



Practical Training and Education

ISSUES TO CONSIDER BEFORE JOINING QAAMS

- ☑ Are you an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or a State/Territory funded Aboriginal Medical Service?
- ☑ Does your health service have an interest in PoCT and want to take greater ownership and control of your diabetes services?
- ☑ Does your health service have funds available to buy a PoCT device?
- ☑ Do you have the appropriate infrastructure and staff resources to assign an Aboriginal Health Practitioner (or nurse) to be responsible for PoCT?
- ☑ Are you prepared to allocate sufficient funds and time for your Aboriginal Health Practitioner (or nurse) to:
 - Have on-going training
 - Perform client testing
 - Perform fortnightly quality testing?
- ☑ Will your Aboriginal Health Practitioner (or nurse) be appropriately supported by your management team in his/her role as a PoCT machine operator?



The QAAMS Management Team

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you are interested in joining QAAMS or learning more about the program, please contact:

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or visit the QAAMS website
www.qaams.org.au



Education, Training and Quality Assurance
in Point-of-Care Testing for
Diabetes Management in Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Medical Services.



State Leaders for the QAAMS Program

Is Diabetes a health problem in
your community?

Is Diabetes a health priority for your
health service?

Would you like to have better ownership
of Diabetes management?

... then the QAAMS Program may be
appropriate for your health service.





QAAMS Artwork by Jasmine Sarin, 2011

PREVALENCE OF DIABETES

Diabetes is a major health problem for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Rates of Diabetes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are 3 to 4 times higher at any age than the general Australian population.

Controlling Diabetes well is the key to preventing the serious complications of this disease. As a crucial part of their on-going management, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with Diabetes should have their blood haemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) levels checked every 3 months to see how well their Diabetes is being controlled. A simple urine test called urine albumin:creatinine ratio (or ACR) should also be done at least once a year to check for early signs of kidney disease, a major complication of diabetes.

THE QAAMS PROGRAM

The QAAMS (Quality Assurance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Services) Program aims to provide a culturally safe Diabetes management program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the program point-of-care testing (PoCT) for HbA1c and urine ACR is conducted under a quality management framework.

QAAMS started in 1999 and has been continuously funded by the Australian Government. It is managed by the Community Point-of-Care Services unit from Flinders University and the RCPA Quality Assurance Programs Pty Ltd.



Testing is easy

BENEFITS OF PoCT

Point-of-Care Testing provides many benefits:

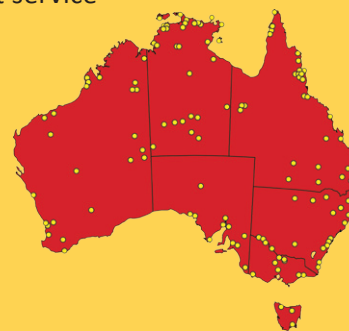
- It can be performed by an Aboriginal Health Practitioner
- Testing can be opportunistic
- Just a fingerprick of blood or a drop of urine is all that is needed to test
- Results are available in under 10 minutes
- There is immediate follow-up for the client
- There is a Medicare rebate available (only for QAAMS services) to cover the cost of the tests

CULTURAL OWNERSHIP

Indigenous representatives from five States and the Northern Territory make up the QAAMS Leaders Team. Each Leader provides:

- Advice on cultural safety
- Recommendations to the QAAMS Management Team
- Leadership and support to participants
- Training support
- Direction for future developments
- Telephone support service

○ Current QAAMS sites



Workshop Participants

WHAT QAAMS PROVIDES

- Flexible education and training options
- Qualified PoCT operators
- An Annual Workshop
- Quality monitoring of your PoCT device
- Website resources
- Telephone support service

ACHIEVEMENTS OF QAAMS

A recent independent evaluation of QAAMS commissioned by the Australian Government concluded:

"QAAMS has consistently maintained a high level of cultural appropriateness and acceptability."

"The program has always been very consultative & culturally sensitive & empowering."

"All sources of evidence suggest that QAAMS is meeting best practice standards in the areas of Indigenous healthcare, diabetes management and Point of Care testing."

Campbell, Research and Consulting 2008