

Focus group questions

Thank you so much for coming to yarn with us today about keeping your diabetes deadly. It is important the information we talk about is not repeated outside our yarn today. Some of you may have met or seen us before but for those who haven't, I'm Alicia Burgess and I am a non-Aboriginal woman who has been working as a Podiatrist with the community for the last 7 years. I have spent a lot of time with the Aunty Jeans Programs to provide education, foot assessments and organise Podiatry referrals. And now I'm just going to hand over to Jess. I'm Jessica Hawkins and I am a Dietitian and Diabetes Educator who specialises in diabetes. I have been working in health for almost 10 years and more recently been involved with the Aboriginal community. And now I am just going to let Cathy introduce herself. I'm Catherine Kostovski and I am an Aboriginal woman from the Yuin nation. I have been working in the health industry for more than 10 years and I am the project lead for the Healthy Deadly Feet initiative to improve access to care and outcomes for Aboriginal people living with diabetic related foot disease in the Illawarra Shoalhaven area.

But today we want to give you the opportunity to share your story about your diabetes and your opinion about the diabetes surveys, or Patient Reported Outcome Measures that are currently being used in some health facilities and programs. These surveys are designed to identify any concerns for you and your diabetes management. It doesn't matter if you haven't used or seen these surveys before.

You may be wondering why we are interested in this. Well it's because, as far as we are aware, these patient reported measures have not been checked to make sure they are accurate and culturally appropriate for Aboriginal people to use. So we would like your help to work out whether the current surveys meet your needs. If not, we would like to help create a diabetes specific survey with you so that when you are asked to fill one out it is meaningful to you and the community.

Now that you know a little bit about Jess, Cathy and I, we would like to know a little bit about you. We have Aboriginal art cards here and we thought if we all picked a card that means something to us about diabetes we could use this card to start our yarn with the group. Does this sounds ok with everyone.

Would you like me to go first to talk about this card, or would someone else be happy to start?

***** Discussion about conversational cards and introductions *****

That was great and thank you to everyone for participating. We might now move onto the surveys.

Please take one of each of the surveys or if you would like to listen to a recording please let us know. You can yarn with someone next to you or look at the surveys yourself.

***** Time to look, listen and/or yarn about the surveys *****

So now we are going to ask some questions to prompt conversations about the surveys.

Questions:

1. What are some of the positive things that you found about the surveys?

Redirection questions

- So let's first focus about what is positive about the surveys- was there anything you found helpful, was there a particular question or topic you felt related to you?

PROMPT: Were there any other things that you found useful?

- Were there questions that you felt would be necessary for the health professional to know about you?

PROMPT: Are there any other essential things for a person in health to know about your diabetes?

- Were there questions that helped prompt you or are things you had not thought about but you feel are important?

PROMPT: Have the surveys brought up things that you had not thought about but you feel they are necessary?

2. What are some of the things that could be improved with the surveys?

Redirect questions

- Were there questions that did not relate to your current health needs (diabetes specific)

PROMPT: Are there questions that are not important to your diabetes management?

- Were there questions that were not cultural appropriate?

PROMPT: Were there questions that were not sensitive to Aboriginal past history?

- Were there questions that made you feel uncomfortable?
PROMPT: Are there any questions that you didn't want to answer?

3. Were there any things that you feel should have been included in the surveys about your diabetes that was not included?

Redirect questions

- Were your concerns about your diabetes covered in these surveys- if not, what do you think should have been covered?

PROMPT: Is there any other diabetes concerns that you think should be in the surveys?

- Do you think something was missing from the surveys that should have been included?

PROMPT: Did you feel there was anything that should have been included in the surveys that is important to you and your diabetes?

4. Did you like the way that the surveys were presented? Were they easy to read and understand? What are your reasons behind your answer?

Redirect questions

- Was the language appropriate?

PROMPT: Did you understand what the questions were asking you?

- Was it visually appealing to you? What would be a better method?

- PROMPT: Did the surveys look inviting to fill in? Is there another way that would encourage you to fill in the survey?

- Was it easy to complete?

PROMPT: Do you feel there would be a more appropriate way to complete the survey?

- Were there enough or too many questions?

PROMPT: How many questions do you think should be in the survey?

5. What do you think are the important factors that influence your diabetes?

Redirect questions

- Is there anything that currently impacts your diabetes management (mental health, social, financial)

PROMPT: Are there any other factors that affect your ability to manage your diabetes?

- Are there any concerns in the future about your diabetes that you think should be included in the survey?

PROMPT: Are you worried about what could happen to you in years to come because of your diabetes?

- Is there anything specific to the Aboriginal population that should be addressed in a diabetes specific PROM survey?

PROMPT: Are there important factors that should be in the survey that are particular to the Aboriginal community?

- What information would you really want your health care professionals to know and help you with?

PROMPT: Is there anything else that is important to your health that we haven't discussed or mentioned yet today?

6. And finally, just so we have an idea of long each of you have been managing diabetes, could we ask each of you to let us know when you were first told you had diabetes, and if your doctor has recently told you about how your blood glucose or sugar levels are going?
7. Would you like to see or hear a transcript of the focus group before it is analysed?
8. Would you like to have your information identified or de-identified when the results are published?

Thank you so much for having a yarn today and sharing your valuable knowledge and story. We will listen and read through your stories to understand whether your needs are being met and then we look forward to coming and sharing the results with you.