



**14 FEBRUARY 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](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au)>. To subscribe, please go to <[www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile](http://www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile)>. A PDF version is available at <[www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters](http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters)>.

---

## **CONTENTS**

- \* **New Staff**
- \* **CRCAH website redirection and archive**
- \* **Reminder – Closing date 27 May: 2011 Australasian Evaluation Society Conference Support Grants**
- \* **Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Primary Care Intervention Research in Chronic Disease**
- \* **Call for Abstracts**
- \* **Conferences**
- \* **Jobs**
- \* **Publications**
- \* **Resources and Websites**
- \* **Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders**
- \* **Seminars, Courses and Symposia**
- \* **and Reminders**

---

## **NEW STAFF**

We welcome **Liz Izquierdo** as Program Manager of the Healthy Start, Healthy Life program, based in Brisbane. Liz's full profile is available at the Lowitja Institute website <[http://www.lowitja.org.au/people/liz\\_izquierdo](http://www.lowitja.org.au/people/liz_izquierdo)>. Her contact details are T: 07 3218 2747; E: <[liz.izquierdo@lowitja.org.au](mailto:liz.izquierdo@lowitja.org.au)>.

In the next edition we will have more details about **Rosemary Aldrich**, Program Leader for the Healthy Community and Settings program, whom we also welcome.

=====

## **CRCAH WEBSITE REDIRECTION AND ARCHIVE**

The old CRCAH website has been taken offline permanently. Its URL ([www.crcah.org.au](http://www.crcah.org.au)) and any URLs with this domain name have been redirected to the Lowitja Institute website. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR BOOKMARKS AND ALL CRCAH WEBLINKS. To access CRCAH web pages, go to the archive at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcah/crcah>>. If you have any questions, please contact us at <[admin@lowitja.org.au](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au)>.

=====

### **CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR INDIGENOUS PRIMARY CARE INTERVENTION RESEARCH IN CHRONIC DISEASE**

APHCRI has established three Centres of Excellence worth \$2.5 million each to undertake research focused on key health reform challenges. One of these is the Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Primary Care Intervention Research in Chronic Disease. This Centre will build on the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration (KVC) with the following key objectives:

- Improve the quality of care, the quality of life and outcomes of chronic disease.
- Examine the impact, utility and effectiveness of the federal governments 'Closing the Gap' chronic disease package elements within partner primary care services, with a view to maximising benefit for patients and informing policy.
- Develop a cadre of Indigenous primary care researchers with the skills and support to contribute to their communities' needs in chronic disease into the future.

The Centre's research activities will include:

- Developing a model of chronic disease care for Indigenous Australians – The Kanyini Chronic Care Model (CCM).
- Building better systems of chronic disease care involving innovative trials in family-based chronic disease prevention and care (The Danila Dilba Project) and electronic decision support tools.
- Extending our emerging yet pioneering research on the interplay between psychosocial factors such as chronic stress and depression on the burden and management of chronic diseases in Aboriginal communities in order to develop future interventions in comorbid chronic disease.

More information about KVC and the Centre, and the full text from which the above is extrapolated, please visit:

<[http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes\\_Research\\_Program/2010\\_COE.php#CRETHREE](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/2010_COE.php#CRETHREE)>.

=====

### **REMINDER – CLOSING DATE 27 MAY: 2011 AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY CONFERENCE SUPPORT GRANTS**

The AES is once again inviting emerging Indigenous evaluators from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to apply for financial assistance to support their attendance at the 2011 AES International Conference, to be held from 29 August to 2 September 2011, in Sydney, Australia (<http://www.aes2011.com.au/>). Requests for assistance with the application must be received by 13 May; the applications themselves close on 27 May. Further information is available at <<http://www.aes2011.com.au/rego-grants.asp>>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS**

**Primary Health Care (PHC) Research Conference**, Brisbane, 13–15 July. Abstracts by 11 March: <<http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2011/abstracts.php>>.

=====

**PHAA 41st Annual Conference**, in Brisbane, 26–28 September. Abstracts by 21 March: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/41stPHAAAnnualConference.php>>.

=====

**3rd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium: 'Impacts & Outcomes'**, Ballarat, Victoria, 14– 16 November. Abstracts by 2 May: <[www.anzmfh.asn.au/rrmh11](http://www.anzmfh.asn.au/rrmh11)>.

=====

**6th International Conference: Making Policy a Health Equity Building Process**, International Society for Equity in Health, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 26–28 September: <<http://bit.ly/gzVkJf>>. Abstract submission deadline is 15 April.

=====

Call for papers: **WHO/PLoS Collection: No Health Without Research** for a joint WHO/PLoS collection on the theme of the 2012 World Health Report on Research for Health: <<http://bit.ly/glvM4p>>

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONFERENCES**

**RANZCOG 2011 Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting**, in Cairns, 3–5 June. Following the inaugural Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting in 2008, a second meeting, titled “nurturing, providing, gathering, for better health”, will cover topics such as: Improving health services delivery; Reproductive and sexual health; Chronic Disease; Youth Health; Prevention and treatment of Cancers; Preconception and pregnancy; Mental Health wellbeing; and Working with Communities: <[www.ranzcog.edu.au/iwhm2011](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/iwhm2011)>.

=====

**12th International Mental Health Conference Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness**, Gold Coast, 24–26 August, presented by the Australian & New Zealand Mental Health Association. This year, the conference will explore different types of Personality Disorders and their affects through the life cycle from childhood to older age: <<http://www.anzmfh.asn.au/conference2011/>>.

=====

**2011 Australasian Evaluation Society International Conference**, Sydney, 29 August–2 September. Full conference details are available at <<http://www.aes2011.com.au/>>. See Conference Support Grants, above.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOBS**

**External Relations Officer**, in Darwin, 12-month contract, at the Menzies School of Health Research. This position is responsible for driving the implementation of Menzies fundraising strategy, maintaining and managing partnerships with external and internal stakeholders and managing Menzies contacts database. For more information: Zoe Malone, T: 08 8943 5018 or E: <[zoe.malone@menzies.edu.au](mailto:zoe.malone@menzies.edu.au)>. Closing 28 February.

=====

**Primary Health Care Educator**, in Brisbane, full-time until 31 December 2012, at the Menzies School of Health Research. Menzies' One21seventy program delivers a Continuous Quality Improvement system developed specifically to support high quality comprehensive primary health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The current vacancy is for a Primary Health Care Educator who will develop and deliver high quality curriculum based training packages for participating primary health care stakeholders in locations across Australia. The successful applicant will work to achieve program deliverables in a small team of dedicated educators. For more information: Jennifer Hains T: 07 3218 7300 or E: <[jennifer.hains@menzies.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.hains@menzies.edu.au)>. The position description may be downloaded from <[www.menzies.edu.au](http://www.menzies.edu.au)> or E: <[humanresources@menzies.edu.au](mailto:humanresources@menzies.edu.au)> or T: 08 8943 5052. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

=====

**Senior Human Resources Officer, in Darwin, 12-month contract, at the Menzies School of Health Research.** Menzies is seeking an experienced Human Resource professional with a strong business focus to provide strategic, organisational leadership in people management. The key project is the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Development Strategy. For more information, contact Jason Chin on T: 08 8943 5080 or E: <[jason.chin@menzies.edu.au](mailto:jason.chin@menzies.edu.au)>. Closing 28 February.

=====

**Administration Officer (re-advertised)**, in Melbourne, full-time, fixed-term, at the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit/Centre for Health and Society, The University of Melbourne. The incumbent will provide effective and high level administrative support for the Centre the Unit. This is a high quality customer service and administrative support role that provides the first source of advice and guidance in relation to the Centre's administrative procedures and processes, as well as providing executive assistance to the Centre Director and Deputy Director. The incumbent will be supported/mentored by other key leaders within the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit. For more information:

<<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=702065&lWorkTypeID=&lLocationID=&lCategoryID=1815&lPayScaleID=&stp=AW&sLanguage=en>>. Closing date is 6 March.

An Exemption has been granted under Section 83 of the Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (No. A312/2007). Only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply.

=====

**Research Assistant**, in Melbourne, full-time fixed term, at the Centre for Health and Society, The University of Melbourne. This is a key research assistant role, to work on two Indigenous health projects within the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the

Melbourne School of Population Health. An exemption has been granted under section 83 of the Equal Opportunity Act 1995 (no. A312/2007). Only Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people are eligible to apply. For more information, search for position 0025610 at: <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>. Closing date is 23 February.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MEDIA**

**Strong Constitution Needed for National Consensus on Aboriginal Recognition**, by Patricia Karvelas, *The Australian*, 5 February 2011.

'Indigenous leader Noel Pearson has set the nation what seems an impossible task. Breaking his silence on his vision for a constitutional referendum to acknowledge indigenous Australians, Pearson says the model that is put forward for a national vote must earn the approval both of indigenous elders and of conservatives such as former prime minister John Howard.

"If any proposed reform does not meet with Lowitja O'Donoghue's blessing, as an indigenous elder of Australia, then it will go nowhere," he says. "At the same time, if it does not meet with John Howard's blessing, as a conservative elder of Australia, it will be equally doomed."

Pearson is right. A referendum question that is put to the vote without endorsement from both sides of the political spectrum faces certain doom.

But is it plausible for both these leaders -- who have been on opposite sides of the debate on indigenous affairs for the past decade -- to be satisfied by what is revealed at the end of an extensive consultation process set to conclude by the end of this year?

Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission chairwoman Lowitja O'Donoghue -- who was named as the gatekeeper of black opinion by Pearson -- has given his high benchmark the kick along it needs.

She says with a laugh it is perfectly possible she and Howard, whose government in 2007 promised a preamble amendment referendum, could come to the same view, giving the impression that Pearson's ambition is not too utopian after all. "Why not," she says. "Yes we could."

In fact she agrees with Pearson that without broad mainstream support, Aborigines may as well give up any hope of change for another decade or more. "I want to have the support of the Australian people. If they don't come along there is no hope for success," O'Donoghue tells Inquirer.

In fact while O'Donoghue has spoken out to back a change to the national flag and support a republic, she says her No 1 priority is the success of this referendum on indigenous recognition.

"Right now we need to deal with the one issue of the indigenous recognition. This must be our No 1 priority," she says.

Full text available at: <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/strong-constitution-needed-for-national-consensus-on-aboriginal-recognition/story-fn59niix-1226000030083>>.

=====

**Indigenous Gap Unclear in Snapshot**, by Michael Gordon, *The Age*, 10 February.

'THE challenge of closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians has become even more daunting.

New research shows the life expectancy of Aboriginal men will have to increase by almost 21 years to achieve equality by 2031.

The current gap is 11.5 years for men and 9.7 years for women, but the rising life expectancy of non-indigenous Australians will widen the gulf unless a bipartisan strategy to tackle chronic disease and reduce risk factors succeeds.

While Prime Minister Julia Gillard expressed cautious optimism yesterday – "Together we can do this," she said, repeatedly – Opposition Leader Tony Abbott questioned whether Band-Aids were being put on "mortal wounds" and called for more rigorous monitoring of efforts to reduce disadvantage and more aggressive targets.

The occasion was the tabling of the third annual report on progress towards closing the gap since former prime minister Kevin Rudd delivered the formal apology to the stolen generations in 2008. It was a rare display of bipartisanship, with both sides unequivocally re-committing to the removal of what Mr Rudd dubbed "a great stain from the nation's soul".

But the occasion was diminished on two counts. First, only a minority of Coalition MPs saw fit to listen to the Prime Minister's speech tabling the report - and even fewer government MPs paid Mr Abbott the courtesy of sitting through his reply. They missed thoughtful, even passionate contributions.

Second, while the report provided extensive detail on what has been done in a host of areas, it failed to paint a clear picture of how fast things are changing, especially in the target areas of health and education. This is largely because of the inadequacy of existing statistics, a shortcoming Ms Gillard said was being addressed.

Ms Gillard expressed most confidence about meeting two of six ambitious targets - halving the gap in mortality rates for indigenous children under five by 2018 and ensuring all indigenous four-year-olds in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013. She cited "improvement" in three areas: halving the gap in reading, writing and numeracy for children by 2018; halving the gap in year 12 attainment by 2020; and halving the gap in employment outcomes by 2018.

But she described the goal of closing the life-expectancy gap within a generation as "the most challenging of them all".

"This is a 30-year target. No one thinks it can be achieved sooner," she said.

Mr Abbott responded by congratulating Ms Gillard on her "passion and commitment", but homed in on her recognition that the "statistics are imperfect and incomplete". He urged a rethink.

"The danger in all of this is that there might be an abundance of activity but not much change. The danger is that there might be too much philosophy and not enough commonsense," Mr Abbott told Parliament.

He suggested a target of 100 per cent school attendance for indigenous students, with

monthly reporting of outcomes.

The speeches were witnessed by just 40 people in the public galleries, including a show of solidarity by leaders of about 15 peak indigenous bodies. Pat Anderson, chairwoman of the Lowitja Institute, said she was encouraged by the sincerity of both speakers, "but we've got a bit of a way to go": <<http://www.theage.com.au/national/indigenous-gap-unclear-in-snapshot-20110209-1an35.html>>.

The full text of the Prime Minister's speech is available at *The Australian*: <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/pms-closing-the-gap-speech-on-indigenous-australia-in-full/story-fn59niix-1226002750396>>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PUBLICATIONS

***Anti-tobacco programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people***, AIHW 2011: <[http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/resource\\_sheets/ctgc-rs04.pdf](http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/resource_sheets/ctgc-rs04.pdf)>.

=====

***Excellence for Research in Australia 2010 National Report***, ARC 2011: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/excellence-research-australia-2010-national-report>>

=====

***Constitutional reform and Indigenous peoples: Options for amendment to the Australian Constitution***, M. Davis & D. Lino 2011, Indigenous Law Centre <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/constitutional-reform-and-indigenous-peoples-options-amendment-australian-constitution>>.

=====

***Reducing Alcohol and other Drug Related Harm***, E. Wilkes & D. Gray 2011, AIHW: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/reducing-alcohol-and-other-drug-related-harm>>.

=====

***Review of Indigenous male health***, A. MacRae, O. Debuyst, R. Midford & N. Thomson 2011, Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/review-indigenous-male-health>>.

=====

***Suicide Critical Incident Response Strategy Report***, Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health 2011. Enquiries to Cunnamulla Aboriginal Corporation for Health, PO Box 231 Cunnamulla QLD 4490, T: 07 4655 8800, F: 07 4655 8801.

=====

**'Iodine status of Aboriginal teenagers in the Darwin region before mandatory iodine fortification of bread'**, D E M Mackerras, G R Singh & C J Eastman 2011, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 94(3), pp. 126–30: <[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194\\_03\\_070211/mac10404\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_03_070211/mac10404_fm.html)>.

=====

**'Vitamin D insufficiency in Aboriginal Australians'**, S J Vanlint, H A Morris, J W Newbury & A J Crockett, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 94(3), pp. 131–34: <[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194\\_03\\_070211/van10712\\_fm.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_03_070211/van10712_fm.html)>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

### **Social and emotional wellbeing resources at the HealthInfoNet:**

<<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/other-health-conditions/mental-health>>.

=====

**The Lowitja Institute website** is constantly evolving! Please visit our new publications page at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-publications>>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

**ANZHPE Research Grants** aim to encourage and foster research in the education of health professionals. It is hoped that these grants will allow the recipients to pursue educational research that is unlikely to be funded by other sources. The Research Grants offer support of between AU\$1,000–\$3,000. We prefer to award several small grants, however well justified applications up to a maximum of AU \$5,000 will be considered. For more information: <<http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/awards/grants.htm>>. Closing date is 30 April.

=====

**NHMRC Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships.** The NHMRC, Australia's leading funding body for health and medical research, is offering TRIP Fellowships for future leaders in the uptake of evidence into clinical practice. For more information: <<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm>>. Closing date is 24 March.

=====

**Discovery Early Career Researcher Award.** The ARC plans to introduce a new scheme for early career researchers (ECRs) to be called the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) in 2011 (for funding commencing in 2012). The Funding Rules for DECRA are anticipated to be available in February 2011. Further information: <<http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/decra.htm>>.

=====

### **ARC Discovery Projects – Funding Rules**

The ARC Discovery Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2012 are now available on the ARC website. Please note the funding rules for 2012 are significantly different from previous years and it is recommended that applicants carefully review the entire document. Further information:

<[http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp\\_fundingrules.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm)>. Closing date for Discovery proposals is 21 March.

=====

### **NHMRC Schemes open for online applications:**

**Project Grants Scheme:** <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/projects/index.htm>

**Research Fellowships:** <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm#b>

**Centres of Research Excellence:**

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/cre/index.htm#doco>

**Practitioner Fellowships:** <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm#c>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

**Short course: Strengths-based Approach to Indigenous Mental Health (AIMhi)**, Darwin, 18–20 May, presented by the Menzies School of Health Research. During this 3-day course A/Prof. Tricia Nagel presents the strengths-based approach to mental health and co-morbidity developed through the 5-year NT Australian Integrated Mental Health Initiative research program. It brings together biomedical and sociological frameworks and presents practical strategies to enhance cross-cultural partnership, engagement with services and connections within communities. For more information:

<<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops/strengths-based-approach-indigenous-mental-health-aim>>.

=====

**Short Course: Managing and Measuring Health Outcomes**, in Darwin, 8–11 March, presented by the Menzies School of Health Research. The course will provide an overview of both the Australian and international focus on health outcomes. Participants will be given an overview of concepts related to psychological measurement (reliability, validity, sensitivity, specificity) and discuss a range of qualitative and quantitative research designs and strategies that would be relevant to a health outcomes project in their field of interest:

<<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

=====

The **Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research** is conducting a series of lectures about measuring of Indigenous wellbeing. The program is available at the link below and lectures and presentations will be available online:

<http://caepr.anu.edu.au/population/lectures2011.php>

\*\*\*\*\*

## and REMINDERS

**11<sup>th</sup> National Rural Health Conference, 'Rural and Remote Australia: The heart of a healthy nation'**, Perth, 13–16 March: <<http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>>.

=====

**Health Professionals Teaching & Learning Conference 2011, 18–19 March, Darwin:**

<<https://regonline.activeglobal.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=787902>>.

=====

**ACOSS 2011 National Conference**, in Melbourne, 29–30 March:

<<http://www.acoss.org.au/nationalconference>>.

=====

**Australian Health Promotion Association 20<sup>th</sup> National Conference**, Cairns, 10–13 April:

<[www.healthpromotion.org.au](http://www.healthpromotion.org.au)>.

=====

**3rd Aboriginal Health Research Conference 'Research for a Better Future'**, in Sydney, 5–6 May: <<http://www.gemsevents.com.au/criah2011/>>.

=====

**The Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) Annual Conference**, Brisbane, 17–19 May: <<http://www.crca.asn.au/conference/index.html>>.

=====

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

=====

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

=====

**12th International Mental Health Conference 'Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness'**, Gold Coast, Qld, 24–26 August: <[http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference2011/call\\_papers.html](http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html)>.

=====

**AMEE (International Association for Medical Education) 2011 Conference**, Vienna, 29–31 August. Abstracts are invited by 12 March. More information: <[www.amee.org](http://www.amee.org)>.

=====

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

=====

**Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, Impacts & Outcomes**, Ballarat, Victoria, 14–16 November: <[ruralhealth@anzmmh.asn.au](mailto:ruralhealth@anzmmh.asn.au)>.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### ***Communications Team***

The Lowitja Institute  
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](mailto:communications@lowitja.org.au)  
W: [www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)