Glenda’s story 1

It’s been recognised that the Aboriginal people are different people, and especially the really remote people. They’re a different people and they have different issues. And the biggest issue that they face when they do come into hospital is isolation and being away from family.

For example, maternal health... Still, even though they’ve got the diabetic machine here they... People are still deterred from coming in to have maternal checks and things early, because they still feel that they will be sent to Perth. And, you know, being sent to Perth when you got four other children at home can be difficult.

I once looked after a lady and she needed to go to the city... This in the Northern Territory, and she needed to be flown down to Adelaide because her condition was so severe. But she had other children and she’d organised for them to stay with grandma. But she wasn’t really worried about the children, she was worried about the husband, who had alcoholic problems. And she knew that when she was not there he would indulge in his alcoholism more. So that was that problem. But having the services out of the hospital system visit that man, you know... She was quite happy.

There are other services you can use and a lot of nurses in the hospital system don’t really think about those other services that they can use.

There’s always other issues, especially when it’s a young family with many children. And a lot of people with parents going through dialysis too... I’ve seen them taken away from their community and bought into the urban areas and they just... Their treatment is to standard, but their healing is not changed, and it’s still slow. And that person is maybe depressed or, you know, feeling lonely and isolated because she’s not at home.

Aboriginal families are very close knit and everything goes by what the elders usually say. And being away from home... Isolation sort of deters their healing, and it takes longer for them to get better.

There’s a lot of people who don’t like to leave home and to come into town. Because, you know, town’s too busy, too fast, and they can’t just walk over to the clinic, they have to get a taxi or something. It gets expensive and they really can’t afford it most times, because a lot of people, they’re only on the Centrelink payments and it’s not very much at all really. So you do have financial difficulties as well as social difficulties.
There are a lot of things like, in your training, that you feel you don’t use. But as you get more experience, you recognise those modules that you’ve learnt and you recognise the importance of those insignificances, as you get more experience. But when you’re just starting off, you’re just looking more or less on clinical care rather than the whole holistic care what you’ve, you know... Everybody’s taught in Nursing that health is holistic, but when you’re training and when you’re first graduated... You don’t recognise that until you’ve gained like four-five years’ experience. And then you recognise that.