

11 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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THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE PUBLICATION LAUNCH

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—will be launched at the Primary Health Care Research Conference 2011, in Brisbane, on Thursday 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).

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, the guide will be available for purchase at the conference and from the Lowitja Institute website from Thursday 14 July <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers>>.

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POSITION AVAILABLE AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESEARCH DESIGN AND INNOVATION

**Based in Melbourne, with an attractive salary package, level equivalent to Professor/
Principal Research Fellow**

The Lowitja Institute, which incorporates the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH) until 30 June 2014, was formed to build a national strategic research agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We are seeking applications from suitably qualified research managers to provide leadership in the Research Directorate of the Lowitja Institute. In this challenging senior management role, you will have a demonstrated capacity to implement the Lowitja Institute's research design and innovation agenda as well as a detailed understanding of the health and social issues that impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This is a full time contract position and as a member of the Executive you will work collaboratively with diverse groups, operate effectively within a virtual team environment and have the ability to build and manage effective stakeholder relationships and partnerships.

Full position description is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/job-vacancy-executive-director-research-design-and-innovation>>, or T: 03 8341 5500.

For further information contact Dr Kerry Arabena, E: <kerry.arabena@lowitja.org.au>. All applications, which can be submitted by email, must address the selection criteria, contain a resume and at least three work referees.

Closing date is COB 20 July 2011.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons are encouraged to apply.

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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR A PROGRAM LEADER

The Lowitja Institute is looking for a suitably qualified researcher to undertake a Program Leader role for Program 1 – Healthy Start, Healthy Life. The program aims to ensure that primary health care and health-related services are able to access and use innovations that will help them provide the best quality care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the course of their lives. A summary of the position, responsibilities and selection criteria is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/program-leader-healthy-start-healthy-life-expressions-interest-invited>>.

Expressions of interest should be returned to Professor Ian Anderson, Director Research and Innovation, via Ms Judy Pryor, E: <jpryor@unimelb.edu.au>. For more information including position remuneration, please contact the program Manager, Dr Liz Izquierdo, T: 03 8341 5521, E: <liz.izquierdo@lowitja.org.au>. Closing date is COB 15 July 2011.

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RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

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

Starting to Smoke: Experiences of Indigenous Youth (NAHRU 001)

This is a participatory research project with Indigenous youth in the Northern Territory that explores the social and cultural determinants of smoking and sets a youth-driven agenda for smoking prevention. This project will incorporate empowerment techniques for youth to identify their needs around smoking prevention and exert more influence to create social environments that support not smoking.

Expanding Our Tools to Close the Gap: Towards Indigenous Genomic Health Research – Roundtable (July 2010) (KE004 Program 4 – Knowledge Exchange)

The poor health status of Indigenous Australians is a major social equity challenge that requires innovative and strategic health research. This project supported a roundtable to explore the potential for culturally appropriate genomic research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sector to contribute to closing the health gap. Genomic research has been controversial in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contexts for historical, cultural and political reasons, and as a result, it is rarely used in health research in this sector. This activity will support a meeting between Indigenous and non-Indigenous anthropologists, social and genetic epidemiologists, genetic counsellors and Indigenous health literacy experts to explore the interest and issues related to developing tools and models for culturally-appropriate Indigenous genomic research.

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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>.

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

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Funding is available to attend the **13th Annual Conference ‘Are We There Yet?’ Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses**, Brisbane, Qld, 21–23 September 2011.

Applications close on 29 July: <<https://www.formstack.com/forms/?1073104-rPKin174Zn>>.

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Funding is available 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>>.

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12th International Mental Health Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Association Conference ‘Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness’. The conference program, featuring 56 presenters, is now available at <<http://www.anzmh.asn.au/conference2011/>>. Early bird registrations open until 13 July.

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). Indigenous children are born with better eyesight than their non-Indigenous counterparts, but by the time they reach adulthood they are six times more likely to be blind and three times more likely to have low vision. Up to 94 per cent of this vision loss is preventable or treatable. This program discusses different eye health diseases as well as the continuum of eye care that includes prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation. Filmed case studies feature some specific models of care. 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>.

JOBS

See above for two The Lowitja Institute positions: Executive Director, Research and Innovation, and Program Leader for Program 1.

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Chair, Board of Management, Top End Association of Mental Health Inc. (honorary appointment). TEAMhealth is seeking a Chair with governance experience and a real interest in serving the community. The organisation is an incorporated association providing a variety of services to people with a mental illness and offers programs funded by the NT government, FaHCSIA and DoHA. It employs 60 staff, has an annual budget of around \$5,000,000 and net assets of around \$4,000,000. The Board of Management currently meets on the last Thursday of each month. From time to time there are planning sessions on a Saturday but only once or twice a year. The Board is a stable and supportive one, with accounting, legal and management skills. The current Chair will retire in October 2011. Please contact Sue Bradley AM, M: 0408892808 or E: <bradley.darwin@bigpond.com> if you are interested in taking on a role with heaps of challenges and learning opportunities.

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Director, Information & Research, Alcohol & Other Drug Focus, National Service Delivery, at the Australian Drug Foundation (ADF). Established in 1959, ADF is a national leader committed to preventing alcohol and other drug problems in communities around Australia. Collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders including government, health organisations, schools and sporting clubs, the ADF reaches millions of Australians each year. This new and pivotal leadership position will report directly to the CEO. It will lead the development and provision of innovative, high quality services; it will reposition ADF information services (including the use of social media) on a national basis to effectively communicate to various audiences; and it will manage research and evaluation ensuring ADF programs and services are evidenced based. Please respond by quoting ref. no 2009008 via E: <resume@sacsconsult.com.au> (in Word format) or contact Clare McCartin T: 03 8622 8517, or Kate Sawyer T: 03 8622 8509 for a confidential discussion.

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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, the Indigenous Traineeship Program combines paid work with a structured training and development program, and is seeking applicants for a number of APS agencies. To be eligible for this traineeship, a person must meet all of the following criteria: be of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; be accepted as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the community in which he/she lives, or has lived; and be an Australian Citizen. 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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Acceptable Loss: Words that come with a health warning, article by Kerry Arabena with Dave Moodie, *RACP news* vol. 31, no. 3, June 2011. Available, courtesy of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/files/docs/K_Arabena-RACPNews_June2011_0.pdf> .

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Sharing Stories to Improve Indigenous Health Care, media release, 7 July 2011, from the office of the Hon. Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Indigenous Health.

‘The Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, today launched a new report, ‘People I Can Call On’, which will give healthcare providers an insight into the challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with chronic illness.

Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are major contributors to the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Australians, accounting for around 80 per cent of the mortality gap.

Mr Snowdon said the report was funded by the Australian Government and conducted by the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, a joint initiative of the ANU and the University of Sydney and is based on interviews with Indigenous people with chronic illnesses and their carers.

“Over the past three years the Menzies Centre for Health Policy has interviewed participants about the experiences and challenges they face with day-to-day activities, including transport services, health and support services, economic hardship and the support of carers,” he said.’

Full text available at <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ws-ws033.htm>>. Report available at

<<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/docs/GERAISjune2011.pdf>>.

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No charge for mobile phone calls to Lifeline from anywhere in Australia, from 1 July

13 11 14, 24-hour crisis support. Full media release available at

<http://www.minister.dbcde.gov.au/media/media_releases/2011/208>.

PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies, AIATSIS 2011, available at <<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/research/docs/GERAISjune2011.pdf>>.

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People I Can Call On, Menzies School of Health Research 2011. PDF version available at <http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/media/doc/People_I_can_call_on_-_community_report.pdf>. (See media release above).

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Expenditure on Health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People 2008–09, AIHW 2011: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737419257&libID=10737419256>>. Media release also available at this URL.

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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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A Complex Aboriginal Health Project and the Challenges for Evaluation, C. Jeffries-Stokes, A. Stokes, L. McDonald, S. Stokes & J. Daly 2011, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 204–06.

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Racism, Social Resources and Mental Health for Aboriginal People Living in Adelaide, A. Ziersch, G. Gallaher, F. Baum & M. Bentley 2011, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 231–37.

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Successful Chronic Disease Care for Aboriginal Australians Requires Cultural Competence, S. T. Liaw, P. Lau, P. Pyett, J. Furler, M. Burchill, K. Rowley & Margaret Kelaher 2011, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 238–248.

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A Kaupapa Māori Approach to a Community Cohort Study of Heart Disease in New Zealand, S. Pitama, J. E. Wells, A. Faatoese, et al. 2011, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 249–55.

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Through APO

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory July-December 2010: Monitoring Report, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/closing-gap-northern-territory-july-december-2010-monitoring-report>>.

A Pilot Study of Psychosocial Factors and Cardiovascular Risk Amongst Aboriginal People Living in the Goulburn Valley, R. Reilly 2011, *Journal of Rural and Tropical Public Health*, vol 10, p. 8–14: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/pilot-study-psychosocial-factors-and-cardiovascular-risk-amongst-aboriginal-people-living-g>>.

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

Diabetes and Poor Mental Health and Wellbeing: An exploratory analysis, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/diabetes-and-poor-mental-health-and-wellbeing-exploratory-analysis>>.

Epidemiology of Syphilis in Australia: Moving toward elimination of infectious syphilis from remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?, J. S. Ward, R. J. Guy, S. P. Akre, et al. 2011, *The Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 10: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/epidemiology-syphilis-australia-moving-toward-elimination-infectious-syphilis-remote-aborig>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

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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Australia Postgraduate Award (Industry) PhD Scholarship – Addressing race-based discrimination in Australia: A cost-benefit analysis, based at the University of Melbourne. This is an Australian Research Council Linkage project (LP100200057) that will undertake cost benefit analysis of a large-scale intervention currently underway in Victoria to reduce race-based discrimination and promote diversity. The project investigators are Dr Yin Paradies, A/Prof. Margaret Kelaher, A/Prof. Tony LaMontagne and Dr Marion Frere (The University of Melbourne), Prof. Theo Vos (The University of Queensland) and Prof. Alan Shiell (Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science). The scholarship will provide a tax-free stipend of \$33,222 per annum over three years. The applicant must have an Honours degree (H2.1/H2A or better) in economics or equivalent qualifications/experience. Applicants should submit a CV along with certified copies of relevant academic transcripts to Dr Yin Paradies, E: <yinp@unimelb.edu.au>. For more information, please contact Dr Paradies on T: 03 8344 0659. Applications close 15 July 2011.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Fellowship, offered by the Nursing and Midwifery Office of the Western Australian Department of Health. The fellowship supports nurses and midwives in innovative, needs-based and collaborative research projects to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. For more information contact the Nursing and Midwifery Office, W: <www.nursing.health.wa.gov.au>, E: <cathryn.prendergast@health.wa.gov.au>, T: 08 9222 4395. Applications close at 4pm on 20 July 2011.

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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 is designed to support individuals wanting to make 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

Specialist units in Indigenous and Global Health for postgraduate public health training, Semester 2 2011, offered by the Menzies School of Health Research. For course information, <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/coursework>>. For further information, E: <education@menzies.edu.au>.

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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.

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The Australia and New Zealand School of Government Executive Workshop: Policy Design and Delivery Influencing Public Behaviour, Melbourne Business School, 7–11 August 2011:
<<http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/ANZSOGworkshopbrochure2011.pdf>>.

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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