

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH e-BULLETIN — 01 MARCH 2010

This fortnightly bulletin is distributed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (through its Link people and website) to provide you with information on what's happening at the CRCATSIH and on issues of interest to Aboriginal health research.

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Congress Lowitja, in Sydney, 23–24 March

Many of you have received your invitation to attend Congress Lowitja. Please do not forget to complete your registration as soon as possible.

CRCATSIH Media release – 24 February 2010

Closing the gap – Lowitja research institute launch

National efforts to improve Aboriginal health and close the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and other Australians received a major boost with the launch in Canberra on 24 February of ***The Lowitja Institute – Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health***.

Named in honour of senior Yankuntjatjara Elder and national Aboriginal leader, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, the new Institute will host the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health and provide a more

permanent home for CRCATSIH's pioneering work of improving Indigenous health through research and the development of a professional and effective Indigenous health workforce.

Chair of the Institute's interim board, Pat Anderson, said the Lowitja Institute would be Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander-led and like its CRC predecessors encourage a collaborative and supportive research environment.

'The need for Indigenous control of the health research agenda is well recognised but it is also essential that the new Institute continues to build strong relationships with governments, academic and other research institutions and the non-government health sector including medical associations and nurses unions,' she said.

'As the Prime Minister has consistently emphasized, there is a critical need for policy to be evidence-based and the Lowitja Institute will continue to provide rigorous research evidence of what works and where health dollars should be prioritised.'

The Lowitja Institute and the CRCATSIH have developed a new research agenda with three program areas:

- Healthy Start, Healthy Life
- Healthy Communities and Settings
- Enabling Policy and Systems

Pat Anderson said the new research agenda reflects the need for research to be focused beyond simply medicines and technology and to address the systemic causes of Indigenous ill health and include innovations at the broader community and social level.

'It's clear that building sustainable health improvements will require evaluation of current programs and policies as well as reforms to current service delivery models and a better understanding of the broader social determinants of health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'

Ms Anderson said that the new research agenda will investigate determinants of health including relationship to land, connectedness to community and family, the impact of racism, and identity and levels of self-determination and community control.

The Lowitja Institute was launched by the Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon to an audience of politicians, senior health bureaucrats, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and philanthropists.

'We are seeking support from the Federal, as well as State and Territory Governments and the corporate and philanthropic sector the Lowitja Institute to establish an endowment fund to ensure the critical evidence gathering work undertaken by the CRC continues,' said Pat Anderson.

'We are confident that this initiative will have the support of all Australians.'

The launch took place on Tuesday 24 February 2010 at a dinner in the Mural Hall of Parliament House, Canberra.

The Lowitja Institute website: < <http://www.lowitja.org.au/>>.

A PDF copy of the Lowitja Institute brochure can be downloaded from:
<<http://www.crcah.org.au/>>.

You are invited to the ***Let's Start: Exploring Together
Preschool Program Evaluation Report launch***, Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, in Darwin, on 17 March, at 12 pm. RSVP: <libraryevents@nt.gov.au> by Monday 15 March. For further information on this project, please visit: <http://www.crcah.org.au/research/lets_start.html>.

New National Coordinator to Tackle Indigenous Smoking

Mr Tom Calma, the immediate past Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, has been appointed the inaugural National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking. His role will be to:

- * Lead and mentor the tackling smoking workforce being established under the Federal Government's \$100 million COAG Tackling Smoking initiative to reduce the incidence of tobacco smoking in Indigenous communities;
- * Provide advice and insights which assist to shape policy and program directions in Indigenous tobacco control;
- * Play a key role in evaluating the Federal Government's \$14.5 million Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative to ensure successful pilot programs are translated into improved services on the ground;
- * Advocate the importance of, and best practice approaches to, reducing smoking in Indigenous families, communities and workplaces.

Full ministerial media release:

<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws012.htm>>.

CONFERENCES

6th Australasian Redesigning Healthcare Summit, in Melbourne, 3–5 May 2010. Convened by the Australasian Lean Healthcare Network:
<<http://www.redesignhealth2010.org/>>. Early bird registrations close 19 March.

JOBS

Program Officer Indigenous, 22-month part-time appointment based in Perth at the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women – Breastscreen WA, position no: WN256509. Selection criteria: <www.jobs.wa.gov.au>. For further information: Leanne Pilkington, T: 08 9323 6709 or E: <leanne.pilkington@health.wa.gov.au>. Closing date: 2 March 2010.

Project Administration Officer, permanent part-time, in Darwin. The position provided administrative support for International Centre for Eyecare Education (ICEE) projects. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information: Anna Morse, T: 08 8942 5444, W: <<http://www.icee.org/>>.

MEDIA

Media releases from the Minister for Indigenous Health, the Hon. Warren Snowdon

19 February: **83 New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Outreach Workers to be Placed Around the Nation:**

<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws013.htm>>.

13 February: **Indigenous Health Minister and League Star Kick Goals for Indigenous Health:**

<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws010.htm>>.

NHMRC media release 25 February: **\$150 Million Boost to Health and Medical Research.** The Rudd Government is providing more than \$150 million to boost the nation's health and medical research efforts. Projects range from research into malaria (\$12,735,000) and epilepsy (\$16,450,000) through to finding a treatment for stuttering (\$4,775,000) and ways to improve chronic disease outcomes for Indigenous Australians (\$8,190,000):

<<http://nhmrccommunications.createsend3.com/T/ViewEmail/r/8D46FFA5F395D691/C9C69DEDCE9C50DF6A4D01E12DB8921D>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Indigenous identification in hospital separations data: Quality report, AIHW:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10637>> .

Through APO:

A stronger, fairer Australia, Australian Government: <<http://research/stronger-fairer-australia>>.

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Racial Folly: A twentieth-century Aboriginal family: <<http://book/racial-folly-twentieth-century-aboriginal-family>>.

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Identifying the risks for Indigenous violent victimisation, C Bryant,
Indigenous justice clearinghouse: <<http://apo.org.au/research/identifying-risks-indigenous-violent-victimisation>>.

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Closing the gap: Prime Minister's report 2010, Department of Families,
Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs:
<<http://apo.org.au/research/closing-gap-prime-ministers-report-2010>>

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Bess Nungarrayi Price on the NT Intervention (video):
<<http://apo.org.au/video/bess-nungarrayi-price-nt-intervention>>.

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Family violence, help-seeking and the close-knit Aboriginal community, T
Farrelly, B Lumby, Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse:
<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/family-violence-help-seeking-and-close-knit-aboriginal-community>>.

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Talking it up! Aboriginal voices in the formulation of policy that works,
Wesley Mission Victoria: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/talking-it-aboriginal-voices-formulation-policy-works>>.

**Racial discrimination and health: A systematic review of scales with a
focus on their psychometric properties**, J L Bastosa, R K Celesteb, E
Faersteinb & A J D Barrosa, *Social Science & Medicine*:
<<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.12.020>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

The Lowitja Institute website: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/>>.

Stolen Generations oral history collection held by the National Library
Australia: < <http://www.nla.gov.au/digicoll/bringing-them-home-online.html>>.

Smoking and pregnancy DVD available from:
<http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=39&group_id=5>.
Presenters include Viki Briggs, Manager, Centre for Excellence in Indigenous
Tobacco Control.

Growing Strong: Feeding You and Your Baby resource developed by
Queensland Health to help staff servicing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
families <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ph/documents/hpu/growing_strong.asp>.

Rural and Remote Health Papers 1991–2009 DVD containing 3,189 references
to the words 'rural health'; 2,510 references to 'remote health', 526 references to

'health reform', 1,359 references to 'Aboriginal health', and 315 references to 'oral health': <<http://nrha.ruralhealth.org.au/friends/?IntCatId=4>>.

Closing the Gap Clearinghouse:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/news/email-notice.cfm>>.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FUNDING AND GRANTS

Peer Review of applications into Indigenous health

For applications involving Indigenous health research for Project Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships, Training Awards and Career Development Awards, NHMRC will establish specific Indigenous health Peer Review Panels for 2010. Panel members will have both research expertise and will assess applications against the Criteria for Health and Medical Research of Indigenous Australians. For Indigenous health applications for other schemes, specific external written assessment against the Criteria for Health and Medical Research of Indigenous Australians will be sought. Further information:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/your_health/indigenous/index.htm>.

Sport and Community PhD Scholarship. Essendon Football Club (EFC) and University of Ballarat (UB) are offering a tax-free PhD scholarship of at least \$30,000 per annum for 3 years. The research project will focus on exploring the link between sport and community development. Closing date 22 March 2010. Enquiries: Dr Jason Berry, T: 03 9230 0398, E: <jberry@essendonfc.com.au>.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

Train the Trainer and ICD-10 morbidity and mortality coding course, in Brisbane, three weeks from 21 June to 9 July 2010. Registrations for this course by the National Centre for Health Information Research and Training (NCHIRT), formerly known as the National Centre for Classification in Health (Brisbane) are now open. Participants can select the week or weeks suitable to their needs. Week 1 is designed for individuals who have already had formal training in the use of the ICD-10 (or ICD-10-AM) for morbidity and/or mortality coding, and who will provide training and coder support for local coding staff. Weeks 2 and 3 will provide an introduction to the ICD-10, designed to train coders in the use of ICD-10 for morbidity and/or mortality coding. Further information: contact Sue Walker, T: 07 3138 5873, E: <nchirt@qut.edu.au>, W: <<http://www.nchirt.qut.edu.au>>.

Short course: **Issues in Indigenous Health Research**, in Darwin, 19–22 July 2010. This four-day program uses a workshop format to provide an overview of specific Indigenous health research issues. The focus will be on comparative analyses of the complex factors involved. There will be critical examination of the rhetoric and practices associated with research, particularly in Indigenous health frameworks. The short course will also examine Indigenous definitions and

articulation of issues and control of the research process. This will be composed of a series of interactive sessions entailing formal presentations, discussion and group work. There will be a range of Indigenous and non-Indigenous presenters (local and interstate) sharing their experience, expertise and passion in the area of Indigenous health research. Participants who satisfactorily complete the post-course assessment will be granted academic credit in the Charles Darwin University Graduate Diploma of Public Health, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health programs coordinated by Menzies. Academic credit in other courses or other universities is dependent on negotiation between the participant and other organisation. Contact Catherine Richardson at Menzies, E: <education@menzies.edu.au>.

Short course: **Program Evaluation**, presented by the Menzies School of Health Research on 7 April 2010 at the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus, Tiwi NT. Registrations close on 26 March. For further information and registration form: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops/short-course-program-evaluation-7-april-2010>>. Registrations close on 26 March.

AES Workshops March–July 2010: **Developing Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks**. The Australian Evaluation Society will offer one- and two-day workshops around Australia that will present participants with a conceptual model for development of an M&E Framework, discuss design and implementation issues, and consider any barriers or impediments with strategies for addressing these. For more information on the workshops and dates: <<http://www.aes.asn.au/regions/>>. Workshops on using purposeful program theory and logic models for evidence-based policy and practice will also be offered in June and July.

and REMINDERS

Beyond Evidence on Reducing Health Inequities Symposium: What works, why and how, in Adelaide, on 27–28th April 2010:

<<http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/PublicHealth/AHIP/2010/>>.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Conference — Creating the future we want to be: Transformation through partnerships, 12–15 May, in Portland, Oregon:

<<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Invitation.aspx?e=8525920f-f0f8-43e9-b1e4-89dec9feaecc>>.

International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development (INIHKD) Conference ‘Knowing your Roots: Indigenous Medicines, Health Knowledges, and Best Practices’, in Washington State, USA, 24–28 May 2010:

<<http://www.iwri.org/inihkd>>.

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2010)
'Listening, Learning and Leading', in Adelaide, 16–18 June 2010:
<<http://www.nidaconference.com.au/>>.

2010 PHC Research Conference (formerly GP & PHC Research Conference)
Primary health care research and health reform: Improving care, in Darwin,
30 June–2 July 2010: <<http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010/abstracts.php>>.

2010 Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)
Conference, Alice Springs, 27–29 July:
<<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference>>.

9th World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference, hosted by the
Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation, 22–25 August 2010, in Darwin. More
information from Jodie Farrow, Community Health Engagement/Health
Promotions Officer, Danila Dilba Health Service, E:
<jodie.farrow@daniladilba.org.au>, T: 08 89435100, F: 08 89435101, W:
<www.daniladilba.org.au>.

17th Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Symposium, Freemantle WA, 30
August – 1 Sept. Abstracts by 19 February: <<http://www.hhhe2010.com.au/>>.

Reflecting on Evaluation, in Wellington, NZ, 30 Aug–03 Sept 2010:
<<http://www.aesconference2010.org.nz/drupal/>>.

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, The Sixth Gathering, Hawai'i, 3–10 September
2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide is to celebrate the diverse and
unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around
the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common
issues in health, healing and addictions. For more information contact Maria
Halkitis at the CRCATSIH, T: 08 8943 5020, or W: <<http://www.hosw.com>>.

8th International Qualitative Research Conference, Bournemouth University,
U. K., 6–8 September 2010: <<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/hsc/international-qualitative-research-conference-form.html>>.

**The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting 'Advancing
together in Psychiatric Treatment, Research and Education'**, in Brisbane, 28–30
October 2010. Abstracts close on 30 April:
<<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/PRCP10/AbstractSubmission.asp>>.

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website at <www.craah.org.au/communication/publications/newsletters.html>. If
you have difficulties opening any links, please go to the CRCAH website or
contact <cliley@unimelb.edu.au>.

