

Where to from here in controlling Strongyloidiasis in Australia?

An outsiders point of view

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Darwin

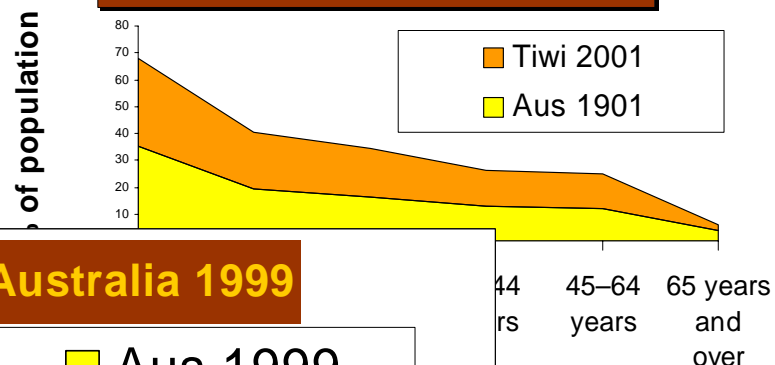
“To succeed we must have the vision to see, the wisdom to plan, the courage to act”

Bill Tresize (Founder of Lions in Australia)

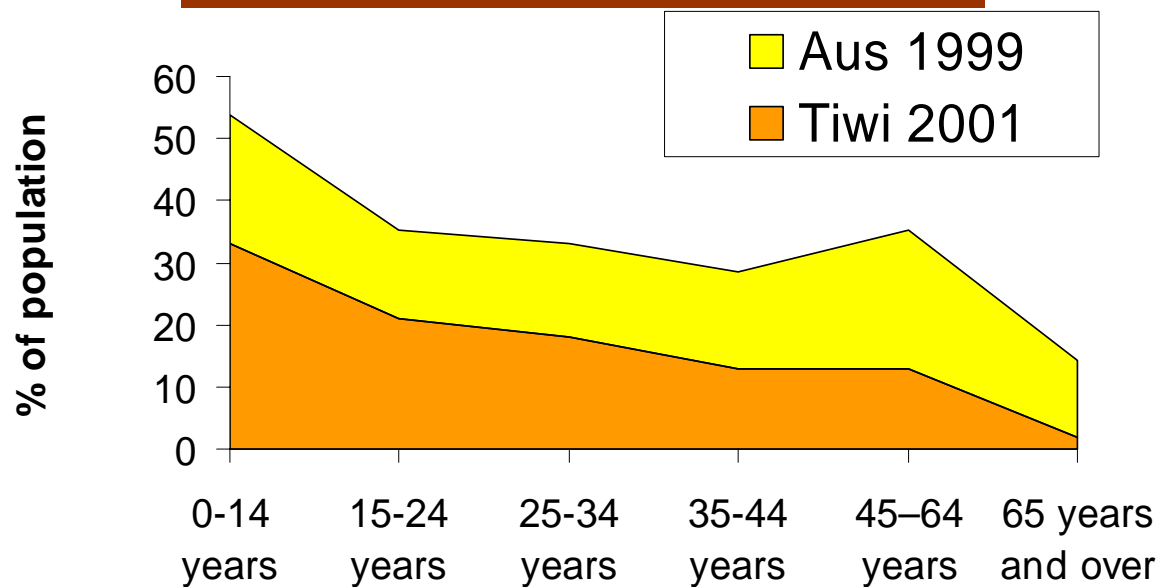
Where are we at?

Population profile

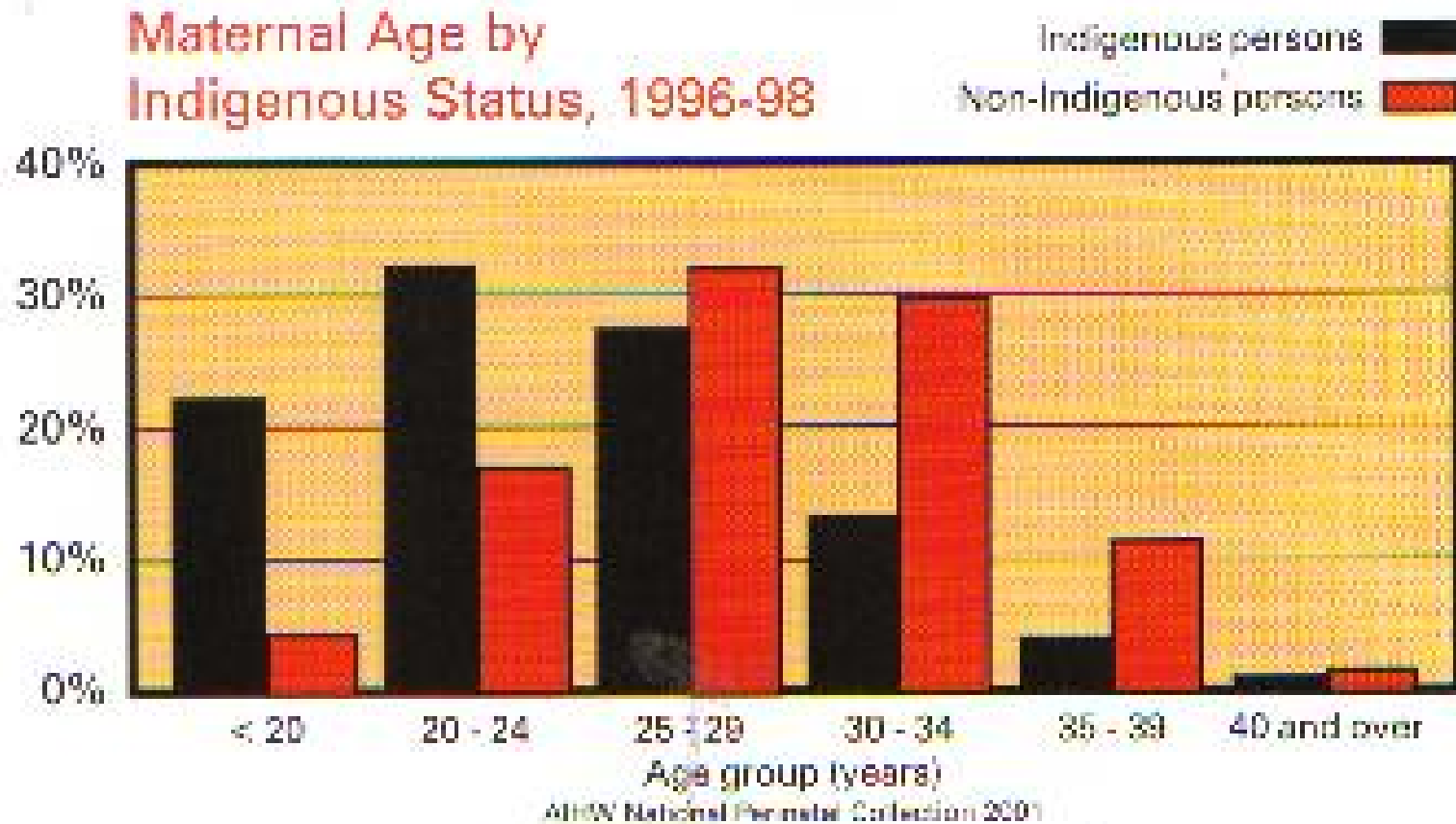
Compare Tiwi 2001 & Australia 1901



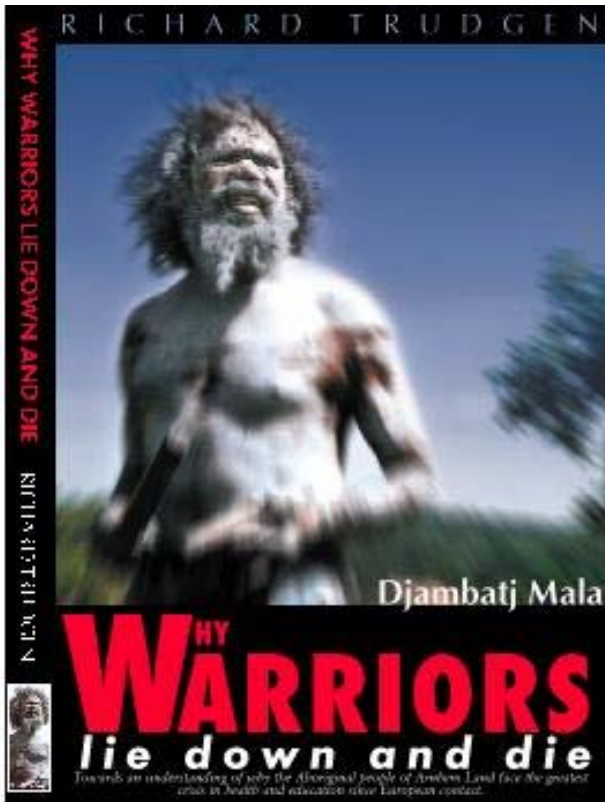
Compare Tiwi 2001 & Australia 1999



The generation gap is narrow



The opportunities are limited



- “in 1983, ninety-five per cent of the work on communities was carried out effectively by the people themselves....in 1992.... only a few... remained involved in meaningful work. “

Richard Trudgen

Where are we going...?

Social determinants of health



Poverty

Inadequate housing

Unemployment

Substance abuse

Poor nutrition

Domestic hygiene

Where does the Strongyloides worm fit in to this scenario?

- It should not
- It is preventable
- The environment needs fixing
- Personal hygiene should improve
- Diagnosis is possible
- Treatment is simple and safe

My views

(based on experience in the NT)

1. The community/clinical group

Health authorities should be supporting population based screening and treatment

The members of this group include academics, researchers, community leaders, doctors, microbiologists, epidemiologists, nurses and university students.

2. The official departmental government group

It (Ss) is a problem but more evidence is needed. Members of this group are those employed by the public service and occupying leadership positions in NT academia.

Governments cannot do everything

The Power of One

Stemming the tide of river blindness: the early years of ivermectin

Hugh R Taylor

MJA 2003; 179 (11/12): 617-619

“To supervise the distribution of the donated ivermectin, Merck created the Mectizan Expert Committee. This joint committee was based at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Centre in Atlanta and included representatives from WHO and Merck, and other experts.

When organised it can happen

“In 2002, nearly 50 million doses of ivermectin were given away free: over four million doses a month, treating about 100 people every minute.”

“Power of one”
Prof Hugh Taylor

“Humans, including clinicians, crave certainty, but in biological systems certainty is an illusion and a relentless crusade for certainty may retard the application of useful but imperfect measures to improve health” [1]

[1]

Gigerenzer G. Reckoning with risk: Learning to live with uncertainty. London: Penguin books, 2002

The thirst for knowledge

- The **degree to which the existing evidence is adequate** to support a decision by governments to fund a population based screening and treatment process for high risk communities.

Priority in health policy planning

- The **priority that Ss infection should have alongside other conditions** causing death in Aboriginal people and thus retaining a low life expectancy.

Safety of treatment

- The **safety aspects of the drug treatment by Ivermectin** which is effective in eliminating the Ss worm after two to three controlled doses.

Direction for treatment

- The **autonomy of doctors practicing in remote locations** and whether it is appropriate for their judgment on treatment options to be influenced by departmental or government policy.

Community education

- The extent to which the **Aboriginal people understand the problem**, how infected people spread Ss and its link to unhygienic living conditions.

Environmental factors

- The degree to which **environmental health factors** are being rectified to prevent reinfection or transmission for the first time to the children in communities

Components of a National control program

- Governance
- Prepare budget
- Obtain funding
- Establish data base
- Identify target populations
- Distribute information
- Lay out action plan
- Implement

Stakeholders
ACTM
NH&MRC
CW DOHA
State/Territory DOH
Divisions of GP

The River Blindness Foundation, the Carter Centre and other non-government organisations convinced the World Bank to start a special program to distribute Ivermectin in Africa, worth about \$300 million.”

Criteria for defining target community

In conclusion...

Combantrin

Home

Facts about worms

How do you get worms?

Treating worms with Combantrin

Treating threadworms with Combantrin-1

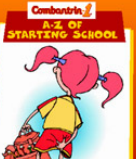
Frequently asked questions

Schools action plan

Kidz biz

Free screenover

Hassled by headlice? Visit www.banlice.com.au



Treating worms with Combantrin

This section contains information on why Combantrin is the best choice for treating worms, how it works to treat threadworm & the rare worms roundworm & hookworm, in a single dose, plus essential advice to help prevent reinfection.

Why Choose Combantrin?

Just as threadworm is easy to catch, it can be treated very easily & effectively with Combantrin. There are several different worming products on the market. So why should you choose Combantrin?

- Combantrin is Australia's leading worming treatment
- More people trust & use Combantrin in Australia than any other worming brand.
- Combantrin treats threadworm, as well as the rare worms roundworm & hookworm, in a single dose
- Combantrin comes in a wide variety of



Combantrin is available at all good pharmacies

[Why Choose Combantrin?](#)

[How Combantrin works](#)

[Allergy Checklist](#)

[Preventing reinfection](#)

The drug is safe – could be cheap

HOW TO ORDER | PAYMENT | POSTAGE AND HANDLING | REGISTER AS A MEMBER | HOME

ePharmacy Search: All Products ADVANCED SEARCH

www.ePharmacy.com.au

SHOPPING CART | CHECKOUT | ITEMS: 0 | TOTAL: \$0.00

HEALTH | BEAUTY | GENERAL MEDICINES | PERSONAL CARE | MEDICAL ADVICE | MEDICAL AIDS | PRESCRIPTIONS

General Medicines... Treat your everyday ailments

back to: General Medicines | Worming Treatments

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Vermox Tablets 6

Janssen-Cilag

Product Code: 870188

\$15.99

Vermox

Threadworm is the only common worm infestation in people in Australia and New Zealand and is highly contagious. The presence of tiny white threads around the anal region is a sign of threadworm infestation. Common symptoms are itching around the anus or vagina, restless sleep, grinding of teeth and irritability. If a family member has threadworms then each member should be treated. Refrains treatment for



ivermectin



STROMECTOL, MECTIZAN GENERIC (IVERMECTIN)

4X Stromectol, Mectizan Generic - 9009955 (Ivermectin)

6mg 4 Tablets (16 Total).

Manufacturer: Sintofarma/ Cifarma.

\$71.95

8X Stromectol, Mectizan Generic - 9009955 (Ivermectin)

6mg 4 Tablets (32 Total).

Manufacturer: Sintofarma/ Cifarma.

\$139.95

Take off Authority listing on PBS and even down schedule to Schedule 2 poison

The past may not have worked



**Lets make
sure the
future
does...it's
in our
hands**

**“We make a living by what we get – we make a
life by what we give”**

Winston Churchill

National Strongyloides Workshop



Thank you for your attention

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