

The role of Indigenous Health Workers in ear health screening programs: a scoping review protocol

Authors

Brianna Poirier, Leanne Quirino, Michelle Allen, Roland Wilson, Jacqueline Stephens

Introduction

Rates of ear disease and consequent hearing loss are greater for First Nations children than for their non-Indigenous counterparts in Australia, Canada, the United States, and New Zealand. While the First Nations health workforce is recognised as being vital to the provision of culturally appropriate health care to First Nations peoples and communities, there is a lack of information about Indigenous Health Workers' role in ear health screening programs. A preliminary search of MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews and JBI Evidence Synthesis was conducted and no current or underway systematic reviews or scoping reviews on the topic were identified.

Review question

What are IHWs' perspectives about their roles, involvement, and training in the provision of ear health screening programs for First Nations peoples and communities in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States?

Eligibility criteria

Participants

Indigenous Health Workers

Concept

Involvement in ear and hearing health screening services.

Context

Indigenous health context in Australia, Canada, the United States, and New Zealand.

Types of Sources

This scoping review will consider both experimental and quasi-experimental study designs including randomized controlled trials, non-randomized controlled trials, before and after studies and interrupted time-series studies. In addition, analytical observational studies including prospective and retrospective cohort studies, case-control studies and analytical cross-sectional studies will be considered for inclusion. This review will also consider

descriptive observational study designs including case series, individual case reports and descriptive cross-sectional studies for inclusion.

Qualitative studies will also be considered that focus on qualitative data including, but not limited to, designs such as phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, qualitative description, action research and feminist research.

In addition, systematic reviews that meet the inclusion criteria will also be considered, depending on the research question.

Text and opinion papers will also be considered for inclusion in this scoping review.

Methods

The proposed scoping review will be conducted in accordance with the JBI methodology for scoping reviews.

Search strategy

The search strategy will aim to locate both published and unpublished studies. An initial limited search of MEDLINE and CINAHL was undertaken to identify articles on the topic. The text words contained in the titles and abstracts of relevant articles, and the index terms used to describe the articles were used to develop a full search strategy for OVID Medline, OVID Embase, CINAHL, Scopus, Sociological Abstracts, and Informit (Indigenous Collection, New Zealand Collection, Rural and Remote Health Database, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health bibliography). The search strategy, including all identified keywords and index terms, will be adapted for each included database and/or information source. The reference list of all included sources of evidence will be screened for additional studies. Sources of gray literature to be searched include Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, Deadly Ears Program website, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation website, NSW Department of Health, and the Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation. Studies available in English will be included. Studies will not be limited by date range.

Study/Source of Evidence selection

Following the search, all identified citations will be collated and uploaded into Covidence (<https://www.covidence.org/>, Veritas Health Innovation Ltd, Melbourne, Australia) and duplicates removed. Following a pilot test, titles and abstracts will then be screened by two or more independent reviewers for assessment against the inclusion criteria for the review. Potentially relevant sources will be retrieved in full and their citation details imported into Covidence. The full text of selected citations will be assessed in detail against the inclusion criteria by two or more independent reviewers. Reasons for exclusion of sources of evidence at full text that do not meet the inclusion criteria will be recorded and reported in the scoping review. Any disagreements that arise between the reviewers at each stage of the

selection process will be resolved through discussion, or with an additional reviewer. The results of the search and the study inclusion process will be reported in full in the final scoping review and presented in a Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses extension for scoping review (PRISMA-ScR) flow diagram.

Data Extraction

Data will be extracted from papers included in the scoping review by two or more independent reviewers using a data extraction tool developed by the reviewers. The data extracted will include specific details about the participants, concept, context, study methods and key findings relevant to the review questions. The draft data extraction tool will be modified and revised as necessary during the process of extracting data from each included evidence source. Modifications will be detailed in the scoping review. Any disagreements that arise between the reviewers will be resolved through discussion, or with an additional reviewer/s. If appropriate, authors of papers will be contacted to request missing or additional data, where required. While critical appraisal is not generally required or recommended for scoping reviews, this review will utilise the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Quality Appraisal Tool because of the opportunity this tool provides in assessing the use of Indigenous methodologies and the inclusion of Indigenous communities in the research process.

Data Analysis and Presentation

The evidence collated in this review will be descriptively analysed in Microsoft excel to explore frequencies and proportions and any qualitative evidence will be categorically synthesised and narratively summarised.