

THE GLOBAL LESSONS OF HEALTHY COUNTRY, HEALTHY PEOPLE

DAVID CAMPBELL

Charles Darwin University Fellow

dcampbell.fish@bigppond.com

Two national/global policy issues:

Closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing

Chronic disease, its prevention and mitigation

Estimated cost savings in primary healthcare through caring-for-country for two Northern Territory Aboriginal communities in relation to caring-for-country:

- **Maningrida. Three conditions: Diabetes, Hypertension, Renal disease**
Expected annual savings of \$268,000 for a population of 1,284.
- **Hermannsburg. Two conditions: Diabetes and Hypertension, *for an equivalent population*, was between \$160,443 to \$268,137.**
 - Assuming the same **two** conditions, the expected result for Maningrida is \$192,000.



Chronic disease and the choice between short-term utility or long-term healthier utility

Under highly stressful conditions, including loss of control, and uncertain future benefits, risky short-term health choices can be economically rational

Linear comparison of Aboriginal people with other Australian's according to socioeconomic status does not apply as Aboriginal people suffer additional socioeconomic burdens through their Aboriginality, such as cultural disenfranchisement, and direct and institutional racism.



Concluding Comment

Building a fence at the top of the cliff does not preclude parking an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. Rather, it is a question of how we organise the mix of preventative and curative interventions.

