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Will be tweeting from [@AusHealthcare](#)'s [#SidSax2020](#) this afternoon, celebrating ANU's award-winning work on [#bushfirecrisis](#) and [@NACCHOAustralia](#)'s acclaimed [#COVID19](#) response



This year the Australian public has learned the value of breadth and depth of expertise in public discourse: embracing complexity, integrating perspectives... progress through science, wisdom through collaboration, impact through engagement says [@RussellGruen](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

In 2020 we are all forever changed, everyone everywhere says [@RussellGruen](#). It's time for a new era of nation-building. This year has defined for a generation how they will imagine their futures [#SidSax2020](#)

Our first [#SidSax2020](#) medal being presented to [@NACCHOAustralia](#)'s Pat Turner. [@AusHealthcare](#)'s Jillian Skinner lauding 'successful model of community leadership' on [#COVID19](#). Highlighting strengths-based approach to health care centring cultural safety and community leadership



Turner acknowledges Ngunnawal people on whose land they meet today. Acknowledgement of place is something that has existing for thousands of generations: being heard, ensuring safety, exhibits respect. Reciprocity a tradition we now share with all Australians [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner recounting the history of [@NACCHOAustralia](#), 50 years of momentous change in Aboriginal power leadership and impact. Unique models of care grounded in community control and cultural authority, ensuring health and wellbeing through collective public health action [#SidSax2020](#)



Through employment, engagement, empowerment and social action ACCHOs are a proven mechanism for Aboriginal people to take responsibility over their health matters, in challenging contexts, says Turner. And evidence suggests it works [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner speaking about remarkable [@DanilaDilba](#) work on CKD and huge gains with their model of care. Dramatic slowing of progression from 2.5 years to 4 years for later stage disease. In the Kimberley, pioneering world-first community-owned renal dialysis service KRS [#SidSax2020](#)

The only solutions that will work in the long term are Aboriginal-led, culturally responsive, located in Aboriginal organisations and analysed through an Aboriginal lens. Communities direct us, communities trust us, says Turner [#SidSax2020](#)

Cites a recent transition from govt clinic to community control: 408% increase in primary care engagement, increased vaccination, screening, employment. We are powerful advocates for action on social determinants: housing and the environment says Turner [#SidSax2020](#)

My people deserve safe adequate affordable sustainable housing. Their health, like yours, depends on it, says Turner. Brought into sharp relief by the [#COVID19](#) pandemic says Turner [#SidSax2020](#)

Our sector mobilised quickly because we had to, says Turner. All the risk factors for [#COVID19](#) raised red flags for ACCHOs. We shared our expertise and kept communities safe [#SidSax2020](#)

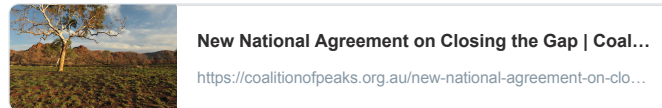
Our 143 services were on the ground, informing communities early about the facts, supporting w local pandemic planning, using social media, radio, local leaders to spread the word, say Turner [#SidSax2020](#)

Solving problems like soap in schools. New rules for sorry business. Working out how to ensure meds got to people in quarantine. Daily health monitoring for anyone at high risk. Rapid PCR testing rollout in >80 remote communities. Swift transition to telehealth [#SidSax2020](#)

As at Nov 22nd there have only been 147 confirmed [#COVID19](#) cases notified in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people: 0.5% of all confirmed cases and only one case in remote Australia. There have been no deaths from COVID-19; we have not lost one elder. Remarkable [#SidSax2020](#)

But Turner says the sector remains extremely vigilant. ACCHO communities remain at increased risk for more severe [#COVID19](#), particularly as borders open [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner says goals and targets are useless without structural reform. Points to importance of the National Agreement and instrumental role of [@NACCHOAustralia](#) in formalising the coalition of peaks [#SidSax2020](#)



'We know control, self-determination and community empowerment, directed by First Nations peoples, will work. Nothing else will deliver the outcomes we deserve. Please join us' - Pat Turner, [@NACCHOAustralia](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

Now we will hear from [@cbr_heartdoc](#) & Prof Robyn Lucas on their ANU work during the [#bushfirecrisis](#) [#SidSax2020](#)



Lucas and Hunter are presenting on behalf of the ANU Bushfire Impact Working Group, winner of the second [@AusHealthcare](#) Sidney Sax Medal [#SidSax2020](#)



Hunter sharing a story of New Years Eve, a muted gathering where everyone had connections to the South Coast, staring down an unthinkable cataclysm, watching for flames. An event scored into Australia's memory [#SidSax2020](#)



Health impacts of [#bushfirecrisis](#) are physical - cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, immune. But perhaps more profound and lasting the psychological impacts, trauma and grief reaching down through the years says [@cbr_heartdoc](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

In 2020 many of us have learned that invention is a good response to adversity says [@cbr_heartdoc](#). [#bushfirecrisis](#) gave way to [#COVID19](#). Many people in the group were seconded away, most notably lung function lead [@nick_coatsworth](#) who went on to become deputy CMO [#SidSax2020](#)

Data showing 9/10 people living in ACT region had at least one smoke-related symptom and 50% had significant anxiety. It did feel like the world was ending, it felt apocalyptic, and that is reflected in our data, says [@cbr_heartdoc](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

I confess to not wanting this to be true but we have to acknowledge as scientists that we are going to face another summer like that or worse in the decades to come says [@cbr_heartdoc](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

This group has demonstrated importance of interdisciplinary approaches to complex problems says [@cbr_heartdoc](#). [#ClimateChange](#) is the dominant global health challenge of this century and Australia will lead the way in framing our understanding and response [#SidSax2020](#)

We are going to have a Q&A now at [#SidSax2020](#) moderated by [@AlisonVerhoeven](#).
Holler at [@AusHealthcare](#) if you have one to share!



Turner asked what lessons we can take from [#COVID19](#). Speaks to power of communication: with services, with communities. Cooperation and collaboration with anyone and everyone that had something to offer she adds [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner also used national media to ensure decision-makers understood threat of [#COVID19](#) & devastation it would cause if it got into our communities. She says eg KAMS meeting with a peak group of stakeholders at 7am every morning for months. Police, shire, all involved [#SidSax2020](#)

If she felt she wasn't being heard, Turner says she simply wrote directly to the PM and Health Minister because there simply wasn't time to muck around [#SidSax2020](#)

Rather than command and control models, [@AlisonVerhoeven](#) points to success of both [#SidSax2020](#) approaches being in collaboration, community. [@RussellGruen](#) says 2020 has been a year for bringing out individual strengths and best in people: rise to the challenge, new talents

Lucas says [#bushfirecrisis](#) drove a remarkable breakdown of silos within ANU. 'We just needed to do it'. Paved the way for powerful collaborations on [#COVID19](#). It was our training wheels [#SidSax2020](#)

Hunter says command and control has been shown not to work in [#COVID19](#) eg lockdown of public housing towers. So much more effective when facing significant threat to eschew urge to find a single solution; amplification of other [#SDOH](#) [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner says [@NACCHOAustralia](#) response was really driven by Elders, and uppermost priority was protection. Community leaders took Elders out to bush camps very early in the pandemic to safeguard them. Big emotional driver as well - bushfires, drought, water shortages [#SidSax2020](#)

The grieving of the bushfires for me all of those animals Country being burned to a cinder, I really grieved for that says Turner. The trauma is ongoing. I think there was a lot of emotion that drove us, there was a lot of heart of it as well as heads [#SidSax2020](#)

Hunter speaks to the importance of collaboration, including at global level. Watching

California fires, much to share & learn. Lucas comments on the ongoing trauma and reminders with Fraser Island; and greater mental health impacts last year if lived through ACT fires [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner says intergenerational trauma is an ongoing plague. Need more services funded and supported to help families work through this, in a culturally safe manner. Mental health number one presentation in many of our clinics now [#SidSax2020](#)

Interesting question on [#MedEd](#) and trauma-informed practice in this era. [@RussellGruen](#) says medical students have been critical for ACT govt surge response: screening, contact tracing. Once in several generations experience [#SidSax2020](#)

[@RussellGruen](#) says ACCHOs are *the* role model for community health in Australia and their [#COVID19](#) response is the gold-standard [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner speaking on [#ClimateChange](#) and the recent WA report. [#SDOH](#) so critical, [#HousingForHealth](#) is a huge gap. Public and social housing must be fit for purpose in extreme weather [#SidSax2020](#)

[@cbr_heartdoc](#) says this is a critical issue: energy security, housing security are crucial health issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities [#SidSax2020](#)

[@RussellGruen](#) says there is no escaping that our health has environmental determinants as well as social and biological. He says we must do research but also be activists in all of these spaces [#sidsax2020](#)

[#ClimateChange](#) is a reality despite the deniers says Turner. It's finding the right solutions. Advocates for corporations to foot part of the bill (not for self-interest). She says this govt has been 'very naughty' on climate and younger generation won't cop it [#SidSax2020](#)

Key messages for [@GregHuntMP](#)?

- [@cbr_heartdoc](#): solutions to complex probs lie outside hospitals --> societies, communities, the environment
- Lucas: build and support public health; it's more than prevention
- [@RussellGruen](#): Aust is ready to succeed & lead [#SidSax2020](#)

Turner says her message for [@GregHuntMP](#) is we have demonstrated our worth this year, must continue innovation collaboration cooperation in the interests of health. (And maybe loosen the purse strings) [#SidSax2020](#)

That is the end of the [#SidSax2020](#) presentation. Thanks for following along! Will do a little [@threadreaderapp](#) unroll so people can digest in one go

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