



Cooperative Research Centre for
Aboriginal Health

Media Release

New guide will improve research, build Aboriginal health capacity and help close the gap

March 17 2009

A new guidebook aimed at improving the supervision of Indigenous researchers and their recruitment and training will be launched tomorrow by the deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, as part of the annual Science meets Parliament event.

Based on interviews with both Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers ***Supporting Indigenous Researchers: A Practical Guide for Supervisors*** offers practical ways of improving the capacity of Indigenous health researchers to identify, design, implement and conduct high quality health research.

Written over a number of years the book reflects the CRC for Aboriginal Health view that sustainable improvements in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health will only be possible with serious investments in developing a strong Indigenous health workforce.

"If we are serious about Indigenous health equality there are two particular prerequisites; a good evidence base from rigorous research and a strong professional Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander workforce," said Mick Gooda, CEO of the CRC for Aboriginal Health. "This guide book is aimed at achieving both of these by ensuring greater numbers of Indigenous people themselves are able to become effective health researchers and this, in turn, will improve the quality of the researcher itself and the take up of that research by Indigenous communities and the health agencies."

"The book raises critical research issues and brings together the advice and experiences of both Indigenous and other researchers and relates their views to accepted practices in work force development and management.

"The challenge to both government and nation in closing the gap is enormous but achievable given the right levels of resources and the active participation of Aboriginal people ourselves and I am confident that this guide will assist us in meeting that challenge and bringing greater numbers of committed and talented Aboriginal researchers to the workforce," he said.

Part 1 of the guide includes tips for building a reciprocal and supportive supervisor–researcher relationship and a strong intercultural research team.

Part 2 offers practical strategies and resources to guide research supervisors in day-to-day processes, including job planning and recruitment, induction, work planning and performance appraisal. It explains how to determine training needs, and how to design and support the training and professional development of emerging Indigenous researchers.

A companion volume, *Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers*, is due out later in 2009.

The Guide launch will be followed by the launch of a discussion paper on best practice in research collaboration between university researchers and community-based Indigenous researchers.

Research Dancing; Reflection on the Relationships between University Based Researchers and Community Based Researchers at Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services, Yarrabah will be launched by leading Aboriginal academic and historian Professor Gordon Briscoe, AO, Professor of Historical Demography, ANU.

Research Dancing describes the processes for achieving real collaboration and the benefits of doing so. The paper sets out positive strategies for real research partnerships between research institutions and the Aboriginal community groups so desperate the necessary evidence to establish successful strategies for building good health and wellbeing in Aboriginal society.

Mick Gooda said the two publications being launched are amongst the most important documents developed by the CRC for Aboriginal Health.

‘These two publications represent a real practical contribution to changing the culture of health research. One provides guidance to ensure improved supervision and the other clearly demonstrates the successes which are possible when real and effective partnerships between community and researchers are built,’ he said.

Where: Senate Courtyard, Parliament House, Canberra

When: 10.30.am Wednesday March 18

Who: Deputy PM Julia Gillard and Professor Gordon Briscoe

To download copies of the publications go to:

http://www.ccah.org.au/publications/downloads/DP-8_final-web.pdf

http://www.ccah.org.au/publications/downloads/supervisors_guide1.pdf

For further information:

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