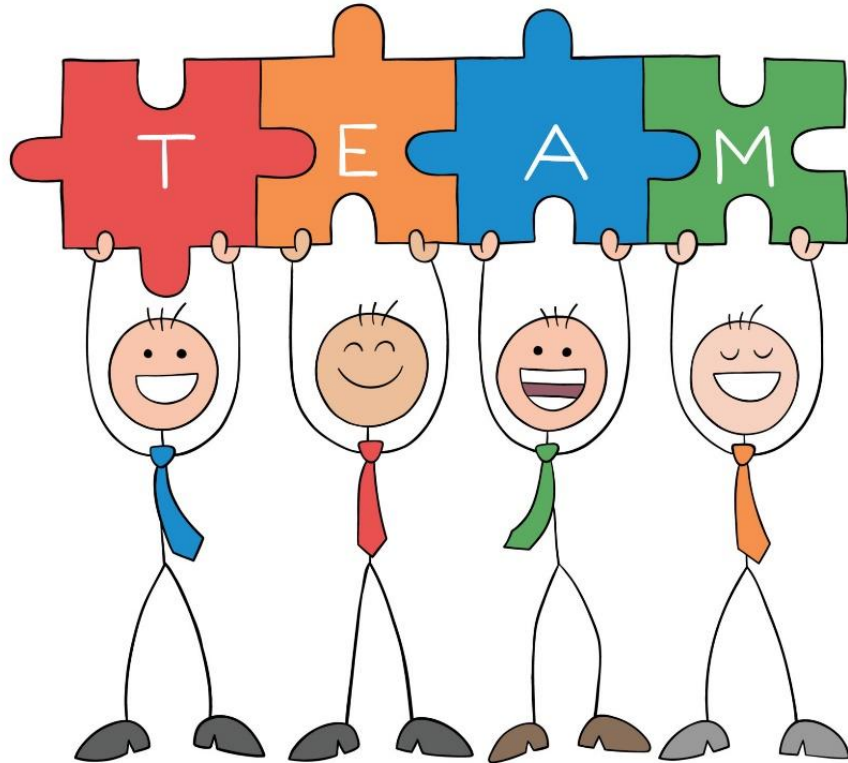
- ✓ TIP requires that tailored strategies are responsive to local needs, histories, and health system structures

TIP has demonstrated sustainable improvements by building local capacity and embedding change into routine practice.

A key innovation is the adaptation of TIP in Lake Macquarie, demonstrating that it can be responsive during urgent public health challenges, without compromising its core principles of community engagement and evidence-informed design.



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