

# 16 January 2012

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.

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Lowitja Institute wishes you a healthy, happy and productive 2012!

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## NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Board of the Lowitja Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Lyn Brodie as the new Chief Executive Officer. Ms Brodie took up the position at the Institute's head office in Melbourne on 5 January 2012.

Previously the CEO at the Gandel Charitable Trust, Lyn has also held executive positions at Zoos Victoria, the Baker Heart Research Institute (now Baker IDI) and Cabrini Health. Her career spans both the corporate and not-for-profit sectors, with experience and expertise in strategy, operations, business development and marketing.

Lyn holds a Master of Business Administration from the Mt Eliza Business School, is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has completed 'Governing for Not for Profit Excellence' at Harvard Business School. Lyn is also currently a non-executive Director of Relationships Australia (Vic).

The Board considers itself extremely fortunate to have secured Lyn as Chief Executive Officer and looks forward to working with her during this important period of the Institute's development.

The Board would like to thank the Chief Operating Officer, David Morgan, for his work as Acting Chief Executive over the last four months.

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### **UPDATE on the Lowitja Institute National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care, 14–15 May 2012, in Alice Springs**

- Registrations are now open. Early bird registrations close on 2 March. Please visit the conference website at <<http://www.lowitjacqi2012.org.au/index.asp?IntCatId=14>>.
- Invitations to submit a poster abstract are also open; closing date is 10 February 2012. Guidelines are available at <<http://www.lowitjacqi2012.org.au/abstracts/?IntCatId=28>>.
- Conference papers will be by invitation only.

More information, including conference flyer, is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-conference-2012>>.

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### **NEW DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES**

The Lowitja Institute has a new discussion paper series that published three volumes in 2011. All papers are available in PDF format at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/publications>>. Hard copies may be requested by email from <[publications@lowitja.org.au](mailto:publications@lowitja.org.au)> (some cost may apply).

*Legally Invisible—How Australian Laws Impede Stewardship and Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health* is a review commissioned by the Lowitja Institute in response to widespread recognition of problems in the policy and administrative arrangements for health and health care for Australia's First Peoples, including lack of clarity about the responsibilities of governments at various levels. Information about this project is available at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcatsih-program-3-enabling-policy-and-systems>.

*Revitalizing Health For All: International Indigenous Representative Group Learning from the Experience of Comprehensive Primary Health Care in Aboriginal Australia—A Commentary on Three Project Reports* highlights common themes and lessons of the Revitalizing Health For All international project in the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Australia. The three Australian projects were at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Ltd in Melbourne, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc. in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, and the Urapuntja Health Service, Utopia, also in the Northern Territory. For more information about this project, please visit <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/revitalizing-health-all-international-indigenous-representative-group>>.

*Genetic Research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: Beginning the Conversation* is the outcome of the first national discussion on the conduct of genetic research in Indigenous communities in Australia, convened by the Lowitja Institute in 2010. It reviews the ethical issues relevant to genetic research in an Australian Indigenous context, existing guidelines for genetic research in Indigenous communities internationally, and

literature on genetic literacy in Indigenous contexts. Finally, the discussion paper presents a summary of the productive and challenging conversations at the roundtable.

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## RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

### **An opportunity to participate in a national appraisal of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care**

The Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation (CHETRE) at the University of New South Wales has been contracted by the Lowitja Institute to undertake an appraisal of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care. This is an opportunity to showcase the range CQI work being done across the country in order to improve the quality of care offered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and communities.

A national reference group is providing advice and guidance on the conduct of the study. CHETRE would like to invite you speak with them about your work in CQI to give your perspectives on your experience in implementing CQI activities in your centre or program or service. CHETRE is interested in your views on the strengths and weaknesses of the activities, system, and tools you are using to conduct CQI, and on your views about how the activities contribute to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The purpose of the work is to develop recommendations about what is needed now, to improve on what is being done, so that we can continue to improve the quality of primary health care available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and communities. If you would like further information about this work or to participate in a discussion about your work (and that of others in the field), please contact Ms Sandra Angus, Senior Research Officer on T: 07 3146 4273 or M: 0414 445 788 or Assoc. Professor Marilyn Wise on T: 02 9612 0779. (Text by CHETRE)

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## PUBLISHED BY THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

Publications are available in PDF format at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/publications>> and can be ordered by email from <[publications@lowitja.org.au](mailto:publications@lowitja.org.au)> (some cost may apply).

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**Managing Two Worlds Together:** Six reports for the Managing Two Worlds Together project are available in PDF format from the Lowitja Institute website at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-publishing>>. More information about this project is also available at <[www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/health-care-management/research/mtwt/](http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/health-care-management/research/mtwt/)>.

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**Art Into Health: Puntu Palyarrikuwanpa** *Aboriginal Men Becoming Well*, B. McCoy <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/art-health-booklet>>.

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**Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers**, A. Laycock with D. Walker, N. Harrison & J. Brands 2011 <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers#purchase>>.

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## CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS

A list of 2012 conferences is at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2012>>.

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### **The Lowitja Institute National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care 'CQI for everyday and everybody', in Alice Springs, 14–15 May 2012**

Who should attend the conference? People interested in Continuous Quality Improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care, including:

- Primary health care practitioners
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers
- Researchers
- Primary health care consumers
- Health policy advisers
- General Practitioners
- Representatives from community controlled and government health services
- Government decision-makers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peak bodies.

The conference aims are: to bring together service providers (including community based and community controlled services), government agencies, researchers, industry and policy development departments to present their work/research on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; to share information and stories about current research, tools and expertise on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; and to identify gaps and complementary CQI initiatives.

The conference themes are: CQI state of the art practice at local and regional level; consumer perspectives; CQI models and systems; CQI influence in health practices and policies; data as a key driver for change in primary health care; national health reform; and accreditation.

More information is available at <[www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-conference-2012](http://www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-conference-2012)>, or T: 07 3309 3414, E: [alana.gall@lowitja.org.au](mailto:alana.gall@lowitja.org.au)

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### **The Third People's Health Assembly PHA3, 6–11 July 2012, Cape Town, South Africa**

The assembly will be held by the People's Health Movement (PHM). PHM is a global network bringing together grassroots health activists, civil society organisations and academic institutions from around the world, particularly from low and middle income countries. The Assembly flyer is available at <[http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/111215 3rd Peoples Health Movement meeting.pdf](http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/111215%203rd%20Peoples%20Health%20Movement%20meeting.pdf)>.

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### **14th Annual National ARMS Conference, 'Ride the Wave of Collaboration: Industry, Institutions, Individuals', 19–21 September 2012, Gold Coast, Queensland**

Developing and sustaining collaborations and partnerships are key factors in enhancing research impact, broadening access to world-class technologies and data resources and facilitating opportunities to move further and faster in the research enterprise. With the advancing speed of communications, these opportunities are evermore "location independent" and with that bring various challenges particularly in terms of processes, values and expectations. Conference website is at <[www.arms2012.org.au](http://www.arms2012.org.au)>.

**‘Connecting the Dots’ A Conference Shaping the Future of Infrastructure in Remote Indigenous Communities, 6–7 February 2012, Alice Springs**

The conference will be hosted by the Australian Government’s Infrastructure Australia to influence sustainable growth in remote Indigenous communities through infrastructure. The conference will provide national and international attendees the opportunity to discuss and progress innovative ideas to plan, develop and manage infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities.

One of the nine key challenges identified by Infrastructure Australia to the delivery of national strategic and economic benefits with infrastructure reform and investment initiatives is: *Supporting Indigenous communities: Improving infrastructure in remote and regional Indigenous communities, and closing the gap in essential infrastructure and services between these and non-Indigenous communities.* Conference website is at <[www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/conference\\_series/connecting\\_the\\_dots.aspx](http://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/conference_series/connecting_the_dots.aspx)>.

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**Call for papers: The 13th International Mental Health Conference, 6–8 August 2012, Gold Coast, Queensland**

The theme is ‘Positive Change; Investing in Mental Health’. Mental health awareness and wellbeing strategies are urgent public concerns. Mental illness has the third highest burden of disease in Australia with approximately 45% of adults experiencing a mental illness at some stage of their lives, including alcohol or substance abuse disorders. The Conference will focus on the complex mental issues affecting the elderly including depression, dementia, delirium, paranoid disorders and anxiety. It will also explore the mental health issues of young Australians (aged 18–24 years) struggling with schizophrenia, depression, suicidal thoughts, bipolar, anxiety disorders and drug use and drug induced psychosis. The conference will examine state, federal, international and COAG initiatives, early intervention strategies, validated treatments, suicide prevention and the effectiveness of mental health preventive measures.

The conference website is at <<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference>>.

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**Date claimer: The International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development Conference, 24–28 September 2012, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane**

The conference will provide the opportunity for knowledge translation through activities designed to build capacity, stimulate research, and strengthen and expand the international knowledge translation system. The aim is to translate new knowledge from the research setting to real-world applications in order to provide more effective health services and strengthen health care systems, thereby improving the health of Indigenous people.

Contact: Dr Mick Adams, Conference Organiser, Australian Steering Committee, E: <[m2.adams@qut.edu.au](mailto:m2.adams@qut.edu.au)>.

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**EVENTS**

**Friday, 10 February, in Melbourne, ‘Gambling from a public health perspective – lessons from tobacco control for the reform of gambling regulation’**

This one-day conference will be hosted by Monash University. Researchers and public health advocates can participate in a series of workshops to progress and shape the gambling reform advocacy agenda. This free events is supported by PHAA (Vic).

Please register by emailing [Darshini.Ayton@monash.edu](mailto:Darshini.Ayton@monash.edu). Flyer with more information at <[http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/111220\\_Gambling\\_from\\_a\\_public\\_health\\_perspective.pdf](http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/111220_Gambling_from_a_public_health_perspective.pdf)>.

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## **JOBS**

**Project Manager – SHOP@RIC**, 2-year full-time contract at the Menzies School of Health Research. Menzies is looking for a Program Manager to coordinate SHOP@RIC – a research study assessing the impact of price reductions on purchasing behaviour in remote Indigenous communities. This project has attracted an investigator team with strong experience in food supply, retail interventions and working in partnership with remote communities and leaders. It will contribute to national and international evidence on pricing policies and nutrition. The position will require experience in Project Management and an understanding of research processes.

Position Description and Selection Criteria at <[www.menzies.edu.au](http://www.menzies.edu.au)> or T: 08 8943 5052 / 5081. For more information contact Megan Ferguson on T: 08 8922 7667 or E: [Megan.Ferguson@menzies.edu.au](mailto:Megan.Ferguson@menzies.edu.au). Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons are strongly encouraged to apply. Closing Date: 20th January 2012.

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### **Executive Director, SES1, Research Translation Group, The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), ongoing new position in Canberra**

This newly created position will be a part of the NHMRC's senior management team, contributing to the strategic and operational leadership of the NHMRC. In collaboration with one other SES1, the incumbent will provide high-level advice on a range of complex policy and program management issues to the CEO, Principal and Advisory Committees and NHMRC Council. The primary focus will be to support the effective operation of the Research Translation Group, working with staff across the organisation to ensure support for NHMRC's research and translation activities. This will include the management of developing guidelines and advice – particularly in Indigenous health, genetics and ethics. The successful applicant will possess, or be able to acquire, a security clearance at the Negative Vetting Level 1. Further details at <<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about/careers/current-vacancies-nhmrc>>. Closing date is 23 January 2012 (midnight AEST).

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### **National Indigenous Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion, Employee Engagement, Corporate Affairs FBU, based in Victoria**

The purpose of this role is to implement activities of Australia Post's Indigenous Employment Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan in Victoria and Tasmania and manage the funding requirements of government funding through the Indigenous Employment Program. The role will support and provide professional advice and services to operational areas which enable the objectives of the strategy and plan to be met. As a member of the Centre of Excellence, Diversity & Inclusion, this position reports to the National Indigenous Manager, Employee Engagement, Corporate Affairs. For more information contact Darryl Monaghan on T: 03 9107 0511 or E: <[Darryl.Monaghan@auspost.com.au](mailto:Darryl.Monaghan@auspost.com.au)>. Closing date is 20 January 2012.

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**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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**PUBLICATIONS**

**Housing, health, heroes and philanthropy: Australia’s Healthabitat wins the 2011 World Habitat Award**, C. S. Guest 2011, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 195, no. 11/12, pp. 726–7 <[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195\\_11\\_121211/gue11404\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195_11_121211/gue11404_fm.html)>. The citation describes Healthabitat’s Housing for Health program as an initiative to improve the health of Indigenous people in Australia, by ensuring they have access to safe and well functioning housing and an improved living environment.

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**‘Any body is better than nobody?’ Ethical questions around recruiting and/or retaining health professionals in rural areas**, C. Simpson & F. McDonald 2011, *Rural and Remote Health*, vol. 11: 1867 <<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1867>>.

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**Closing the Gap and Indigenous housing**, E. L. McDonald 2011, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 195, no. 11/12, pp. 652–3 <[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195\\_11\\_121211/mcd10376\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/195_11_121211/mcd10376_fm.html)>.

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**Through Australian Policy Online (APO)**

**A scheme to address online copyright infringement**, Communications Alliance 2011 <<http://apo.org.au/research/scheme-address-online-copyright-infringement>>.

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**The Critical Decade: Climate Change and Health**, A. McMichael & L. Hughes 2011, Climate Commission <<http://apo.org.au/research/critical-decade-climate-change-and-health>>.

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**Racism: a major impediment to optimal Indigenous health and health care in Australia**, Niyi Awofeso 2011, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet <<http://apo.org.au/research/racism-major-impediment-optimal-indigenous-health-and-health-care-australia>>

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Australia Policy Online (APO) archive of stories about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health can be found at <<http://apo.org.au/indigenous>>.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS AND 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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**Australian Medical Association (AMA) Indigenous Peoples’ Medical Scholarship 2012**

For the assistance and encouragement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders studying for a medical degree at an Australian University.

Applicants must be people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background.

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be currently enrolled full time at an Australian Medical School and in at least their first year of medicine. Preference will be given to applicants who do not already hold any other substantial scholarship.

The scholarship will be awarded on the recommendation of an advisory committee appointed by the AMA. The value of any scholarship given in 2012 will be \$9,000 per annum.

The scholarship will be awarded for a full course of study, subject to review at the end of each year.

To receive further information and an application package, please contact Dr Maurice Rickard, T: 02 6270 5449 or E: <mrickard@ama.com.au>. An application package can also be downloaded from <<http://ama.com.au/node/5198>>.

Closing date is Tuesday 31 January 2012.

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### **beyondblue National Priority Driven Research Program Round 2**

beyondblue is seeking applications for the beyondblue National Priority Driven Research (NPDR) program ROUND 2. This national, competitive grant program aims to fund quality research in depression and anxiety in key priority areas: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex people; men (aged 12–65 years). Grants up to \$300,000 per project. Projects must be two years' duration or less. More information at <[http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link\\_id=6.1415](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=6.1415)>. Closing date is 28 February 2012.

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### **Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme**

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA). Scholarships are worth up to \$7,500 per year for part time study or up to \$15,000 per year for full time study and will be available for the normal duration of the course.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are or will be studying at a TAFE (certificate IV and above) or entry-level university course in the following professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, Allied health (excluding pharmacy), Dentistry/oral health, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing. Applicants must identify as and be able to prove their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status.

For more information contact RCNA, free call 1800 688 628, E: [scholarships@rcna.org.au](mailto:scholarships@rcna.org.au), W: <[www.rcna.org.au](http://www.rcna.org.au)>.

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### **SEMINARS, COURSES, COLLOQUIA AND SYMPOSIA**

**Master in Public Health, Institute of Koorie Education**, Deakin University, Victoria

Applications are now open for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons to undertake a Master in Public Health delivered in residential mode at the Institute of Koorie Education Deakin University. For further information, W: [www.deakin.edu.au/ike](http://www.deakin.edu.au/ike) or telephone Janice Jessen T: 03 5227 2346.

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