Screening an entire community: What it really involves – the logistics, the challenges and building trust.

George Garambaka 2 Gurruwiwi
Conflicts of Interest

- Nil.
About me

• My name is George Garambaka 2 Gurruwiwi.

• I’m a Yolŋu clan leader and ceremony man.

• My country is Galiwin’ku, Elcho Island, Northern Territory, Australia.
The logistics

• Galiwin’ku is the main town on Elcho island ~600km (by plane) from the capital city of the NT, Darwin.

• The nearest regional hospital is 140km by air.
The logistics

• Dirt roads to all 12 outstations, sometimes cut off in wet season only access is by light aircraft.
• Population of 2500-3000.
• 55kms long and 6km at it’s widest point.
The Challenges

- Lack of knowledge around Hep B.
- Embarrassment people feel when talking about Hep B.
- Takes long time to explain even when using the Hep B Story app.
- Need to work around cultural obligations:
  - Death/Funerals
  - Ceremony
  - Family
Hep B is common in the Northern Territory, about one person out of every 10 has it. Often a few people in one family will have Hep B and most commonly they will have got it when they were very young.
My Story

• I would like to show you a movie to explain my work in hepatitis.
Trust

• Building trust with community members requires plenty of time and patience.
• People need to be given space to think about making any decisions to participate in our Hep B projects.
• Yolŋu people are more comfortable talking with Yolŋu researchers.
• This is why it is best the research is guided and led by Yolŋu people.
Thank you/Marrkamirr
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