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ARACY 2009
Transforming Australia for our children's future: making prevention work

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A rights based approach to improving Aboriginal child health

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A 'rights based' approach to health seeks to integrate human rights' mandates and conventions, including the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with core public health principles such as health promotion, disease prevention and interventions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international instruments have a focus on the social determinants of individual and community well-being which may be utilised to provide a framework for health reform, and promote participation and strength based approaches for the development and implementation of initiatives to support children, their families and communities.

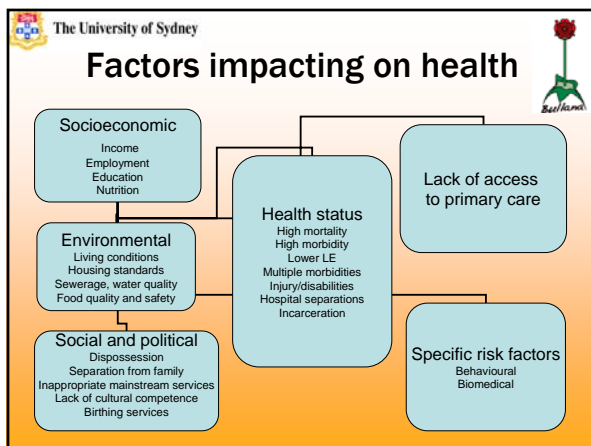
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Aboriginal child health

Figure: Population pyramid of Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations, 2006

Age group	Indigenous (%)	Non-Indigenous (%)
0-4	12	5
5-9	11	5
10-14	10	5
15-19	9	5
20-24	8	5
25-29	7	5
30-34	6	5
35-39	5	5
40-44	4	5
45-49	3	5
50-54	2	5
55-59	1	5
60-64	1	5
65-69	1	5
70-74	1	5
75+	1	5

- Young population
- Significant progress in maternal and infant health
- Persistent disparities include life expectancy, birth weight, smoking during pregnancy, preventable infectious disease
- Developmental antecedents of disease
- Epigenetics




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- Historical and contemporary policy
- NTER
- Lightning Ridge NSW

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A World Fit for Us

- Address at opening of UNGA Special Session on Children 2002
- The Children's Statement
- We are the world's children.
- In this world we see respect for the rights of the child;
- We see an end to exploitation, abuse and violence;
- We see an end to war;



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- We see the provision of health care;
- We see the eradication of HIV/AIDS;
- We see the protection of the environment;
- We see an end to the vicious cycle of poverty;
- We see the provision of education;
- We see the active participation of children;
- We pledge and equal partnership in this fight for children's rights...

"you call us the future, but we are also the present"

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Convention on the Rights of the Child



- Art 3 – the best interests of the child a primary consideration
- Art 5 - States shall respect the responsibilities, rights, duties of parents, extended family, carers, communities
- Art 24 – highest attainable standard of health

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Other Human Rights Instruments

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ILO Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries

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The Right to Health

- Not the right to be healthy, but the right to components to be healthy
- Entitlement to social and systems components that facilitate and support appropriate health choices and behaviours
- Provision of healthy environments for growth and development
- Include health education, environmental infrastructure, water, housing, acute and primary medical care



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Human Rights Based Approach

Human rights based approach to health equality

- Promotes the human rights principles of self-determination, participation, non-discrimination, accountability
- Inclusive of needs across the life cycle
- Health services must meet 3AQ criteria – available, accessible, acceptable and of good quality

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Social Justice

- Perspectives and definitions reflective of political, civil, economic, philosophical, religious, legal practices
- For example - economic egalitarianism apparently promotes progressive taxation and income redistribution
- Fair and proper legislative administration must conform to the natural law that all persons irrespective of ethnicity, gender, race, possessions, religion, age are to be treated equally and without prejudice
- Distribution of advantages and disadvantages across and within society
- Impartial, fair and equitable distribution of benefits
- EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY - EQUALITY OF OUTCOMES

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Social Inclusion

- Social inclusion is broadly concerned with participation in social life, and how systems, policies and services should be developed to facilitate engagement of, particularly, the most socially disadvantaged and excluded


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Social Inclusion

SI approaches are designed to -

- Reduce disparities
- Increase social, civil and economic participation
- Give greater voice and promote greater responsibility
- build on individual and community strengths
- develop and rely upon partnerships
- the creation of tailored services
- give high priority to early intervention and prevention
- use a whole of government approach
- use evidence and integrated data to inform policy
- focus on locational approaches
- plan for sustainability

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- Children as rights holders
- Participation
- Cultural issues – identity, cultural integrity and preservation
- Resilience
- Strength based approaches
- Family as core unit for child development
- Family centred case management