



## Indigenous EarInfoNetwork

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<b>Name</b>	Hasantha Gunasekera
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:hgun6897@mail.usyd.edu.au">hgun6897@mail.usyd.edu.au</a>
<b>Program/project title</b>	The management of children with otitis media: a survey of Australian Aboriginal Medical Services
<b>Organisation/institution</b>	University of Sydney
<b>State/Territory</b>	NSW
<b>Online info</b>	N/A
<b>Aims/objectives</b>	<p>1.0 Burden of disease:</p> <p>1.1 To determine the proportion of children seen in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who have a diagnosis of otitis media.</p> <p>1.2 To determine how medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services examine children for otitis media.</p> <p>2.0 Management of acute otitis media:</p> <p>2.1 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who use oral antibiotics for acute otitis media at the initial consultation.</p> <p>2.2 To determine which oral antibiotics are used for acute otitis media and the duration of therapy.</p> <p>3.0 Management of otitis media with effusion:</p> <p>3.1 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who use oral antibiotics for otitis media with effusion at the initial consultation.</p> <p>3.2 To determine which oral antibiotics are used for otitis media with effusion and the duration of therapy.</p> <p>4.0 Management of chronic suppurative otitis media:</p> <p>4.1 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who use oral antibiotics for chronic suppurative otitis media.</p>

	<p>4.2 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who use topical otic antibiotics for chronic suppurative otitis media.</p> <p>4.3 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who use betadine syringing or dry mopping for chronic suppurative otitis media.</p> <p>4.4 To determine the proportion of medical practitioners working in Australian Aboriginal Medical Services who would refer children with chronic suppurative otitis media for a hearing test.</p> <p>5.0 Indigenous status</p> <p>5.1 To determine whether Indigenous and Non-Indigenous children with otitis media are managed differently.</p>
<p><b>Description</b></p>	<p>We sought to survey all medical practitioners working in Aboriginal Medical Services (AMS) throughout Australia. As there are many different types of services, and they can have differing organisational and funding structures we decided to use a standard national list. We used the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) list of Australian AMSs, available on their webpage (10) to identify the AMS.</p> <p>The director of medical services or equivalent was contacted by phone by one of two research assistant in October 2006. We asked whether the AMS saw children with otitis media. This was to ensure that the questionnaire was only sent to medical services in which children with health problems were assessed and managed. As the AMS medical workforce can be transient we asked for the names of each medical practitioner who would be expected to be working next month (November 2006). Part-time as well as full-time practitioners were included.</p> <p>With this information we were able to address the covering letter to each doctor personally. If the names could not be provided we asked for the total number of medical practitioners who would be working in November 2006 and sent the questionnaires addressed as "Dear doctor".</p>
<p><b>Timeline</b></p>	<p>The survey will be mailed in November/December 2006 and concluded in early 2007.</p>
<p><b>Partners (if applicable)</b></p>	<p>The survey is a collaboration between the University of Sydney, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, the Aboriginal Health &amp; Medical Research Council and The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation</p>
<p><b>Funding</b></p>	<p>There are no external sources of funding for this project. Dr Hasantha Gunasekera is supported by an NHMRC Training scholarship in Indigenous Health (Grant ID 40296)</p>
<p><b>Outcomes and outputs</b></p>	<p>Outcomes: The names of medical practitioners working in AMSs around the country have been entered into a database. The survey will be sent to these doctors in November / December 2006</p>

<b>Evaluation</b>	A progress report will be provided to ethics bodies in the middle of 2007
<b>Lessons learned</b>	N/A
<b>Further information</b>	The project has been supported by 9 ethics bodies and boards around the country. Ethics approval from the South Australian Aboriginal Health Council is due in December 2006