PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The Aboriginal approach to delivering holistic health was for the traditional healers (called Ngangkar in Central Australia) to select young people with the right attitude and aptitude to become “young doctors”.
Our Young Doctors - Dhalayi Doctors – Dunghutti, Umbarkalya Doctors – Alywarr etc - are trained by a combination of Elders, traditional healers (if available) and community workers to become health leaders with a knowledge of hygiene, nutrition, environmental health and health literacy. The Young Doctors are then supported as they engage with other children in their town camp or community encouraging others kids to take on good health habits.

PROJECT BENEFITS
The benefits of the Young Doctors program include:
1. Puts Indigenous people in control of their health
2. Improves basic health by breaking the cycle of poor primary health
3. Creates authentic relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people
4. Empowers Indigenous people to consider health as a career path
5. Builds cultural resilience
6. Replicable and adaptable

TRIALS
Young Doctors is based on a successful model implemented by the World Health Organisation in Tibet, India, Indonesia and Egypt. Bangladesh is currently training 1.2 million Child Doctors. First trials were held in the town camps around Alice Springs and then in Kempsey at the invitation of the Red Cross. This was filmed by BBC Euronews.

CURRENT PROJECTS
7. Sixty nine Young Doctors were trained in 2013 and over 450 will be trained in 2014.
8. Locations include urban, rural and remote situations in NSW, Victoria, NT and WA.
9. Local Elders and respected community leaders are remunerated to run the projects.
10. Projects are individual created in each specific location and follow ACARA protocols.
11. Experienced medical staff provide on-going advice.
12. All Indigenous peak bodies have been consulted.

PROJECT IMPACTS
The short-term impacts of the project include:
13. Improved understanding of basic health
14. Improved health literacy
15. Increase in notifications of ill-health
16. Improved social coherence
17. Improved communication between Aboriginal people and clinicians

SUPPORTERS
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