



The Salvation Army Recovery Services

*New South Wales
Queensland
Australian Capital Territory*





Who We Are



Australia – Eastern Territory



- 8 TCs
- 75 Community Based Day TC Programs
- OST Programs
- 4 Outclient Services



Where Our TCs Are

Mt Isa, QLD



Townsville, QLD



Brisbane, QLD



Gold Coast, QLD



Central Coast, NSW



Canberra, ACT



Sydney, NSW



Blue Mountains, NSW





**This presentation looks at the
challenges and opportunities of
operating a TC in a remote region
of Australia
and also on the significant
challenges faced**





Challenges for the people

- **The life expectancy of Aboriginal people is 20 years less than non-Aboriginal people.**
- **Aboriginal people are 20 times more likely to be homeless.**
- **Aboriginal people suffer greater ill health, are more likely to experience disability and reduced quality of life than non-Aboriginal people.**
- **Contrary to popular belief, Aboriginal people receive over 30% less financial support per person than non-Aboriginal people.**



- **Aboriginal people are the most disadvantaged group in the Australian community.**
- **Most indicators of poverty and related disadvantage show that Aboriginal people are between 2 and 3 times worse off than non-Aboriginal.**
- **Only 45% of Aboriginal teenagers are still at school, compared to 70% of non-Aboriginal teenagers.**
- **35% of Aboriginal teenagers are unemployed or not participating in the labour force, compared to 10% of non-Aboriginal teenagers.**
- **Aboriginal people experience low rates of school retention - a low rate of entry to tertiary education.**



The range of health, social, employment and economic challenges that exist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people impact on their decisions to access treatment

and

For people from regional and remote areas the capacity to optimise treatment once they are back in their local communities





However there are also great opportunities than can be gained for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person and their community by linking with a TC

And great opportunities for the TC



Mt Isa Recovery Services



In May 2012 The Salvation Army Recovery Services began an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific AOD Therapeutic Community in Mt Isa.

Mt Isa Recovery Services (MIRS) provides services to individuals, couples and families.

People come from Mt Isa, Normanton, Camooweal, Doomadgee, Mornington Island and the Northern Territory to MIRS.







What we are seeing in Mt Isa

- **High levels of social disadvantage**
- **Disengagement with social and health services**
- **Major health conditions – cardio vascular disease, diabetes, eye damage.....**
- **Lack of access to adequate housing**
- **Limited post treatment options**
- **Over representation of referrals from the CJC**



Recovery
Services



Distance



Family





Recovery
Services



Workforce





Recovery
Services



Culture





Recovery
Services



Opportunities

- **Innovation in way of connecting with communities.**
- **Being educated**
- **Developing innovative practices**
- **Having to become more flexible**
- **Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander couples and families**

