

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH e-BULLETIN — 29 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.

CONTENTS

- * **Congress Lowitja held in Sydney on 23–24 March 2010**
- * **International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership**
- * **'Gomeroi gaaynggal - Gomeroi babies' program**
- * **Conferences**
- * **Jobs**
- * **Media**
- * **Publications**
- * **Resources and websites**
- * **Scholarships, Funding, Grants and Tenders**
- * **Seminars, Courses and Symposia**
- * **and Reminders**

CONGRESS LOWITJA HELD IN SYDNEY ON 23–24 MARCH 2010

The Lowitja Institute, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, incorporating the CRCATSIH, hosted its first Congress Lowitja in Sydney on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 March 2010. Congress was held at the brand-new Aboriginal Health College in Little Bay and was attended by some 150 delegates from community organisations, community health services, researchers and government. We were welcomed to country by Aunty Norma Sims from the La Perouse Land Council and the opening address was given by Sandra Bailey from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

On Tuesday morning Congress heard from Pat Anderson, Chair of the Lowitja Institute Interim Board, who spoke of the history of the previous CRCs, their achievements and how these will be consolidated by CRCATSIH. Pat also spoke of plans for the Lowitja Institute. Lowitja O'Donoghue then spoke to Congress, expressing her vision for the Institute to achieve real, tangible and immediate outcomes and calling for Aboriginal individuals and organisations to be fully involved in the initiation, design and implementation of the research the Institute undertakes. Research Director Ian Anderson then highlighted the key learnings and achievements of the CRCAH and its partners and the impact that the research has had on the sector.

Breakout sessions were held in the afternoon on structural and social barriers to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, building capacity, working in effective partnerships, improving services to Aboriginal people, and knowledge exchange.

The Lowitja Institute research agenda was discussed on the following day, with specific discussions around the three new program areas: Healthy Start, Healthy Life; Healthy Communities and Settings; and Enabling Policy and Systems. After an afternoon discussion on the function, purpose and by-laws of Congress Lowitja, the event closed and was celebrated by a dinner at the Stamford Plaza Hotel with wonderful performances by Jimmy Little and Microwave Jenny.

A full report of the first Congress Lowitja will be prepared and distributed. In the meantime, more information can be found at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/>>. Please see this bulletin's MEDIA section for various media releases and reports regarding Congress Lowitja.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIVE INDIGENOUS HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP (ICIHRP)

Three Australian research teams have been awarded \$4 million to improve outcomes in Indigenous health. The projects are funded through the ICIHRP scheme. They include: *Strengthening health literacy among Indigenous people living with cardiovascular disease, their families, and health care providers* (Australian lead investigator: Professor Ian Anderson); *Reducing disease burden and health inequalities arising from chronic dental disease among Indigenous children: an early childhood caries intervention* (Australian lead investigator: Dr Lisa Jamieson); and *Educating for equity: Exploring how health professional education can reduce disparities in chronic disease care and improve outcomes for Indigenous populations* (Australian lead investigator: Professor Helen Milroy). Congratulations to all three teams!

'Gomeroi gaaynggal - Gomeroi babies' program

A new research program will investigate ways to achieve healthy pregnancies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The program comprises two parts – a scientific research program led by Professor Roger Smith from the University of Newcastle, and an ArtsHealth program delivered through community groups to Aboriginal women of childbearing age. More details:

<<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/news/2010/02/closingthelifeexpectancygap.html>>.

CONFERENCES

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide (HOSW), The Sixth Gathering, Hawaii, 3–10 September 2010, to be hosted by the Hawaiian Indigenous health organisation Papa Ola Lokahi focusing on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions in Indigenous populations. Registrations close on 30 April: <<http://www.hosw.com/>>; CRCATSIH contact is Vanessa Harris, E: <Vanessa.Harris@menzies.edu.au>.

SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) Conference, in Alice Springs, 27–29 July 2010. Early bird registrations close on 31 May. Conference website:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/default_news_resources.cfm?loadref=31>.

Creating Futures 2010 Harnessing Creativity and Social Enterprise for Mental Health and Wellbeing, in Cairns, 20–24 September 2010, auspiced by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland. As with the previous Creating Futures conferences, the focus will be on the social determinants of health of Indigenous peoples from Australia, New Zealand, North America and the Pacific Islands and people living and working in rural and remote areas. *Creating Futures 2010* will also highlight creativity and social entrepreneurial approaches. For more information: <<http://www.crrmhq.com.au>>.

Supporting Sisters and Aunties to Survive! A Breast Cancer Summit for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women, in Darwin, on 26 May 2010.

There will be two more summits to be held in Lismore in June and Broome in September. This is an important initiative of the *Supporting Women in Rural Areas Diagnosed with Breast Cancer Program*, funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC). Further information: Hannah Nancarrow, E:

<hannah.nancarrow@nbocc.org.au>, T: 02 9357 9479, W: <www.nbocc.org.au>.

Aboriginal Transport State Conference, Coffs Harbour, 1–2 July 2010. The conference theme this year is “Aboriginal Transport Dreaming – Reality or Myth”. The aim is to bring together Aboriginal and mainstream community transport providers to focus on empowering the community through education, sharing and promoting culturally appropriate transport solutions. For more information: <<http://www.cto.org.au/>>.

JOBS

There are several positions vacant at the Lowitja Institute:

Program Manager (Brisbane), Healthy Start, Healthy Life Program;

Media & Marketing Manager (Melbourne);

Finance and Administration Officer (Melbourne);

Administration Officer (0.5 FTE, Brisbane);

Administration Officer (0.5 FTE, Darwin);

Administration Officer (0.5 FTE, Adelaide).

Selection criteria and other information from David Morgan, M: 0409 631 470, E: <dmsalary@dmsalary.com.au>. All applications must address the selection criteria, contain a resume and at least three work referees. Indigenous persons are encouraged to apply. Applications close COB 30 March.

Positions vacant at the SNAICC Melbourne office:

SNAICC Project Officer, Social and Emotional Wellbeing

SNAICC Project Officer, Training and Resource Development

For further information contact SNAICC Coordinator, Social and Emotional Wellbeing Projects by T: 03 9489 8099 or E: <mark@snaicc.asn.au>, W: <<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/>>. Applications close 6 April.

Project Coordinator, Let's Start, Tiwi Islands Program, one-year contract, in Darwin. The Let's Start Project is entering a new phase following publication of its recent research findings and relocation to Menzies. The focus will be on building a locally based team on the Tiwi Islands to support parenting and children's social-emotional learning.

Research Assistant, Indigenous Parenting and Family Research, one-year contract, in Darwin, to assist project investigators in completing a specialised program of publication, research transfer activity and project design relating to child development and family wellbeing.

Both vacancies close on 6 April. More information: Kate McGuinness

T: 08 89448259, M: 0457826827, T: <kate.mcguinness@menzies.edu.au>.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

Positions vacant at VACCHO in Melbourne:

Senior Team Leader, Health Programs

Health and Wellbeing Team Leader

Medicare Enhancement Project Officer

Indigenous Health Project Officer

Quality and Accreditation Project Officer

Executive Officer

Closing dates vary from 6 to 16 April.

For more information: <http://www.vaccho.org.au/about/about_jobs.asp>

Aboriginal Health Worker Trainee – Maternal and Infant Care, 2 x 0.5 FTE (preferable) or 1 FTE (negotiable), in Adelaide, at Nunkuwarri Yunti. The Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care service provides culturally appropriate antenatal, birthing and postnatal services for Aboriginal women and their families. Queries to Pieter Herbold, T: 08 8223 5217, E: <pieterh@nunku.org.au>. Job description from W: <<http://www.nunku.org.au/>>, or Sandi Southwell, T: 08 8223 5217, E: <sandis@nunku.org.au>. Applications close 14 April.

MEDIA

The Lowitja Institute media release, 23 March: *National Indigenous Health Research Institute Opens Inaugural Congress*, at <<http://www.craah.org.au/>>.

The Lowitja Institute media release, 24 March: *First Congress Lowitja Hailed a Success*, at <<http://www.crcah.org.au/>>.

ABC Radio National's *Bush Telegraph* program, interview with Ian Anderson, Monday 22 March, at <http://mpegmedia.abc.net.au/rn/podcast/2010/03/bth_20100322_1106.mp3>.

National Indigenous Radio Service, *Research Institution Launched in Honour of Lowitja O'Donohue*, by Nathan Kimber, 25 February:

<http://www.nirs.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2697:indigenous-health-research-institute-launched-in-honour-of-lowitja-odonohue&catid=2:news-broadcasts&Itemid=65>.

Chanel 9 Ninemsn: <<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/health/1016935/odonoghue-launches-research-institute>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2010, ABS Cat 4703.0. This publication describes a framework to map statistical information about Indigenous people, in the context of the interrelationships with their social and physical environments. It also provides the means to identify potential data gaps:

<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4703.0?OpenDocument>>.

Child Mortality Target: Analysis and Recommendations, National Indigenous Health Equality Council. The analysis in this report includes statistics on key drivers, trends and projections, and NIHEC's policy recommendations to inform progress towards the target:

<<http://www.nihec.gov.au/internet/nihec/publishing.nsf/Content/Child-Mortality-Analysis>>.

National Target Setting Instrument: Evidence Based Best Practice Guide, National Indigenous Health Equality Council. NIHEC has developed this Instrument to inform target setting in Indigenous health. This work draws on comprehensive analysis of the evidence and what has been learnt over the years about successful target setting. It includes analysis to inform how we are tracking against existing targets, with the key drivers and recommendations to support the Government's commitment to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage:

<<http://www.nihec.gov.au/internet/nihec/publishing.nsf/Content/Best-Practice-Guidelines>>.

Health Impact Assessment of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation, UNSW: <<http://www.aida.org.au/hia.aspx>>.

Through APO:

The future of outstations/homelands, S Kerins, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. This report records the broad commentary from a workshop about Aboriginal homelands or outstations held at the ANU in October 2009: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/future-outstationshomelands>>.

=====

Linking census records to death registrations, Mar 2010, ABS. This paper builds on other papers already released about the Indigenous Mortality Quality Study, by elaborating on the probabilistic data linking methodology used to link the Census and death records: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/linking-census-records-death-registrations-mar-2010>>.

=====

Report by the UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous peoples, United Nations: The report is based on exchanges of information with the Government, Indigenous peoples, and other interested parties, including during the Special Rapporteur's visit to Australia between 17 and 28 August 2009: <www.un.org.au>.

Latest edition of the **Flinders Aboriginal Health Research e-news**: <http://www.aboriginalhealth.flinders.edu.au/Newsletters/2010/News02_2010.html>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

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

SCHOLARSHIPS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

The Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarships, offered in conjunction with the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). This is a \$25,000 scholarship to one teacher education student from each state and territory. Guidelines and application: <<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Indigenous/Schooling/Programs/Pages/IndigenousTeacherScholarships.aspx>>; enquiries to <GovGenScholarships@deewr.gov.au>. Applications close 9 April.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

'Start Stronger, Live Longer' National Symposium, in Perth, 8–9 June 2010, presented by the Kulunga Research Network at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, in partnership with Rio Tinto. This symposium is about celebrating Aboriginal health Workers (AHWs), their strengths and the vital contribution they make to improving the health and wellbeing of the community. This is an opportunity for AHWs to improve their knowledge in key areas of child

and maternal health and network with other AHWs from across Western Australia. Admission, travel and accommodation scholarships are available. More information is available from <impact@impcom.com.au>, T: 08 9227 0233. Presenters are invited and should register their interest by contacting Jackie at Kulunga, T: 08 9489 7772, E: <Jackie@ichr.uwa.edu.au>.

Research Skills Training, in Darwin, 30 Aug–9 Sept 2010, presented by the Menzies School of Health Research. The program includes protocol development, ethics in health research, career planning, study design, IP, systematic review, specific issues in Indigenous health research, communication, program evaluation, data collection and management, basic and advanced biostats. Expressions of interest to attend and registrations to Kalotina Halkitis, Menzies Scholarships Officer, E: Kalotina.Halkitis@menzies.edu.au, T: 08 8922 8698.

Indigenous Nutrition Advocacy Symposium, in Canberra, on 22 April, organised by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (NATSINSAP) Steering Committee. Contacts: Katherine Cullerton, Senior Project Officer, NATSINSAP, T: 07 3872 2565, F: 07 3252 9697, E: <katherine.cullerton@heartfoundation.org.au>.

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/>>.

4th International Indigenous Traditional Knowledge Conference ‘Kei muri i te awe kapara he tangata ke – Behind the tattooed face a stranger stands: Recognising, engaging, understanding difference’, Auckland, 6–9 June 2010:
<http://www.traditionalknowledge2010.ac.nz>.

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. Registrations are now open at:
<www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010>. Early bird registrations close 14 May.

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>.

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

14th Chronic Diseases Network (CDN) Conference – ‘Health Literacy: Opening doors to health and wellbeing’, in Darwin, 9–10 September. The 2010 CDN conference will focus on the role and impact of health literacy on the prevention and management of chronic conditions and its importance in achieving positive health outcomes. More information from CDN, T: (08) 8922 8280, E: <chronicdiseasesnetwork@nt.gov.au>.

2nd Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, in Canberra, 20–30 September 2010: <<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/RMH10/Default.ASP>>.

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSAD) 2010 Conference, in Canberra, on 28 November–1 December. Under the theme, *Building on the Capital*, the conference will feature international and national speakers with a focus on new treatment, prevention and policy in the areas of drug and alcohol research. Symposia and abstracts that address all aspects of licit and illicit drug use/misuse are invited. For more information, W: <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/>>, or E: <apsad@wsm.com.au>.

Archives of the CRCAH and the new CRCATSIH e-Bulletin are available on our website at <www.crcah.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>.