

Improving health literacy & shared decision making between clinicians & Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander paediatric burn patients.

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What was previously known?

High health literacy:

- Is linked to better health outcomes¹⁻⁴
- Allows caregivers to competently seek, understand, evaluate, and use health information^{1,2}
- Allows for informed choices and shared decision making^{1,2}

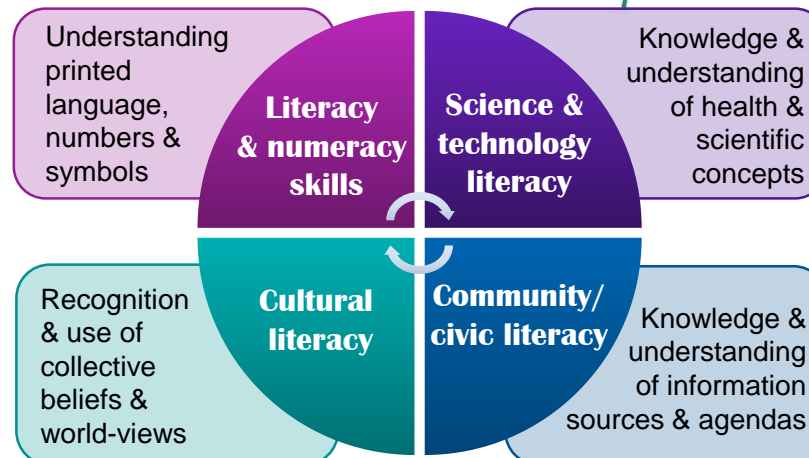
However:

- Caregivers are often unable to recall important medical information/instructions⁵
- Caregivers often have ongoing questions about their child's treatment⁵

What are our research aims?

- Explore burn clinician's perceptions of health literacy
- Explore Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families understanding of burns care
- Examine discrepancies between family and clinicians perceptions of understanding
- Explore current barriers to effective development of health literacy skills

What is health literacy?



What is the process?

Participants: Caregivers of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander paediatric burn patients and their treating burn clinicians.

Mixed qualitative methods:

- Ethnographic observation of patients acute burns care
- Retrospective 'thinking aloud' sessions with burn clinicians
- One-on-one yarning sessions with caregivers

What have we found?

- Discrepancy in clinician's and families understanding
- Caregivers want to be included in decision processes
- Burns care and information is overwhelming for caregivers

You walk out of there, like, okay, well, all that's scrambled eggs in my brain. - Caregiver of pt.1

I think they understood. I'm very direct and blunt with my answers - Clinician of pt.1

I could ask him [the doctor] questions and he didn't seem thrilled that I was asking them...But again, I've got to look after this and manage this at home. I'm going to ask questions. - Caregiver of pt.2

Where to from here?

- Qualitative Interviews will continue until data saturation is achieved
- Conclusions will aid development of health literacy skills interventions/resources and opportunity for shared decision making. Developed through:
 - Yarning circles with caregivers
 - Focus groups with burn clinicians

My sincerest thankyou to the caregivers and clinicians who have shared their stories with me, and graciously welcomed me into the burns unit and their children's appointments.