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 ABORIGINAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Methods for Researching Chronic Condition Management Strategies in Aboriginal Communities

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Core project team

- ✦ **Principal collaborators**
 Inge Kowanko, Peter Harvey, Malcolm Battersby
 Flinders University of South Australia
- ✦ **Aboriginal research and ethics advisor**
 Alwin Chong
 Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
- ✦ **Project officer**
 Yvonne Helps
 Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

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Project planning

- ✦ Research question
- ✦ Methodology
- ✦ Analysis of data
- ✦ Ethics approvals

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Qualitative methods

- ✦ Interviews with service providers
- ✦ Interviews with clients
- ✦ Opportunity for focus group

Quantitative methods

Data collection:

- ✦ Accessing health provider databases

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Practicalities

- ✦ Who is to be interviewed
- ✦ Who is doing the interviewing
- ✦ Tape, paper, digital?
- ✦ Communication and consultation

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Yours and the participant's

Levels of:

- ✦ Knowledge
- ✦ Comfort
- ✦ Politeness
- ✦ Desire to please each other
- ✦ Understanding of the purpose of the interview

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Specific aims in health services

- ✦ Identify CCM strategies in use
- ✦ Explore issues and contexts of approaches
- ✦ Document what works well and why (clients and staff)
- ✦ Collect any data available
- ✦ Document systems and supports needed to deliver approaches

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Participants

- ✦ Written, informed consent is required from all participants (ethics obligations)
- ✦ Clients and staff at participating services
- ✦ Information confidential and de-identified (no names unless you would like to be acknowledged)

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Reciprocity – for clients

- ✦ Better understanding of their conditions
- ✦ Choice of level of involvement in their health planning with service providers
- ✦ Self-management strategy training
- ✦ Potential to support others in their community living with chronic conditions

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Reciprocity – for health services

- ✦ Capacity building in research skills
- ✦ Capacity building through staff training in the interventions offered (clinical skills)
- ✦ Translation of potentially effective and sustainable CCM strategies to other settings
- ✦ Research evidence to inform CCM policy and service delivery

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Communication and feedback

- ✦ Information sessions, information sheets
- ✦ Health service link people, client link people
- ✦ Advisory group
- ✦ Telephone and e-mail contact
- ✦ Check and recheck recordings – accuracy/intent
- ✦ Presentations to Boards
- ✦ Reports in various formats

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