

Title (max 50 words)

Telehealth – Simply closing the gap in very remote Indigenous health.

Abstract (max. 300 words)

Telehealth implementation in the Laynhapuy Homelands Health Service has seen a significant change in clinical practices resulting in earlier and more effective diagnoses and treatment, reduced costs to patient travel, reduced need for community members to transfer to major centres for diagnosis and treatment and is generating better health outcomes for patients.

High-end video conferencing solutions as well as satellite Internet connectivity have been deployed to three clinics in the homelands. Preliminary evaluation of the programme evidence indicates that much of the telehealth activity is facilitated through the additional use of smart phones and simple tools such as YouTube video clips for education and demonstration and macro cameras for close-up diagnosis. This does not diminish the value of the high-end video conferencing systems and detailed collection of clinical information in centralised databases. However, in small, very remote clinics simpler solutions seem to be the most effective vector for increasing telehealth uptake.