

**Quality use of medicines  
Challenges for GP, Hospital and Community**

**Pushing the boundaries:  
pharmacy services to remote  
Aboriginal communities**

**Presentation by**

**Rollo Manning**

**Pharmacy Consultant to Tiwi Health Board**

**Linda Pupangamirri**

**Pharmacy Technician**

**Julanimawu Health Clinic**

**Bathurst Island**

# How did “pharmacy” meet challenge of change?

## Consider...

- **Ownership of “pharmacies”**
- **Location of PBS approved pharmacy**
- **The function of “remote” pharmacy**
- **IT system to suit patient needs**
- **Indigenous “pharmacy technicians”**

# How does the Nguiu operation differ from the way it was done in the past?

## Before

- Dispensing done at RDH
- Hand written label
- Faxed order to RDH
- Pharmacy done by AHWs and RNs
- Dosette boxes for everyone

## Now

- Dispensing done at clinic
- Laser printed label
- Order through THB
- Pharmacy Technicians training
- Websterpaks the norm

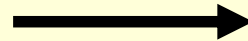
# How does the Nguiu pharmacy operation benefit the Tiwi people?

## Immediate medicine supply

- Dispensing recorded on database
- Neat label printed
- Advice available

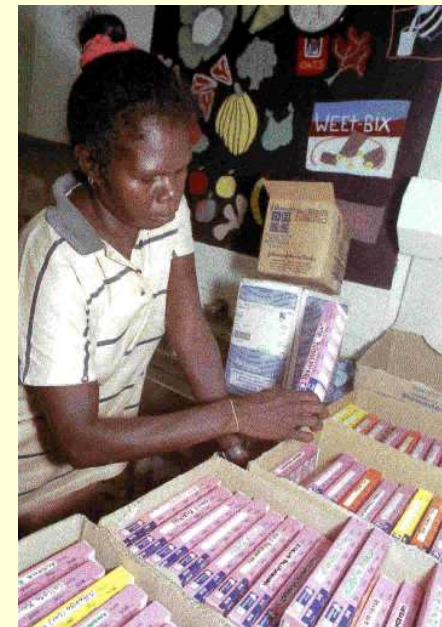


# How does the Nguiu pharmacy operation benefit the Tiwi people?



## Improved packaging

- Websterpaks/Clamshells used routinely
- No dust, ants, moisture
- Filled in advance of need

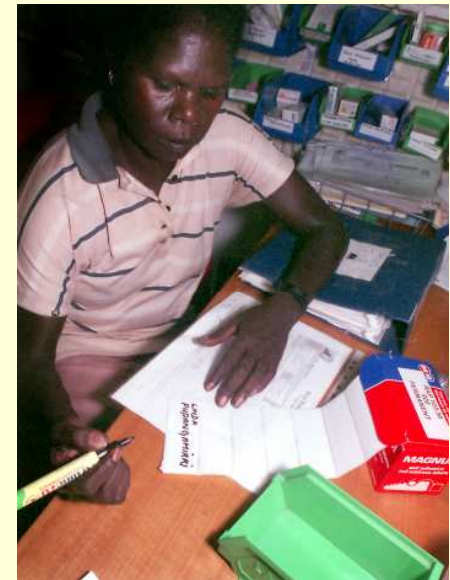
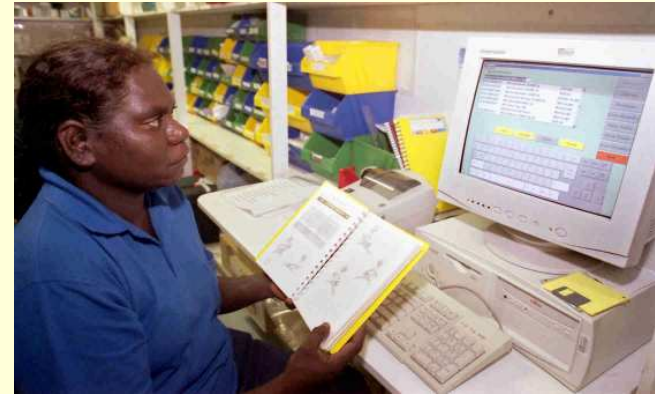


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How does the Nguiu pharmacy operation benefit the Tiwi people?

**Increase knowledge  
and understanding  
of  
medicine and its role  
in chronic disease  
management**

- Learning from graduate and pharmacist
- Talking to clients
- Delivering of Websterpaks
- Talking to children
- Rewarding high achievers



**How does the Nguiu pharmacy operation benefit the Tiwi people?**

## **Employment and training opportunity**

- **“Pharmacy Tech” position created**
- **Career path**
- **Help people understand medicine**
- **Trained by pharmacist or pharmacy graduate**



# **Why has it been successful?**

- **Full support of Tiwi Health Board to be different.**
- **Clever use of PBS Approval Number for own pharmacy operation.**
- **Ability to use PBS through Section 100 arrangements for remote Aboriginal health clinics.**
  - **Fortunate liaison with Webstercare Australia (Gerard Stevens).**
  - **Persistence in the face of adversity**

# The Tiwi Health Board is working towards a healthier community



***Barry Puruntatameri – Chairman – Tiwi Health Board***

***“A healthy community will lead to healthy people.***

***“We believe that we can create a healthy and happy community in which people live – and this will lead to those people living to see their grandchildren play football”***

**WE’RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT IT – WE’RE DOING IT**

# What can pharmacy do....

- *Structure itself to meet the need*
- *Ignore pre-existing beliefs on ownership*
- *Encourage new career paths*
- *Improve QUM*

*Too often we are put off a path for change because of a perceived conflict.. In Aboriginal health we must face that conflict and bring about change – there is not the time to wait for someone else to do it.*

Thank you..

For more information:

**Rollo Manning**

**Manager**

**Mirrijini Pty Limited**

**PO Box 98**

**Parap NT 0804**

**Telephone: 08 8942 2101**

**0411 049 872**

