

25 JULY 2011

This fortnightly bulletin is prepared by the Lowitja Institute to provide you with information on issues of interest to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research. To unsubscribe, please E: <admin@lowitja.org.au>. To subscribe: <www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile>.

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RESEARCHING INDIGENOUS HEALTH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR RESEARCHERS

An important resource and contribution to health research having a real impact on improving the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—and closing the gap—was launched at the Primary Health Care Research Conference 2011, in Brisbane, on 14 July.

Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers, written by Alison Laycock with support from Diane Walker, Nea Harrison and Jenny Brands, is a companion volume to *Supporting Indigenous Researchers: A Practical Guide for Supervisors* (2009).

The guide provides existing and potential researchers with information about the history, context, values and changing priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research in Australia, and guidance in how to design and manage successful research projects. It was developed in response to requests received by the Institute for resources and advice on how to conduct health research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This publication is available for purchase from our website, where you will also find more information about this guide and additional case studies: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers>>.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CHIEF INVESTIGATOR

The Lowitja Institute is seeking a chief investigator/s to provide high-level academic leadership to an existing project team looking at the implementation of innovations in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care. This project aims to identify key factors that inhibit or enable the widespread uptake of innovations to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care, with the aim of improving the usage of evidence-based innovations.

The project will be managed by Jenny Brands, Research Implementation Manager, Menzies School of Health Research. It has been designed to help inform the Lowitja Institute's future activity to support the application of evidence into practice, and will also be of relevance to a much wider audience and groups of stakeholders. The role of chief investigator/s is an honorary one though direct expenses will be recoverable. A more detailed description of the project is available by contacting Jenny Brands, E: <jenny.brands@menzies.edu.au>. The expression of interest form is available at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/call-eoi-chief-investigator>>.

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DR KERRY ARABENA: FIRST ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TO RECEIVE CRAWFORD PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

On Friday 15 July, our Chief Executive, Dr Kerry Arabena, also inaugural Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, was awarded the prestigious JG Crawford Prize at the Australian National University. The prize recognizes the best intellectual contribution of any thesis in the arts, science and interdisciplinary categories.

Dr Arabena was awarded a Doctorate in Environmental Science in the field of human ecology at ANU in 2010 for her thesis titled 'Indigenous to the Universe: A Discourse of Indigeneity, Citizenship and Ecological Relationships'. Much of the thesis was informed by Dr Arabena's time living and working in many different communities across Australia in regional and remote areas. 'This work was an exploration of new ways of bringing Indigenous people's sciences together with environmental and quantum sciences to create alternative ways for people to live in and consider the environment. We have a magnificent country and I want to make sure I do my part to guarantee that it is here for generations to come...' she said.

Full media release is available at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/media-releases>>.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRI JANKE, NAIDOC PERSON OF THE YEAR

We are very proud that our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and intellectual property rights lawyer, Terri Janke, has been named NAIDOC person of the year.

Congratulations, Terri, and congratulations from the Lowitja Institute to all NAIDOC award winners 2011. More information on winners past and present is available at <<http://www.naidoc.org.au/naidoc-awards/winners-profiles/>>.

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RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

Information about our programs is available at <www.lowitja.org.au/research-programs>.

Program Fact Sheets

A fact sheet for each of our programs outlining program goals, description, current and future research, and contact details is available at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-publishing#factsheets>>.

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SPEECHES BY THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP

Archive of speeches is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/speeches>>.

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PUBLICATIONS BY THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE and the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health are available in PDF format at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/publications>> and can be ordered by email from <publications@lowitja.org.au>.

NEW PUBLICATION:

Martini, A., Marlina, U., Dwyer, J., Lavoie, J., O'Donnell, K. & Sullivan, P. 2011, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Funding: Report to the Sector 2011, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne. Available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/new-funding-report-released>>.

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WE ARE ON TWITTER!

'Follow us on Twitter' button now on our home webpage: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/>>.

CONFERENCES, CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS & FUNDING

A list of 2011 conferences is available at: <www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2011>.

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Healthier Futures thru Indigenous-led Research, Indigenous Studies Research Network and Faculty of Health Symposium, at Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove Campus, 29 September. Keynote speakers: Associate Professor Noel Hayman and Professor John Lowe. Speakers: Adjunct Professor Mick Adams, Professor Helen Milroy, Dr Bronwyn Fredericks, Professor Kathleen Clapham and Dr Ngiare Brown.

Since 2008 there has been a national partnership agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. The government's health reform agenda stipulates that evidence based policy is to be developed to improve outcomes. Though this strategy is highly commended it raises questions for Indigenous health researchers, practitioners and professionals such as: who decides what evidence produced by research should inform policy? Should an Indigenous led and developed research agenda be prioritised to inform policy and programs to bring about change?

This symposium brings together some of Australia's leading Indigenous practitioners, professionals and researchers to discuss the different dimensions and complexity of Indigenous health research. Speakers will discuss community led health research, culturally based health service delivery and the implications of Indigenous led research for policy and practice. They will also address the complexity of knowledge sharing, capacity building, partnerships and developing Indigenous research methodologies.

Registration is free with morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided. Please RSVP and register any dietary requirements, E: <isrn@qut.edu.au> or T: 07 3138 8611.

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The LSAC and LSIC Research Conference: Findings from The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) and The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) Growing Up in Australia and Footprints in Time, Melbourne, 15-16 November 2011. Conference website is at <<http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/conf/2011/>>. Call for abstracts closes on 12 August.

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Reminder: 3rd Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium 'Impacts & Outcomes', Ballarat, Victoria, 14–16 November 2011. Conference website: <<http://anzmh.asn.au/rrmh11>>. Call for abstracts closes on 29 July.

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Funding is available from OATSIH for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attend the **Chronic Disease Network Conference 2011** 'Out of the Shadows, Into the Spotlight', in Darwin, 8–9 September. Applications close on 29 July: <<http://www.cdnconference.com.au/oatsih>>.

EVENTS

Tuesday 26 July 2011, 8.00pm (AEST): **A Clear View: Improving Indigenous Eye Health** (live satellite broadcast and online webcast, presented by the Rural Health Education Foundation). Presenters are Dr Norman Swan (ABC Radio National Health Report), Professor Hugh Taylor (Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne), Dr Tim Henderson (Eye Specialist, Alice Springs Hospital), Ms Anna Morse (Optometrist, Project Manager Aboriginal Eye Care, International Centre for Eyecare Education Ltd NT), Ms Barbara O'Connor (Indigenous Regional Eye Health Coordinator, Woolloongabba, QLD). For more information: <www.rhef.com.au>.

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Thursday 28 July 2011: **World Hepatitis Day 2011**. For activities in Victoria, please visit <www.hepcvic.org.au>.

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Tuesday 20 September, 6.00 to 7.30 pm, in Shepparton, Victoria: **Dungala Kaiela Oration**, to be delivered by Mr Saul Eslake, Program Director, Productivity Growth, Grattan Institute, at the Harder Auditorium, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE, Fryers Street.

Thursday 03 November, 6.00 to 8.00 pm, in Melbourne: **Narrm Oration**, presented by Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development. Venue: 'The Spot', Faculty of Economics and Commerce, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton (corner of Pelham Street). The Orator will be Mr Willie Hensley, an Inuit Leader known for his extraordinary contribution to the Alaskan Native Land Claims Movement.

More details for both events available at <<http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/>>.

JOBS

Senior Research Officer, in Alice Springs, full time, 12-month contract at the Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute. The Institute is an independent, internationally renowned medical research facility. Its work extends to wide-scale community studies with a focus on diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The position is at a newly funded Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) will implement a program of research in partnership with a national network of Indigenous-controlled health services to improve chronic disease management and better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. The successful applicant will take a lead role in the CRE research and operation management teams to plan, coordinate and conduct research and other activities across the network; contribute to the capacity building of Indigenous researchers and processes for knowledge

translation into policy and practice; and maintain communication between the CRE teams and network partners.

The position requires strong, relevant research experience, good project management skills and experience, high level communication skills and a familiarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian communities and health services' structures and personnel.

Applications to include a current resume with three professional referees quoting ref. CA03. For a position description, further information or to apply, please visit <www.bakeridi.edu.au>. Closing date is 25 July.

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The Aspiration Initiative State Coordinators, Victoria, NSW and WA

The Aspiration Initiative (TAI) aims to increase opportunities and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students, helping to ensure they realise their potential at school, university and beyond.

Victoria: The Aurora Project and the Charlie Perkins Trust for Children & Students are seeking a Victorian State Coordinator to implement TAI's pilot academic enrichment program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students living in Victoria. This program will be the first of its kind in Australia, and if successful, has the potential to expand to other states in years to come. Applications for this position close 5pm (AEST) on Monday, 25 July.

NSW and WA: It is anticipated that the NSW and WA pilots will commence later in 2011. Expressions of interest are invited from candidates interested in the State Coordinator role for each of NSW or WA.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are encouraged to apply. For more information, please contact Georgia at E: <georgia.snow@auroraproject.com.au> or T: 02 9469 8102.

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Research Fellow: Race-Based Discrimination, in Melbourne, full-time fixed term, at the McCaughey VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing, Melbourne School of Population Health. The Research Fellow will focus on quantitative analysis of various datasets that include measures of racism, race-based discrimination and/or health outcomes. Full details at:

<<http://www.jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=753586&lWorkTypeID=&lLocationID=&lCategoryID=1800&lPayScaleID=&stp=AW&sLanguage=en>>. Closing date is 7 August.

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Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Worker, Illawarra Local Health Network, Shellharbour, NSW, full time until June 2014. The Aboriginal drug and alcohol worker will provide care co-ordination and consultation to the local drug and alcohol service and AMIHS, particularly in relation to the cultural factors affecting the social and emotional wellbeing of pregnant Aboriginal women and their families. They will provide clinical assessment/triage, help build capacity within the AMIHS and provide a specific pathway for drug & alcohol care for Aboriginal women. Ensuring cultural appropriateness and local relevance are significant factors in successful and sustainable delivery of these programs to support Aboriginal women and their families. The Aboriginal drug and alcohol worker will demonstrate a key role in assisting members of the local Aboriginal community to access the drug and alcohol services. Contributing to the learning environment and ensuring the development and sustainment of culturally sensitive policies and practices will be an important responsibility.

Aboriginal persons and Torres Strait Islander persons are strongly encouraged to apply for this position. Full details available at:
<<http://nswhealth.erecruit.com.au/ViewPosition.aspx?Id=38911>>. Closing date is 7 August.

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Jobs at the Koorie Heritage Trust in Melbourne:

Senior Curator and Curator (closing date is 29 July). Enquiries and applications to Miriam Troon, Senior Curator, E: <Miriam@korieheritagetrust.com>.

Retail Manager – Koorie gifts (closing date is 29 July). Enquiries to Ian Scott, T: 03 8622 2600, E: <ian@korieheritagetrust.com>.

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APS Indigenous Traineeships for 2011. Designed to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with the right skills and knowledge to commence a career in Government. Application kit: <<http://www.apsc.gov.au/indigenous/traineeapplicationpack2012.pdf>>. Closing date is 29 July.

MEDIA

Past media releases are at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/media-releases>>. Stories about the Lowitja Institute in the media are listed at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/media>>.

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Joining the Dots to Save Hearts, a story by Christian Catalano, on heart disease and rheumatic fever in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, published in The Age on 16 July. Available at: <<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/joining-the-dots-to-save-hearts-20110715-1hhqu.html>>.

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Health Ministers Announce National Board Appointments for the Four Health Professions Joining the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme in 2012, Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council Communiqué, 18 July 2011. ‘The Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council announced today the appointment of the 39 inaugural members to the National Boards for the four health professions that will join the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme on 1 July 2012.

These appointments are made under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, as in force in each State and Territory, from 1 July 2011. The National Boards will begin important preparatory work to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, Chinese medicine practitioners, medical radiation practitioners and occupational therapists to join the national scheme...’

Full text available at the Australian health Practitioners Regulation Agency website: <<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Legislation-and-Publications/Ministerial-Directives-and-Communiques.aspx>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service Funding: Report to the Sector 2011, by A. Martini, U. Marlina, J. Dwyer, J. Lavoie, K. O’Donnell, & P. Sullivan 2011, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne. Available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/new-funding-report-released>>.

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Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers, by A. Laycock with D. Walker, D., N. Harrison & J. Brands 2011, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne. Available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers>>.

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Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia, DoHA 2011, available at <<http://health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Review+of+Health+and+Medical+Research+Terms+of+Reference>>.

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The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network newsletter (6th edn) is now available. The newsletter includes the latest information about issues concerning Indigenous health and medical education and is designed as a resource for Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical educators, students, medical practitioners, policy makers, nursing and allied health professionals and educators, community members and all those interested in improving Indigenous health outcomes: <<http://limenetwork.net.au/content/newsletters>>.

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Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin, September 2011 edition is now 'in progress' and available online at <www.healthbulletin.org.au>.

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Through APO

Diabetes Prevalence in Australia: Detailed Estimates, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/diabetes-prevalence-australia-detailed-estimates>>.

End-stage Kidney Disease in Australia: Total Incidence, 2003–2007, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/end-stage-kidney-disease-australia-total-incidence-2003-2007>>.

Health Care Services, 2009–10, Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/health-care-services-2009-10>>.

Access to Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/access-health-services-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people>>.

A Critical History of Indigenous Eye Health Policy-making: Towards Effective System Reform, Jilpia Nappalhari Jones, Indigenous Eye Health Unit 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/critical-history-indigenous-eye-health-policy-making-towards-effective-system-reform>>.

Evaluation Of The Child Health Check Initiative And The Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative, Department of Health and Ageing 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/evaluation-child-health-check-initiative-and-expanding-health-service-delivery-initiative>>.

Snapshot of Australian Primary Health Care Research 2011, B. Lunnay 2011, Primary Health Care Research and Information Service: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/snapshot-australian-primary-health-care-research-2011>>.

Collaborating with Consumer and Community Representatives in Health and Medical Research in Australia, J. M. Payne, Health Research Policy and Systems, 2011:

<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/collaborating-consumer-and-community-representatives-health-and-medical-research-australia>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Indigenous Resources at the Healthy Living NT website, including resources for diabetes support, healthy living and cardiac health:

<<http://www.healthylivingnt.org.au/content/?id=84>>.

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Podcast: Keeping Kidney Health in the Indigenous Community, featuring Dr Della Yarnold (Biripi): <<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/podcasts/2011/keeping-kidney-health-indigenous-community>>.

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Aboriginal Health at the Department of Health, Victoria, website:

<<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth/>>.

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Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice, N. Purdie, P. Dudgeon & R. Walker (eds) 2010. Available free of charge:

<http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/kulunga/working_together>.

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The **Lifeline** Information Service provides access to a variety of self-help tool kits with information about issues such as mental illness, depression, suicide prevention, and more. These resources focus on practical steps to help promote mental health and are available at <<http://www.lifeline.org.au/infoservice>>. If you are in need of 24 hour crisis support, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. Also: No charge for mobile phone calls to Lifeline from anywhere in Australia, from 1 July: <http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/208>.

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Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control website <www.ceitc.org.au> where you will find many resources for tobacco control workers and various publications, including CEITC's fortnightly eBulletin to its members and information on the Oceania Tobacco Control Conference, in Brisbane, 18–20 October and the Indigenous Preconference workshop.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

Please see our Scholarships and Grants web page for a list of available opportunities:

<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/scholarships-and-grants>>.

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HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation Expressions of Interest for Research Funding.

The Foundation is seeking EOIs from research teams interested in funding for health services research that will improve the quality, safety and value of health care in Australia. Applicants are strongly encouraged to focus on translational or comparative effectiveness research, demonstrating how expected results can be used or made available for use to enhance the quality of care, patient safety, and/or affordability. Results should be directly relevant to consumers, clinicians, hospital and health care providers, policymakers, and insurers. Projects

should concentrate on any of the following areas: common chronic health conditions; lowering hospital acquired complications/infections, especially readmission rates; mental health; and obesity. Enquiries to Karen Beatty, T: 02 9290 0171, or W: <hcf_foundation@hcf.com.au>. Closing date is 10 August.

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Australia Postgraduate Award PhD Scholarship – Climate change impacts on the health of Indigenous Australians.

Applications are invited from APA scholarship-ready students to participate in a funded 3-year NHMRC project that examines the health impacts of climate change on Indigenous Australians. The scholarship will provide a tax-free stipend of \$33,000 a year for three years.

The proposed research project is designed to quantify the health responses to temperature change by comparing Indigenous with non-Indigenous people, focusing on people living in Darwin, NT, possibly Alice Springs. The project needs a dedicated student researcher to explore the relationship between climate and health outcomes of likely future climate impacts. It is anticipated that the student will have a background in epidemiology, biostatistics or population health; is experienced in relevant quantitative methods, and has an interest, or previous experience, in climate / other environmental impacts and/or Indigenous health. The student will join either The School of Medicine (UWS) or the Climate Change Research Centre (UNSW) and will receive further training in climate related sciences as necessary. The successful candidate will be based in Sydney, but will travel interstate for limited periods to carry out project work. The candidate will be co-supervised by Associate Professor Hilary Bambrick (UWS) and Dr Lisa Alexander (UNSW). Applicants should submit a CV along with copies of relevant academic transcripts to: Dr Donna Green, E: <donna.green@unsw.edu.au>. For more information, please contact Dr Green on T: 0417 455 920 or by email. Closing date is 15 August.

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The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is now open for applications. The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are intending to undertake study or are undertaking study in an entry level qualification at an Australian university or TAFE (certificate IV and above) level in the areas of: Aboriginal health worker, allied health (excluding pharmacy), dentistry/oral health, enrolled nursing, medicine, midwifery, registered nursing: <www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/puggy_hunter>. Further information or assistance available at T: 1800 688 628 or E: <scholarships@rcna.org.au>. Closing date is COB 16 September 2011.

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Rural Health Continuing Education Program (Stream 2) is now open. Funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing, the program supports qualified health professionals working in rural and remote Australia to undertake continuing professional development and inter-professional learning activities: <<http://rhce.ruralhealth.org.au/>>. Closing date is 8 August 2011.

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2012 Fulbright Australian Scholarships are open until 31 August. Full information is available at <<http://www.fulbright.com.au/scholarships/australian/application-information.html>>.

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Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship in Indigenous Health and Welfare. The fellowship supports individuals making a contribution in the area of Australian Indigenous health and welfare: <<http://www.medfac.usyd.edu.au/nicksdrysdale/>>. Closing date is 26 August.

SEMINARS, COURSES, COLLOQUIA AND SYMPOSIA

Aboriginal Cardiac Outreach Seminar, 11 August, 2–4pm, Grace Vaughn House, 227 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park, WA. The Heart Foundation and WA Cardiovascular Health Network invite you to participate in a state-wide two-hour video conference, aimed at health professionals who provide services to Aboriginal communities. To RSVP to attend or for more information about video conferencing, E: <Amy.Hardy@heartfoundation.org.au> or T: 08 9382 5928 by 4 August.

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Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Disadvantage, two-day short course in Melbourne, 19–20 September, presented by the McCaughey Centre and the Onemda Koori Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne. Drawing on scholarship from a range of disciplines, the course explores how cultural and racial identities are formed and how knowledge about Indigenous disadvantage is constructed over time. These skills are the building blocks of reflexive anti-racism. Using interactive exercises, case studies and small group work, theories and debates are illustrated with real-life problems and a variety of print and electronic resources. Through building reflexive anti-racism, non-Indigenous people can more effectively promote positive change in Indigenous affairs. This course has been designed as a professional development activity for those in research, policy or service delivery roles within Indigenous health, social work, education, community development and related areas. For more information and to register, contact Hannah Reich, E: <hsreich@unimelb.edu.au>. Registrations close 22 August.

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Walking through Research 2011, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Training in Sydney, 26–30 September 2011, presented by the University Centre for Rural Health – North Coast. For further information please contact Shawn, T: 02 66207570. Applications close 5 August.

If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact Cristina Lochert, E: <cristina.lochert@lowitja.org.au>. Archives of the CRCAH, CRCATSIH and Lowitja Institute eBulletins are available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>. To unsubscribe, please E: <admin@lowitja.org.au>.

Communications Team

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