

**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 — 16 AUGUST 2010**

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

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**THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE APPOINTS NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

We are pleased to announce that Dr Kerry Arabena has been appointed the inaugural CEO of the Lowitja Institute. Dr Arabena is a descendant of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait and brings with her a wealth of experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, research, policy, administration and community development.

A recent graduate from the Australian National University with a doctorate in human ecology, Dr Arabena has worked as the administrator of one of the most remote Aboriginal Medical Services in Australia; she has held senior appointments in government, non-government and the private sector; and has worked across Asia–Pacific in projects that address gender, social justice, human rights, access and equity, service provision, harm minimisation and citizenship. She has represented Australia in international forums on HIV/AIDS and climate change.

Dr Arabena will commence with the Lowitja Institute on 19 August 2010.

Our media release dated 3 August 2010 is available at:

<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/lowitja-institute-appoints-dr-kerry-arabena-new-ceo>> or <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/media-releases>>.

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## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE POSITIONS OF CHAIRPERSON AND DIRECTORS OF THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE BOARD**

The Lowitja Institute is calling for expressions of interest for the positions of Chairperson and Directors of our permanent Board. The Board will consist of an independent Chair and six Directors, the majority of whom must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

We encourage people with expertise in corporate governance, health research, community development, education and technology, legal and finance, and/or business and marketing to apply. In accordance with the Lowitja Institute's policy, these are honorary positions.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute your skills and passion to influence the research and policy landscape in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The Institute is an innovative research body that brings together Aboriginal organisations, academic institutions and government agencies to facilitate collaborative, evidence-based research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

For further information go to <[www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)> or contact our Executive Officer, Katie Symes, E: <[katie.symes@lowitja.org.au](mailto:katie.symes@lowitja.org.au)>, P: PO Box 650, Carlton South, VIC 3053, T: 0488 023 027.

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## **CONFERENCES**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Special Interest Group Workshop 'Advocacy for Action: Keeping Aboriginal Health on the National Health Reform Agenda'**, on Sunday 26 September in Adelaide, prior to the Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Adelaide, 27–29 September. Workshop: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/atsih.php>>. Conference: <<http://www.phaa.net.au/40thPHAAAnnualConference.php>>.

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**Annual PHCRED WA Research Conference Primary Health Care Research, Partnerships in Practice**, Perth, 12 November 2010. This conference is bringing together health policy makers to discuss 'Health Reform in Primary Health Care' and the implications for primary care research. Call for abstracts closes on 3 September. For more information, contact Lyn Brun, T: 08 9956 0200, E: <[lyn.brun@cucrh.uwa.edu.au](mailto:lyn.brun@cucrh.uwa.edu.au)>, W: <<http://www.phcredwa.org.au>>.

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**Creating Futures 2010**, Cairns, 20–23 September, auspiced by the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland. Creating Futures 2010 brings Australian and international keynote and plenary speakers together to address how it is possible to harness the creativity and energy of the social enterprise

sector to address the underpinning social determinants of mental health and wellbeing. Speakers include Professor Mason Durie, Mick Gooda and Noel Pearson: <<http://www.conorg.com.au/conferences2010/index.html>>. You may also contact the Centre on T: 07 4032 6700, W: <[www.crrmhq.com.au](http://www.crrmhq.com.au)>, or E: <[info@crrmhq.com.au](mailto:info@crrmhq.com.au)>.

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**Global Community Medical Education Muster**, Barossa Valley SA, 18–21 October, co-hosted by Flinders University and Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The Conference Convening Committee invites you to attend this second conference on community-engaged medical education. Conference presentations are organised by themes: Health Professional Education for the Future, Continuity, Community Engagement, Interprofessional Authentic Learning, Social Accountability: <<http://gcmem2010.flinders.edu.au>>.

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## **JOBS**

**Two positions at the Social Justice Unit, Australian Human Rights Commission**, full-time, ongoing. Further information can be obtained from Ms Katie Kiss, T: 02 9284 9785. Closing date is 27 August.

**Senior Policy Officer** located in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Unit. The Senior Policy Officer is responsible for undertaking research, analysis and report writing and providing high-level advice in relation to social justice and native title.

**Policy Research Officer** located within the Social Justice and Native Title Teams of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Unit. Responsible for undertaking research, analysis and report writing and providing policy advice in relation to the production of the annual *Social Justice and Native Title Reports* under s43C(1) of the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act* and section 209 of the *Native Title Act 1993*.

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**Vacancies at the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC)**. All information at: <<http://www.ahmrc.org.au/employment.htm>>. Closing date is 30 August 2010.

**Public Health Managers, Public Health Unit (2)**. The AH&MRC is looking for two Public Health Manager (both full-time, fixed term). Each will manage one of the two AH&MRC public health teams. The teams work to support public health approaches and programs within Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) and the AH&MRC, and contribute to the development of Aboriginal health policy, workforce and research.

**Senior Project Officer (Research & Evaluation – Tobacco Resistance and Control)**. The Officer is responsible for designing, implementing and supporting research and evaluation activities relating to the AH&MRC Tobacco Resistance and Control Program; supporting the completion of the BREATHE project; and participating in other tobacco control activities which involve the AH&MRC.

**Senior Project Officer (Tobacco Resistance & Control).** The Officer is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of the AH&MRC Tobacco Resistance and Control Program to support Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) across New South Wales.

**Administration Assistant.** The position is responsible for providing administrative and clerical support to staff members of the AH&MRC and coordinate and organise functions for external AH&MRC meetings, workshops and conferences.

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Expression of Interest: **Administrative Support Officer**, in Darwin, 2-year contract. Menzies School of Health Research is looking for an administration assistant for a research study looking at the socio-cultural influences on the sexual health of young Indigenous people. Contact Dr Kate Senior on T: 08 8922 8007, or E: <[kate.senior@menzies.edu.au](mailto:kate.senior@menzies.edu.au)>. Vacancy closes 22 August.

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**Project Manager - Skin Sore Trial, in Darwin, 2 Year Contract (Part Time 0.5FTE).** Menzies School of Health Research is looking for a Project Manager for a research study that compares whether an oral antibiotic is as effective as the current standard treatment for children with skin sores in remote Aboriginal communities. For more information, contact Jane Nelson on T: 08 8922 8773 or E: <[jane.nelson@menzies.edu.au](mailto:jane.nelson@menzies.edu.au)>. Closing date is 23 August.

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**Men's Outreach Worker**, in Darwin, full-time to June 2012. The Darwin Aboriginal & Islander Women's Shelter Inc. is looking for an outreach worker to contribute to the delivery of Culturally Appropriate Family Violence and Relationships Programs for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander men in urban, rural and Remote Communities. For more information, contact Michael Torres, T: 08 89 470322, F: 08 8947 5322, E: <[michaeltorres8@bigpond.com](mailto:michaeltorres8@bigpond.com)>. Closing date is 27 August.

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## **MEDIA**

**ABC television, Q&A program**, Monday 9 August 2010. **Lowitja O'Donoghue** asked the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard: 'Prime Minister, we've heard a lot of noise in this campaign about refugees and population growth, but silence about giving the first peoples of Australia a fair go. Why?' Full response and commentary available at: <<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/qanda/txt/s2971154.htm>>.

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**Universities Urged to Foster Indigenous Doctors**, ABC News, Bridget Brennan, 3 August 2010. 'Dr Kelvin Kong says having more Indigenous health practitioners will breed a new way of thinking. Universities are being encouraged to foster more Indigenous medical graduates to close the life expectancy gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The University of New

South Wales (UNSW) had its highest ever number of Indigenous students enrolled in a single intake in 2010...’ Full story available at:  
<<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/08/03/2972503.htm?section=justin>>.

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**Election Has 'Forgotten' Indigenous Australians**, ABC News, Jessica Mawer, 4 August 2010. ‘A far north Queensland health group says Indigenous Australians have been forgotten during the federal election. The Apunipima Cape York Health Council will represent far north Queensland at a remote health summit in Brisbane this weekend that will look at how federal health reforms will affect Indigenous Australians. The council's senior medical officer, Dr Mark Wenitong, says big ticket issues like education and the economy are overshadowing the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians...’ Full report available at:  
<<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/08/04/2972799.htm>>.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Chronic Disease and Indigenous Health**, W. Snowdon 2010, *Australia New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34(Suppl 1): S4,  
<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20618292>>.

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**‘Reducing Alcohol Related Harm Experienced by Indigenous Australians: Identifying opportunities for Indigenous primary health care services’**, A. Shakeshaft, A. Clifford, M. Shakeshaft 2010, *Australia New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34(Suppl 1): S41-5:  
<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20618293>>.

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*Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, vol. 34(s1): The Special Issue on Indigenous health.

**Chronic Disease and Indigenous Health**, W. Snowdon

**Pragmatic Indicators for Remote Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Care: Why it matters and where to start**, M. Steenkamp, S. Bar-Zeev, A. Rumbold, L. Barclay & S. Kildea

**The Gudaga Study: Establishing an Aboriginal birth cohort in an urban community**, E. Comino, P. Craig, E. Harris, D. McDermott, M. Harris, R. Henry, L. Jackson Pulver, L. Kemp & J. Knight

**Socio-economic Gradients in Self-reported Diabetes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians Aged 18–64**, J. Cunningham

**C-reactive Protein: An independent predictor of cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal Australians**, Z. Wang & W. E. Hoy

**Retinal Photography for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening in Indigenous Primary Health Care: The Inala experience**, G. K. P. Spurling, D. A. Askew, N. E. Hayman, N. Hansar, A. M. Cooney & C. L. Jackson

**Managing Alcohol-related Problems among Indigenous Australians: What**

**the literature tells us**, D. Gray, S. Saggars, E. Wilkes, S. Allsop & C. Ober  
**Delivering Culturally Appropriate Residential Rehabilitation for Urban Indigenous Australians: A review of the challenges and opportunities**, K. Taylor, S. Thompson & R. Davis

**Reducing Alcohol Related Harm Experienced by Indigenous Australians: Identifying opportunities for Indigenous primary health care services**, A. Shakeshaft, A. Clifford & M. Shakeshaft

**Epidemiology of Alcohol-related Burden of Disease among Indigenous Australians**, B. Calabria, C. M. Doran, T. Vos, A. P. Shakeshaft & W. Hall  
**Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviours in Relation to Safe Sex, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS among Remote Living North Queensland Youth**, Patricia Fagan and Paula McDonell

**The Validation of a Self-report Measure and Physical Activity of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Rural Children**, J. D. Gwynn, L. L. Hardy, J. H. Wiggers, W. T. Smith, C. A. D'Este, N. Turner, J. Cochrane, D. J. Barker & J. R. Attia

**Estimating Tobacco Consumption in Remote Aboriginal Communities Using Retail Sales Data: Some challenges and opportunities**, D. MacLaren, M. Redman-MacLaren & A. Clough

**Low Daily Smoking Estimates Derived from Sales Monitored Tobacco Use in Six Remote Predominantly Aboriginal Communities**, R. Butler, S. Chapman, D. P. Thomas & P. Torzillo

**Impact of a Short, Culturally Relevant Training Course on Cancer Knowledge and Confidence in Western Australia's Aboriginal Health Professionals**, E. J. Croager, T. Eades, I. S. Pratt & Terry Slevin

**Brief Intervention Resource Kits for Indigenous Australians: Generally evidence-based, but missing important components**, A. Clifford, L. Jackson Pulver, R. Richmond, A. Shakeshaft & R. Ivers

**Reducing Racism in Aboriginal Health Care in Australia: Where does cultural education fit?**, A. Durey

**Living Longer with a Greater Health Burden – Changes in the burden of disease and injury in the Northern Territory Indigenous population between 1994–1998 and 1999–2003**, Y. Zhao, J. R. Condon, S. Guthridge & J. You

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**Indigenous Primary Health Care Research and Health Care Reform: Improving care**, Noel Hayman, Inala Indigenous Health Service, Inala Community Health Centre, presentation at the 2010 PHC Research Conference:  
<<http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/browse.php?id=6958&promoid=346&stk=re>>.

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**A Methodology to Analyse the Intersections of Social Inequalities in Health**, G. Sen, A. Iyer C. Mukherjee 2009, *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, vol. 10(3): 397–415:  
<<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all?content=10.1080/19452820903048894>>.

**Remote Primary Health Care Practitioners' Views about Priorities in Indigenous Dementia Research**, *Rural and Remote Health*, 10 online, 1534: <<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=1538>>.

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**The latest edition of PHC RIS infonet is now on-line at** <<http://www.phcris.org.au/publications/infonet/2010/august/>>.

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***Working Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice***, a collaboration between the Australian Council for Education Research (ACER) and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research's Kulunga Research Network. The book is intended for staff and student and all practitioners working in areas that support Indigenous mental health and wellbeing and is being offered free of charge. Please go to <[http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/kulunga/working\\_together](http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/kulunga/working_together)> to peruse the electronic version of the book and access the order forms for hard copies.

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**Through APO (summaries by APO):**

**National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social survey, Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics:** <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-survey-australia>>.

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**OECD Health Data 2010:** <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/oecd-health-data-2010>>.

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## RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

**One21Seventy, National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care.** One21seventy is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers a Continuous Quality Improvement model that helps health centres and providers: improve their overall systems for high quality care; see how they're performing on prevention and management of major chronic diseases (diabetes, heart disease, renal disease); set goals and measure progress; improve staff morale and motivation: < <http://www.one21seventy.org.au/>>.

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**How Is Your Sugar:** This website was developed for Indigenous people by Indigenous people. The design intention was to provide information on living well for people with type 2 diabetes based on Diabetes Australia's 'ten points to healthy living': <<http://www.howsyoursugar.com.au/#/food/about>>.

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Major additions to the Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet are listed at: <[http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/news?news\\_category=2](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/news?news_category=2)>.

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Hepatitis NSW has available their latest six harm reduction posters in A2 size: <<http://www.hep.org.au/index.php?article=content/info-resources/harm-reduction->

[posters](#)>. If you'd like a set of six (or several sets), email <[pharvey@hep.org.au](mailto:pharvey@hep.org.au)> with your postal address and Hepatitis NSW will send them out free of charge.

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS**

**Tender: Tackling Indigenous Chronic Disease: Marketing strategy for local community campaigns to promote better health.** The Department of Health and Ageing is seeking tenders to undertake the development, implementation and management of the national program of Local Indigenous Community Campaigns to Promote Better Health. Closing date is 20 August. For more information contact Frances Dart, E: [frances.dart@health.gov.au](mailto:frances.dart@health.gov.au); W: <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/0241011>>.

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## **SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA**

**Menzies Inaugural Research Skills Training Fortnight**, in Darwin, 20 August to 9 September, at the Menzies School of Health Research. **This course is fully optional: register by the day, week or for the whole fortnight.** Direct queries and registration forms to <[Caroline.Walsh@menzies.edu.au](mailto:Caroline.Walsh@menzies.edu.au)>.

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**Promoting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health**, in Katherine NT, 14–17 September 2010. Presented by the Menzies School of Health Research. Course flyer and registration forms available at: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

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**Community Development and Public Health**, in Katherine NT, 3–5 November 2010. Presented by the Menzies School of Health Research. Course flyer and registration forms available at: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

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**The 2010 Alan Walker Child Health Lecture Series: Improving Aboriginal Child Health – What works and what's new**, Darwin, 20 & 21 August, Menzies School of Health Research, Seminar Room. The content will be specific to child health issues in our region. For more information: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

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## **and REMINDERS**

**9<sup>th</sup> World Indigenous Women and Wellness Conference, Darwin, 22–25 August 2010:** <[www.larrakiaevents.com](http://www.larrakiaevents.com)>.

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**Australasian Evaluation Society (AES) International Conference**, Wellington NZ, 30 Aug–3 Sept: <<http://www.aesconference2010.org.nz/drupal/node/41>>.

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**Chronic Diseases Network Annual Conference**, in Darwin, on 9–10 September: <<http://www.cdnconference.com.au/>>.

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**Healing Our Spirit Conference**, Hawaii, 3–10 Sept: <<http://www.hosw.com/>>.

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**2010 Participatory Action Research World Congress**, Melbourne, 6–9 September: <<http://www.alara.net.au/worldcongress/2010/objectives>>.

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**14th Annual NT Chronic Diseases Network Conference**, in Darwin, 9–10 September: <<http://www.cdnconference.com.au/>>.

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**The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, in Sydney, 14–17 September: <<http://www.themhs.org/home>>.

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**NatStats Conference**, Sydney, 15–17 Sept: <<http://www.nss.gov.au/natstats2010>>.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium**, Canberra, 20–30 September: <<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/RMH10/Default.ASP>>.

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**The 2nd Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium**, in Sydney, 29–30 September: <<http://www.ausot.com.au/newsArticle.asp?id=208>>.

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**Evidence Based Healthcare Conference ‘Show the Impact’**, Adelaide, 27–29 October 2010: <<http://www.alloccasionsgroup.com/EBHC2010>>.

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**14th Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting**, in Brisbane, 28–30 October 2010: <<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/PRCP10/Default.asp>>.

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

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**Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference**, Canberra, 28 Nov–1 Dec:

<<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/program/call-for-abstracts/>>.

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

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

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

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If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact <cliley@unimelb.edu.au>. Archives of the CRCAN, 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)>.

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Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

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