

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 — 08 NOVEMBER 2010

This fortnightly bulletin is prepared by the Lowitja Institute (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>. A PDF version is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>.

CONTENTS

- * **Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Annual Report June 2010**
- * **2011 Melbourne University Summer Program: Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research Training**
- * **Quality Improvement Toolkit – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patient Quality Improvement Toolkit for Hospital Staff**
- * **Reminder: The 2010 Narrm Oration**
- * **Conferences**
- * **Jobs**
- * **Publications**
- * **Resources and Websites**
- * **Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders**
- * **Seminars, Courses and Symposia**
- * **and Reminders**

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT JUNE 2010

The CRCATSIH Annual Report June 2010 is now available in PDF format at the Lowitja Institute website: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/crcatsih-annual-report-2010>>. The annual report covers the period from the 16 February 2010, when the CRCATSIH formally commenced operations following the signing of the Commonwealth Agreement until the end of the financial year in June 2010.

2011 MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY SUMMER PROGRAM: PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN INDIGENOUS RESEARCH TRAINING, in Melbourne, 31 January–4 February 2011

This productive, interesting and fun week, conducted by leading Aboriginal academics, is a five-day intensive course conducted at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne. Part-time enrolments are not available. This is a University of Melbourne-accredited course and is fee exempt. Applicants may also apply for their supervisor to attend.

Entry requirements: Applicants must be currently enrolled in an Australian university in an Honours, Masters by research, or Doctoral degree (PhD or professional doctorate) and must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Application closing date: Friday, 26 November 2010.

For more information contact Simone Brotherton, E: <srb@unimelb.edu.au>, T: 03 8344 7722, or visit <<http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/cie/programs/SummerSchool/index.html>>.

(NB. This course replaces the yearly ASSA Summer School).

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOLKIT – ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PATIENT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TOOLKIT FOR HOSPITAL STAFF.

The health status of Indigenous peoples is a global concern with mortality and hospitalisation data indicating that the health of indigenous groups falls below that of other ethnic groups within their countries. From an Australian perspective, Aboriginal people generally have higher rates of hypertension, heart disease, respiratory ailments, stroke, diabetes, cancer and renal failure. This toolkit has been designed to give hospitals a systematic approach to improving Aboriginal health service delivery and is available at:

<<http://www.svhm.org.au/aboutus/community/ICHPToolkit/Pages/toolkit.aspx>>. This is an outcome from a project partly funded the Lowitja Institute. More information about the whole project is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcch/improving-culture-hospitals>>.

Reminder: THE 2010 NARRM ORATION, in Melbourne, 11 November.

Indigenous Nation Re-Building Renaissance: Lessons about leadership, governance and resiliency of Native North America, to be delivered by Dr Manley A. Begay Jr, Faculty Chair, Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona and co-director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development at Harvard University.

The Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne invites you to the Narrm Oration and the launch of the Institute's foundation corporate partnership with Rio Tinto Australia.

The Oration will be delivered from 6.00 to 8.00pm, at 'The Spot' (Basement Theatre), Faculty of Economics and Commerce, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton, Victoria. Please RSVP on-line: <www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au>.

CONFERENCES

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

12th International Mental Health Conference 'Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness', Gold Coast, Qld, 24–26 August 2011. The Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association invites you to submit an abstract at <http://www.anzmf.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html>. The conference will explore different types of Personality Disorders and their effects from Childhood to the Aged with a specific focus on Schizophrenia, Eating Disorders, the Effects of Drugs & Alcohol and Bipolar Disorder. It presents a unique opportunity to bring together Australia's and New Zealand's leading academics, practitioners and other mental health professionals. The focus will be on new clinical developments, treatments, programs and studies in meeting the challenges faced by people with personality disorders.

Global Health Metrics and Evaluation: Controversies, Innovation, Accountability Conference, in Seattle, WA, USA, 14–16 March 2011. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (Seattle, WA, USA), The Lancet, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the University of Queensland School of Population Health invite submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentation. Abstracts can be submitted on the following topics: the latest approaches to measuring maternal mortality; transitions in non-communicable diseases in rich and poor countries; controversies in the burden of malaria; trends in health inequalities; integrated surveillance systems; responsible data sharing and strengthening country capacity for analysis; new quantitative tools for priority setting; and the next generation of metrics for health-system performance. Abstracts should be no longer than 250–300 words in length to be submitted at the conference website <<http://ghme.org/>> **no later than 6 December**. The peer-review process will be organised by The Lancet: <<http://bit.ly/cAsLPh>>.

JOBS

Indigenous Quitline Counsellors, in Melbourne (CBD location), part-time, fixed term (ref. QUIT 53). Cancer Council Victoria is seeking part-time Indigenous Quit Counsellors/Specialists to join the Quitline team. For the first time in Victoria a tailored counselling service will be available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians through Quitline. Reporting to Quitline Coordinators, counsellors will perform general Quitline services as well as provide specialist telephone advice in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander setting. They will be integral in supporting communities in reducing their smoking prevalence and be an important part of the state-wide strategy to reduce the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tobacco use in Victoria. They will respond to incoming calls and make outbound calls as part of the Quitline callback service. Applicants should have experience in a health promotion role within a community health care setting, with specific experience talking to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients about relevant health issues. They should have an understanding and knowledge of social, health and cultural issues affecting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as well as knowledge of other networks or organisations working with Indigenous Victorians. For more information visit <www.cancervic.org.au/about/careers> or contact Toni Mason, T: on 03 9635-5524. Applications close 22 November. **People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent are strongly encouraged to apply.**

NATIONAL MANAGER, RespectED, Red Cross Australia, in Sydney (Melbourne and Adelaide are possible locations). The RespectED National Manager is responsible for the design, development, implementation and day-to-day management of the national RespectED program, national and state RespectED staff, and Community Prevention Educators. This position reports directly to the Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy. This is a start-up role and therefore requires very strong coordination, planning, relationship-building and communication skills and the ability to lead a virtual team. Significant domestic travel is required for this role. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply for this role. For more information, contact E: <john.irwin@chandlerwoods.com.au>.

Outreach Worker, Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter Inc., full time to June 2012. The incumbent will contribute to the delivery of Culturally Appropriate Family Violence and Relationships Programs for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people in the Darwin area. Vacancy closes on 10 November. Minimum qualification required: Certificate 111. For further information, contact Michael Torres on T: 08 89 470322, E: <michaeltorres8@bigpond.com>. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

MEDIA

Indigenous Welfare Improving Slowly, ABC News, by Emma Masters, 29 October 2010. 'A report into the health and welfare of Indigenous Australians has found socio-economic outcomes are improving but remain below those of non-Indigenous people. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) report found some improvements in education, with the rate of Indigenous people completing year 12 increasing by 4 per cent from 2002. It shows the unemployment rate has fallen to 17 per cent, but that remains more than three times higher than non-Indigenous people. But the ABS found perceptions of wellbeing have not changed, with almost a quarter of people reporting fair to poor health. A third of Indigenous people experience high levels of psychological distress, with rates high among those with a disability or chronic health problem and those who experience violence or discrimination.' <<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/10/29/3052130.htm?section=justin>>.

Cancer and Indigenous Health: The pitfalls of assumption-based policy. 'Why is there so little policy attention to the toll that cancer takes upon Indigenous Australians? Research involving interviews with senior bureaucrats and government ministers throws some light on the possible answers to this question. Perhaps policy is being based upon assumptions, rather than the evidence about cancer's impact on Indigenous, writes Melissa Sweet, introducing a blog by Daniel Vujcich in **Croakey, the Crikey health blog** on 4 November: <<http://blogs.crikey.com.au/croakey/2010/11/04/cancer-and-indigenous-health-the-pitfalls-of-assumption-based-policy/>>.

PUBLICATIONS

The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Oct. 2010, Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat. no. 4704.0. This electronic release of articles focuses on social and emotional wellbeing, housing circumstances and access to health and community services.

Information presented is largely drawn from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/4704.0?OpenDocument>>.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Annual Report 2009–10:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/12056>>.

Expenditure on Health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People 2006–07: An analysis by remoteness and disease, AIHW (cat. no. HWE 49), Canberra. Expenditure on health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people varies with remoteness, but the patterns differ between each of the major types of health spending. The report shows that Indigenous vs non-Indigenous health spending patterns are quite different from city to regional and remote areas, depending on whether we are talking about Medicare, the PBS or hospital spending. Full report at

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/11753>>.

Haemodialysis Outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients of Remote Kimberley Region Origin, J. V. Marley, H. K. Dent, M. Wearne, Ch. Fitzclarence, C. Nelson, K. Siu, K. Warr & D.

Atkinson 2010, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 193(9): pp. 516–20:

<http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/193_09_011110/mar10105_fm.html>.

The Health of Urban Aboriginal People: Insufficient data to close the gap, S. J. Eades, B. Taylor, S.

Bailey, A. B. Williamson, J. C. Craig & S. Redman for the SEARCH Investigators 2010, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 193(9): pp. 521–4:

<http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/193_09_011110/ead10268_fm.html>.

A Methodology for Conducting Integrative Mixed Methods Research and Data Analyses, F. G.

Castro, J. G. Kellison, S. J. Boyd & A. Kopak 2010, *Journal of Mixed Methods Research*, 4(4): 342–60.

Mixed methods research has gained visibility within the last few years, although limitations persist regarding the scientific caliber of certain mixed methods research designs and methods. The need exists for rigorous mixed methods designs that integrate various data analytic procedures for a seamless transfer of evidence across qualitative and quantitative modalities:

<<http://mmr.sagepub.com/content/4/4/342>>.

How Different is Qualitative Health Research from Qualitative Research? Do we have a

subdiscipline?, J. M. Morse 2010, *Qualitative Health Research*, vol. 20(11). This paper compares the content, characteristics of participants, and the methods used in qualitative health research with qualitative inquiry in general: <<http://qhr.sagepub.com/content/20/11/1459.abstract?etoc>>.

Through APO:

Working Future: A Critique of Policy by Numbers, W. Sanders 2010, Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research. Using 2006 Census and Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey statistics this paper critiques Working Future, a policy initiative of the Northern Territory Government announced in May 2009: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/working-future-critique-policy-numbers>>.

=====

Media Coverage of Health Issues and how to Work more Effectively with Journalists: A Qualitative Study, C. Hooker & J. Leask 2010, BioMed Central: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/media-coverage-health-issues-and-how-work-more-effectively-journalists-qualitative-study>>.

=====

Medical Labour Force 2008, AIHW 2010: < <http://www.apo.org.au/research/medical-labour-force-2008>>.

=====

A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy, 2010, ABS 2010. There is an increasing emphasis within Australia on using good statistical information in policy-making. This guide provides an overview of how data can be used to make well-informed policy decisions: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/guide-using-statistics-evidence-based-policy-2010>>.

=====

Rethinking Indigenous Health Checks, L. Russell 2010: <<http://www.apo.org.au/commentary/rethinking-indigenous-health-checks>>.

Contact Zones: Sport and Race in the Northern Territory, 1869-1953, M. Stephen 2010, CDU Press, Darwin. *Contact Zones* traces the extraordinary journey taken by the Northern Territory's non-White sportsmen and women from sporting exclusion and segregation to integration and liberation. In the Territory sport is hotly contested social and political terrain, a form of public theatre where issues of race and identity continually collide. This book can be ordered from <http://cdupress.cdu.edu.au/orders/cdu_press.find?book=contact-zones>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Walk Together, Learn Together, Work Together – A Practical Guide for the Training of Aboriginal Mental Health Professionals in New South Wales. This practical guide is a resource designed especially for the Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Training Program, which is a workplace-based training program under the broader NSW Aboriginal Mental Health Workforce Program: <<http://www.crrmh.com.au/amhwhp/>>.

Working Together: Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice offers new approaches to Indigenous mental health that acknowledge the importance of cultural identity and resilience as well as the pervasive effects of racism, and the disempowerment of colonisation and assimilationist policies. The book incorporates culturally specific clinical mental health assessment processes and culturally appropriate treatment interventions. It is intended for staff, students and all practitioners working in areas that support Indigenous mental health and wellbeing and was produced, in collaboration, by the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) and the Institute's Kulunga Research Network and funded through the Department of Health and Ageing. An electronic copy is available for download at: <www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/kulunga/working_together> as are order forms for hard copies.

Electronic Table of Contents for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP) Library – for members only. The RACGP library runs a

current awareness service (also known as the electronic Table Of Contents or eTOCs service: <www.racgp.org.au/library/etoc>). A new eTOC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health began in the September 2010 eTOC and is now available from the website: <www.racgp.org.au/AM/MembersOnly.cfm?ContentFileID=35915>.

beyondblue Postnatal Depression (PND) Awareness Packs. beyondblue has developed a PDN Awareness Pack, which includes: Hey Dad – Fatherhood – The First 12 Months booklet; Emotional Health During Pregnancy and Early Parenthood booklet; beyondblue Info Line wallet card; beyondblue mouse mat (new); and the PND Awareness Week flyer. The pack is available from: <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=7.233>.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant applications close on 17 November:

<http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm>.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

Indigenous Master Degree Scholarships. The Menzies School of Health Research is offering scholarships to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people study a Master in Public Health by coursework of Master by Research. Studies to commence in Semester 1 2011. The scholarship includes a living stipend of \$22,500 p.a. tax free—with a further six months available—university fee support and Menzies supervision and mentoring. For more information, contact Caroline Walsh, T: 08 8922 8698, E: <caroline.walsh@menzies.edu.au>.

Indigenous Health courses at The University of Sydney, 2011

Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion. The Sydney School of Public Health offers a one-year Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion that gives you the skills to work in this interesting and important field. The course was developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals and is based on national and international best practice in Indigenous health promotion. For more information: <<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/public-health/future/coursework/indigenoushealth/index.php>>.

Master of Indigenous Health (Substance Use); Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Health (Substance Use); Graduate Certificate of Indigenous Health (Substance Use). These coursework programs offered by Sydney School of Public Health aim to build the clinical, public health and academic capacity of Indigenous health professionals to work in the prevention and treatment of harm associated with alcohol, tobacco and other drug disorders in the indigenous community: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/public-health/future/coursework/indigenoushealth/substance_use/index.php>.

Master of Public Health at the Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic. Applications are now open for study in 2011. Study in residential mode with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Enhance your skill base in health policy, program development and research

for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Enquiries to Janice Jessen E: <janice.jessen@deakin.edu.au>.

Current Issues in Tropical Health short course, in Darwin, 16–19 November, Menzies Seminar Room, Royal Darwin Hospital campus. Participants will be introduced to key public health issues in the tropics and develop an understanding of major diseases including Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV global epidemiology and control strategies. For more information and to register: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

The 15th Public Health Summer School, University of Otago, Wellington, NZ, 7 February–1 March 2011. The Summer School is hosted by the Public Health Department of the University of Otago, Wellington and has been operating for 15 years. The 2011 faculty will include teachers from the Harvard School of Public Health, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the University of Queensland as well as three New Zealand Universities (Otago, Auckland and Massey). You can enrol in a wide selection of courses tailored to specific interests and learning needs. The 28 short courses (1–3 days) range from an introduction to public health research to advanced epidemiology and specialised quantitative and qualitative software training. Courses are also organised into public health themes for those wishing to develop skills in a particular area. The courses are ideally suited to those studying or working in public health services, primary care, government departments, NGOs, local government and research organisations. For more information: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/OtagoPublicHealthSummerSchool.pdf>>.

Commitment to Indigenous Health: Local and National Contributions to Meeting the Challenges, in Sydney, 22 November, presented by the ANU College of Medicine, biology and the Environment Indigenous Health Interest Group. Members of the Indigenous Health Interest Group and invited experts will showcase their work and findings. Keynote speakers include: Ms Julie Tongs, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service; A/Prof. Tony Butler, National Drug Research Institute; Mr Maurice Shipp, NACCHO; A/Prof. Ted Wilkes, National Drug Research Institute; Prof. Dennis Gray, National Drug Research Institute; Mr Michael Moore, CEO, Public Health Association of Australia. This event is free but registrations are essential. Please contact Annie Carroll, E: <annie.carroll@anu.edu.au>, T: 02 6125 5610.

Aboriginal Health Promotion Video Conference, Tuesday 7 December, 11.30am. In response to requests, the theme for this session will be **Sexual Health**. If you have a program or information that you would like to present at this session please contact **Shelley McRae**, Secondary Prevention and Aboriginal Health Project Officer, Heart Foundation of Australia, Western Australian Division, T: 08 9382 5923, F: 08 9388 3383

What is cultural security in health care, in Perth on 23 November at the Health Consumers' Council (Aboriginal Consumer Participation Program). For more information E: <laura.elkin@hcoch.org.au>.

and REMINDERS

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

Australasian Ethics Network Conference 2010, in Melbourne, 18–19 November:
<[http://www.research.unimelb.edu.au/humanethics/aboutapproval/australasian human ethics network conference 2010](http://www.research.unimelb.edu.au/humanethics/aboutapproval/australasian_human_ethics_network_conference_2010)>.

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

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

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference, Canberra, 28 November–1 December: <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/>>.

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

Australian Health Promotion Association 20th National Conference, Cairns, 10–13 April 2011. The focus of the conference will be on the determinants of health: <www.healthpromotion.org.au>.

3rd Aboriginal Health Research Conference 'Research for a Better Future', in Sydney, 5–6 May 2011, presented by the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health. Closing date for abstract submission is 29 November: <<http://www.gemsevents.com.au/criah2011/>>.

CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference, in Alice Springs, 17–18 June 2011:
<<http://www.ichc2011.org/>>.

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

Oceania Tobacco Control Conference will be held in Brisbane in 2011 from 18–20 October.

If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact <c.lochert@unimelb.edu.au>. Archives of the CRAH, CRCATSIH and Lowitja Institute e-Bulletins are available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>. To unsubscribe, please email <admin@lowitja.org.au>.

Communications Team

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: communications@lowitja.org.au

W: www.lowitja.org.au