

**THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE**  
**Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**  
**Health Research**  
**Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre for**  
**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health**  
**e-BULLETIN — 30 AUGUST 2010**

This fortnightly bulletin is prepared by the Lowitja Institute ([www.lowitja.org.au/](http://www.lowitja.org.au/)) to provide you with information on issues of interest to Aboriginal health research. It has been forwarded to you as your address is on our database. If you have received it by some other means and wish to subscribe directly, please go to <http://www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile>. To unsubscribe, E: [admin@lowitja.org.au](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au). A PDF version is available at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>.

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**THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Members of the Lowitja Institute staff were very happy to welcome our new CEO, Dr Kerry Arabena, at the Melbourne office on 19 August. Present were also Pat Anderson, Chair of the Interim Board, and our Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue. You can get in touch with Kerry by contacting Executive Officer Katie Symes, E: [Katie.symes@lowitja.org.au](mailto:Katie.symes@lowitja.org.au).

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**THE FIRST EDITION OF THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER**

***Wangkanyi Pulka (Big Talk)*** will be available from Tuesday 31 August at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>.

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**CONTACT DETAILS FOR HEAD OFFICE IN MELBOURNE**

Street address: 179 Grattan Street, Carlton VIC 3053  
Postal address: PO Box 650, Carlton South VIC 3053  
T: 03 8341 5555  
F: 03 8341 5599  
E: [admin@lowitja.org.au](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au)  
W: [www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)

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**CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE POSITIONS OF  
CHAIRPERSON AND DIRECTORS OF THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE BOARD**

**CLOSING DATE IS 31 AUGUST**

The Lowitja Institute is calling for expressions of interest for the positions of Chairperson and Directors of our permanent Board. The Board will consist of an independent Chair and six Directors, the majority of whom must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

We encourage people with expertise in corporate governance, health research, community development, education and technology, legal and finance, and/or business and marketing to apply. In accordance with the Lowitja Institute’s policy, these are honorary positions.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute your skills and passion to influence the research and policy landscape in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The Institute is an innovative research body that brings together Aboriginal organisations, academic institutions and government agencies to facilitate collaborative, evidence-based research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

For further information go to <[www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)> or contact our Executive Officer, Katie Symes, E: <[katie.symes@lowitja.org.au](mailto:katie.symes@lowitja.org.au)>, P: PO Box 650, Carlton South, VIC 3053, T: 0488 023 027.

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**THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE WEBSITE – UPDATES**

Work continues in the development of our website. We will keep you up-to-date with new pages and resources as we go along. Below are three new resources:

Updated contacts page: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/contact>>

Speeches by Ms Pat Anderson, Chair, The Lowitja Institute Interim Board: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcah/speeches>>.

Healing Our Spirits Worldwide: < <http://www.lowitja.org.au/healing-our-spirit-worldwide>>.

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**CONFERENCES**

**‘Advancing Child and Family Policy Through Research’ Conference,** Canberra, 31 January–1 February 2011. The conference is jointly organised by

the Research School of Economics, Australian National University, and the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, University of Chicago. More information at: <<http://publicpolicy.anu.edu.au/events/other.php>>.

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**Healing our Spirit Worldwide, the Sixth Gathering**, in Hawaii, 3–10 September 2010. The upcoming gathering will be hosted by the Hawaiian Indigenous health organisation Papa Ola Lokahi. It will focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions within Indigenous populations. For more information: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/healing-our-spirit-worldwide>> and <<http://www.hosw.com/>>.

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**Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference**, Canberra, 28 November–1 December. Conference draft program <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/program/program/>> is now available. Registration <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/registration/>> is also open with early bird closing Friday 24 September.

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## **JOBS**

**Director, Health Evidence and Advice Branch, Indigenous Health Unit, NH&MRC, Canberra.** The incumbent will manage and lead a team to deliver on the strategic objectives of the Health Evidence and Advice Branch (HEAB) and the NHMRC; will establish and maintain collaborative relationships across the NHMRC and with external stakeholders; will negotiate and manage strategic alliances, partnerships and external relationships; and will support the NHMRC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advisory Committee to provide high level advice on Indigenous health and research activities to the NHMRC's CEO. Full application kit at <<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about/jobs/vacancies.htm>>.

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**Project and Senior Project Officers, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Program**, in Sydney, fixed term to June 2011. The Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) is seeking a Senior Project Officer and a Project Officer to work full or part time and coordinate ASHM's Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander professional educational activities across Australia. ASHM's education program includes the provision of training, mentoring, resources and support around the diagnosis and management of blood borne viruses and sexually transmitted infections. Please send a CV and covering letter outlining your interest and experience to David McGuigan, E: <[david.mcguigan@ashm.org.au](mailto:david.mcguigan@ashm.org.au)>. For more information contact David, T: 02 8204 0765 or M: 0415 411 002. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.** Closing date: 6 September.

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**Administrative Officer**, Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC), in Melbourne, 0.7 to full-time, 3-years fixed-term. CEITC seeks to improve health outcomes related to tobacco consumption by facilitating effective

tobacco control programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people nationally through activities including: training, research, networking, resource development and advocacy. The Officer will play a crucial role by providing efficient and effective administrative support to the CEITC. Closing date is 24 September. Position description and selection criteria at <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=672722&ICategoryID=1815&IWorkTypeID=&ILocationID=&IPayScaleID=&stp=AW&sLanguage=en>>. **THIS POSITION IS ONLY OPEN TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE.**

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**Research Assistant**, in Melbourne, full-time fixed-term. This is a key role, to work with and assist the Australian Chief Investigators of an International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership (ICIHRP) Grant, Educating for Equity. The project seeks to compare, build and share international research regarding the development of educational interventions for health professionals as a vehicle to achieving more equitable care and improved chronic disease outcomes for Indigenous populations. The Australian component of the grant is a collaboration between two of Australia's leading Indigenous health academic units, the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at the University of Western Australia, and the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit, The University of Melbourne. The position will initially be located within the Australian Health Workforce Institute at The University of Melbourne: <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=676409&IWorkTypeID=&ILocationID=&ICategoryID=&IPayScaleID=1157&stp=AW&sLanguage=en>>.

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**Aboriginal Patient Pathway Coordinator**, in Melbourne, full time role at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital (RVEEH). The Coordinator will facilitate and support patient pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients of the hospital and project manage key links to improve identification and treatment of eye and ear disease within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. For more information please contact Tracy Siggins at RVEEH, T: 03 9929 8068 or W: <<http://www.eyeandear.org.au/>>. Closing date is 10 September.

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Two positions at Menzies School of Health Research for a NHMRC-funded funded research study that aims to compare the impact of two newly licensed pneumococcal conjugate vaccines (PREVenar13 and SynflorIX) on immune response, carriage of pathogens, and otitis media. For more information, contact A/Prof Amanda Leach, T: 08 8922 8649, E: <[amanda.leach@menzies.edu.au](mailto:amanda.leach@menzies.edu.au)>.

**Clinical Trial Manager / Research Fellow (Medical)**, 0.2 to 1.0 FTE, 15-month contract. The role is to ensure that the trial meets standards of Good Clinical Practice, including informed consent, participant eligibility assessments, adverse event monitoring.

**Clinical Trial Coordinator / Research Officer (Nursing)**, full time, 15-month contract. The role is to ensure that the trial meets standards of Good Clinical Practice, including informed consent, participant eligibility assessments, adverse

event monitoring. This position will require travel to remote communities by air or road for up to 10 days at a time.

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**Post Doctoral Research Fellow** to join the Indigenous Maternal and Child Health Research Group at the Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute. The Indigenous Maternal and Child Health Research Group concentrates on Indigenous Health, with an emphasis on the contributions of fetal and early childhood development to the risk of diabetes and chronic cardiovascular disease in later life. A key component of research within this group is the use of linked data registries and birth cohorts to guide the development of interventions and to inform health service provision for Indigenous Australians in urban, regional and remote settings. Full ad at:

<<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/PostDoctoralResearchFellow.doc>>.

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**Research Project Co-Ordinator, Canberra, 12-month contract (potentially 4 years), at NACCHO.** The successful position holder will work collaboratively with our Research partner NCHECR and the five Aboriginal Communities involved in the newly funded Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE). This position will be involved in the design, implementation and coordination of the clinical research projects focused on sexually transmissible and blood borne infections within primary health care settings. For further information and selection criteria, please contact Ms Elaine Lomas, T: 02 6248 0644. Closing date is 6 September

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**Senior Aboriginal Youth Mental Health (Spiritual Wellbeing) Clinical Advisor**, in Melbourne, 3.5 years fixed term. Eastern Health Child Youth and Family Mental Health Service (CYFMHS) is seeking a specialist to support the effective provision of mental health (spiritual wellbeing) services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Melbourne's Outer East. The project aims to improve mental health outcomes for Aboriginal young people by: utilising an early intervention model to improve access and successful engagement of young Aboriginal people with mental health services; supporting the agencies that work with Aboriginal young people to recognise and respond to potential mental health difficulties in the young people they support; promoting Aboriginal cultural competence into the Child, Youth & Family Mental Health Service. More information: <http://easternhealth.mhr.com.au/jobvac.asp>. Applications close 5 September.

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## **MEDIA**

**Combat Racism To Improve Indigenous Health**, *Medical News Today*, 18 August. 'Inequities in the health of Indigenous Australians and Torres Strait Islanders cannot be overcome unless action is taken to reduce racism and other social factors that affect health, according to the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA)...':

<<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/198130.php>>.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Aboriginal People Travelling Well (Community Report)** by Y. Helps, D. Moodie & G. Warman 2010, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne:  
<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/new-publication-travelling-well-report>>.

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**Improving the Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Mainstream General Practice**, by M. Kelaher, A. Parry, S. Day, Y. Paradies, J. Lawlor & L. Solomon 2010, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne:  
<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/new-publication-improving-identification-gp-services>>.

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**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Australia: Summary Booklet, 2008:**  
<<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0.55.003?OpenDocument>>.

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**A Population Study on Indigenous Hospitalisations for Interpersonal Violence**, L. B. Meuleners, A. H. Lee, D. Hendrie & M. Fraser 2010, *Australian Health Review*, vol. 34(1): 123–6:  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/270/paper/AH09666.htm>>

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**Exploring the Impact of an Aboriginal Health Worker on Hospitalised Aboriginal Experiences: Lessons from cardiology**, K. P. Taylor, S. C. Thompson, L. Dimer, M. Ali & M. M. Wood 2009, *Australian Health Review*, vol. 33(4): 549–57: <<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/270/paper/AH090549.htm>>.

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**Indigenous Men's Support Groups and Social and Emotional Wellbeing: A meta-synthesis of the evidence**, J. McCalman, K. Tsey, M. Wenitong, A. Wilson, A. McEwan, Y. Cadet James & M. Whiteside 2010, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, vol. 16(2), 159–66:  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/261/paper/PY09032.htm>>.

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**Improving Coordination of Care for Aboriginal People with Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Use Problems: Progress report on an ongoing collaborative action research project**, I. Kowanko, C. de Crespigny, H. Murray, J. Ah Kit, C. Prideaux, H. Miller, D. Mills & C. Emden 2009, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, vol. 15(4): 341–7  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/261/paper/PY09031.htm>>.

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**Tobacco Control Practices among Aboriginal Health Professionals in Western Australia**, A. (Sonny) A. G. Pilkington, O. B. J. Carter, A. S. Cameron & S. C. Thompson 2009, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, vol. 15(2): 152–8  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/261/paper/PY08066.htm>>.

**Mind, Body, Spirit: Co-benefits for mental health from climate change adaptation and caring for country in remote Aboriginal Australian communities**, H. L. Berry, J. R. A. Butler, C. P. Burgess, U. G. King, K. Tsey, Y. L. Cadet-James, C. W. Rigby & B. Raphael 2010, *New South Wales Public Health Bulletin*, vol. 21(6): 139–45  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/226/paper/NB10030.htm>>.

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**Guarding Against an HIV Epidemic within an Aboriginal Community and Cultural Framework; Lessons from NSW**, J. Ward, S. P. Akre & J. M. Kaldor 2010, *New South Wales Public Health Bulletin*, vol. 21(4): 78–82  
<<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/226/paper/NB10015.htm>>.

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### Through APO

**Don't Wake Up Angry No More**, S. Siggers, F. Velandar & A. Schineanu, National Drug Research Institute. This report collates quantitative and qualitative data gathered to evaluate the effect of the restriction of alcohol at the Norseman Aboriginal Community operating since March 2008.  
<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/dont-wake-angry-no-more>>.

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**Closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage**, S. Wenham & L. Russell, Menzies Centre for Health Policy. The progress of six ambitious targets of the 'closing the gap' commitment are tracked in this report:  
<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/closing-gap-indigenous-disadvantage>>.

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**A New Approach to Indigenous Training**, P. Shergold, Centre for Social Impact: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/new-approach-indigenous-training>>.

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**Combining Explicit and Implicit Measures of Racial Discrimination in Health Research**, N. Krieger, D. Carney, K. Lancaster, P. D. Waterman, A. Kosheleva & M. Banaji, *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 100: 1485–92 (doi:10.2105/AJPH.2009.159517) <<http://www.rwjf.org/pr/product.jsp?id=51950>>.

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**'Closing the Gap': How Maternity Services can Contribute to Reducing Poor Maternal Infant Health Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women**, S. Kildea, S. Kruske, L. Barclay & S. Tracy 2010:  
<<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1383>>.

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The latest edition of NHMRC Tracker newsletter is available at:  
<<http://nhmrccommunications.createsend5.com/T/ViewEmail/r/A0C38D3D13758C07/00AB1D7B69759CB8C9C291422E3DE149>>, including important information about the availability of the Research Grants Management System (RGMS) in October.

## RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Major additions to the Australian Indigenous Health/*InfoNet* are listed at:  
<[http://www.healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au/about/news?news\\_category=2](http://www.healthinfolnet.ecu.edu.au/about/news?news_category=2)>.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

**Postgraduate Scholarship on Indigenous Chronic Disease and Health Professional Education.** Several full-time postgraduate scholarships are available over the next 3 years for qualified candidates to undertake research leading to a Masters (Research) or Doctorate on exploring how health professional education can reduce disparities in chronic disease care and improve outcomes for Indigenous populations. Research areas: Indigenous health, health professional education, inter-professional education, medical education, e-health.

Applicants should have a Bachelors degree with Honours or a Masters Degree in Indigenous health, education, public health, social science, or a related discipline. Experience/background in qualitative research and/or knowledge of Indigenous health and health professional education would be an advantage.

The standard-rate NHMRC scholarship stipend (including support) is \$33,488 in 2010 (tax exempt) and may be renewed for the standard duration of their course (3 years for PhD), subject to satisfactory progress. Indigenous applicants should also seek out targeted supports through the Indigenous studies centres at the respective Universities.

Applications should include: curriculum vitae, copy of full academic transcript, proof of Australian or New Zealand citizenship or Australian permanent residency; names and contact details of two relevant referees; a sample of your written work (this may include an assignment from an undergraduate program, a thesis chapter, dissertation or a published paper); a 'Statement of Purpose' of up to two pages, which should outline your interest in Indigenous health, your research interests, your reasons for pursuing an advanced degree in general and this project in particular.

Applications should be sent to: Dr David Paul, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, University of Western Australia (M303), 35 Stirling Hwy, Crawley, WA 6009. For further information, contact Dr David Paul, E: [david.paul@uwa.edu.au](mailto:david.paul@uwa.edu.au), T: 08 6488 7084.

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**Australia Postgraduate Award (Industry) (APAI) scholarship** offered as part of the *Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Economic Empowerment, Wealth Creation and Institutional Reform for Sustainable Indigenous and Local Communities* ARC Linkage Project. Applications are now open for this scholarship, which amounts to \$27,222 per annum plus a \$6,000 contribution per annum from the project's partner organisations, over three years. The Chief Investigators welcome applications from candidates interested in pursuing a PhD, ideally in a public policy, economics or legal field relating to this project. The candidate would be

qualified in social science, economics or law and demonstrate a capacity to conduct research at the doctoral level. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply. More information from Project Manager Jessica Cotton, E: <[jcotton@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jcotton@unimelb.edu.au)>. Full ad available at: <[http://www.atns.net.au/objects/XZBIAMOIQUUD/APAI\\_Scholarship\\_Ad.pdf](http://www.atns.net.au/objects/XZBIAMOIQUUD/APAI_Scholarship_Ad.pdf)>. Closing date is 6 September.

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## **SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA**

**Menzies Inaugural Research Skills Training Fortnight**, in Darwin, 20 August to 9 September, at the Menzies School of Health Research. **This course is fully optional: register by the day, week or for the whole fortnight.** Direct queries and registration forms to <[Caroline.Walsh@menzies.edu.au](mailto:Caroline.Walsh@menzies.edu.au)>.

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## **and REMINDERS**

**Chronic Diseases Network Annual Conference**, in Darwin, on 9–10 September: <<http://www.cdnconference.com.au/>>.

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**2010 Participatory Action Research World Congress**, Melbourne, 6–9 September: <<http://www.alara.net.au/worldcongress/2010/objectives>>.

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**14th Annual NT Chronic Diseases Network Conference**, in Darwin, 9–10 September: <<http://www.cdnconference.com.au/>>.

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**The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, in Sydney, 14–17 September: <<http://www.themhs.org/home>>.

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**NatStats Conference**, Sydney, 15–17 Sept: <<http://www.nss.gov.au/natstats2010>>.

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**Creating Futures 2010**, Cairns, 20–23 September, auspiced by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland: <[www.crrmhq.com.au](http://www.crrmhq.com.au)>.

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**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Special Interest Group Workshop 'Advocacy for Action: Keeping Aboriginal Health on the National Health Reform Agenda'**, Adelaide, 26 September, prior to the Public Health Association Australia Conference. Workshop: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/atsih.php>>. Conference: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/40thPHAAAnnualConference.php>>.

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

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**The 2nd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium**, in Sydney, 29–30 September: <<http://www.ausot.com.au/newsArticle.asp?id=208>>.

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**Global Community Medical Education Muster**, Barossa Valley SA, 18–21 October, co-hosted by Flinders University and Northern Ontario School of Medicine: <<http://gcmem2010.flinders.edu.au>>.

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**Evidence Based Healthcare Conference ‘Show the Impact’**, Adelaide, 27–29 October 2010: <<http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/EBHC2010>>.

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**14th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting**, in Brisbane, 28–30 October 2010: <<http://www.anznmh.asn.au/PRCP10/Default.asp>>.

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**PHCRED WA Research Conference Primary Health Care Research, Partnerships in Practice**, Perth, 12 November 2010: <<http://www.phcredwa.org.au>>.

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**The inaugural National Indigenous Policy and Dialogue Conference**, in Sydney, 18–19 November: <<http://nipdc.arts.unsw.edu.au/>>.

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**Health and Wellness Conference 2011**, University of California Berkeley, 20–22 January: <<http://healthandsociety.com/Conference-2011/>>.

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**11th National Rural Health Conference**, Perth, 13–16 March 2011: <<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>>.

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**2011 Primary Health Care Research Conference**, Brisbane, 13–15 July 2011: <<http://www.phcris.org.au/conference>>.

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If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact <[cliley@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:cliley@unimelb.edu.au)>. Archives of the CRCAH, CRCATSIH and Lowitja Institute e-Bulletins are available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>.

To unsubscribe, please email <[admin@lowitja.org.au](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au)>.

### ***Communications Team***

The Lowitja Institute  
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and Torres Strait Islander Health Research  
Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

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