



17 JANUARY 2011

This fortnightly bulletin is prepared by the Lowitja Institute to provide you with information on issues of interest to Aboriginal health research. To unsubscribe, please E: <admin@lowitja.org.au>. To subscribe, please go to <www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile>. A PDF version is available at <www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>.

CONTENTS

- * A very happy 2011 to our readers!
- * **REMINDER: DUE COB 31 JANUARY 2011** The Lowitja Institute Postgraduate Research Scholarships 2011 – Registration of Interest
- * The Lowitja Institute Newsletter *Wangka Pulka*
- * National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Women's Alliance (NATSIWA) Call for Nominations
- * Call for Papers
- * Conferences
- * Jobs
- * Publications
- * Resources and Websites
- * Scholarships, Awards, Funding, Grants and Tenders
- * Seminars, Courses and Symposia
- * and Reminders

The Lowitja Institute wishes all its friends and colleagues a very healthy, happy and productive 2011!

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REMINDER: DUE COB 31 JANUARY 2011

THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS 2011

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

In 2011 the Institute will offer Scholarships to eligible students interested in doing postgraduate research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health settings.

Any student already enrolled, or satisfying admission requirements to enrol in 2011, in the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health's Essential Participant institutions:

- Charles Darwin University
- The University of Queensland
- Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- The University of Melbourne
- Flinders University
- La Trobe University
- Menzies School of Health Research

Scholarships will be available for research relevant to the areas outlined below. Interest may be registered for more than one area.

a) Specified research themes in Program 3:

- Stewardship Dialogue – one of a series of projects investigating feasible approaches and barriers to the articulation and development of enduring government responsibilities in Indigenous health; and policy and program implementation approaches that are underpinned by evidence-based methods of engagement and partnership with Indigenous communities, organizations and families and individuals.
- Funding and Accountability – evaluation of trials of improved contracting between funders and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHs) contributing to the growing global evidence of effective use of alliance contracting between the public sector and NGOs and/or private sector. It will engage with partners in government and the ACCHs sector (and other PHC providers) to evaluate the costs and benefits of alternative contracting models in use.

b) The focus of Program 2 – Healthy communities and settings:

- Strengthening the capacity of local communities and organizations to develop interventions that address the determinants of health across a range of local sectors and settings

c) The major theme areas of Program 3 – Enabling policy and systems:

- Health policy and program effectiveness - efficiency and effectiveness of decision-making and policy and program planning and implementation by governments
- Indigenous health workforce - capacity, composition and structure of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce
- Organisational effectiveness in health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – including Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and other health care providers.

Registration form and further information about the scholarships available at

<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/lowitja-institute-scholarships-calls-register-interest>>.

Information about the Lowitja Institute research programs 2 and 3 are available at:

<www.lowitja.org.au>.

For further information about completing the Registration of Interest form, please contact the Research Training Officer, Diane Walker, at <diane.walker@lowitja.org.au>, or T: 08 89467 758.

Registrations of Interest will be accepted up to COB 31 January 2011.

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THE LOWITA INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER *WANGKA PULKA*

The December 2010 edition is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>.

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**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS WOMEN'S ALLIANCE (NATSIWA)
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

As part of its International Women's Day project 2011, NATSIWA is calling for nominations from the public for Indigenous women who are leaders or have achieved change in the community.

To celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day in 2011, NATSIWA will honor 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who have achieved change for our people and communities in the last 100 years. You can nominate as many women as like and nominees can be from any age, past and present, from all walks of life and from any fields such as community, Traditional Culture/Lore, business government, sports, academia etc.

The nominations will be used on a poster that will be distributed nationwide and a webpage with profiles and information on each woman. The webpage will include an interactive blog where nominees will be invited to write posts on issues concerned with Indigenous women which will be open to the public to comment on topics such as; struggles Indigenous women face in mainstream society, what we hope for Indigenous women in the next 100 years and who inspires us. The webpage and poster will be officially launched in Canberra on

You can obtain a nomination form from Louise Wellington at T: 02 6175 9924; F: 02 6230 5156; E: <natsiwa.admin@ywca.org.au>; W:

<<http://www.internationalwomensday.org.au/iwd/Alliances/NATSIWA>> and submit your nomination until the 31st January.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Reminder: Indigenous Action Research and Decolonisation

This edition of the Journal is aiming to capture the current dilemmas and solutions actions researchers experience in the decolonising space. Contributors can contact Dr Adams, E: <Karen.adams@vu.edu.au> and Dr Fredericks, E: <b.fredericks@qut.edu.au> for support with the submission process. **Due date is 18 February 2011** by email to <alara@alara.net.au>.

CONFERENCES

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

AES 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 conference. The support grants are intended to meet the partial or full costs of conference and workshop attendance where the financial burden of the conference may prevent participation. At least one grant will be reserved for an **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander evaluator** who meets the support grant criteria. Requests for assistance with the application must be received by 13 May 2011. Applications close and must be received by 27 May 2011. Applicants will be notified by 24 June 2011. Further information: <<http://www.aes2011.com.au/rego-grants.asp>>.

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AMEE (International Association for Medical Education) 2011 Conference, Vienna, 27–31 August. The main conference runs from 29-31 August, and includes plenaries, symposia, conference workshops, research papers, PhD reports, short communications, posters, Fringe and Secrets of Success sessions. There is also a range of full-day and half-day preconference workshops and Masterclass sessions on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August, together with four ESME courses. Abstracts are invited by 12 March. More information: <www.amee.org>.

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The Cooperative Research Centres Association (CRCA) Annual Conference, Brisbane, 17–19 May. The CRC network is the cornerstone for innovation in Australia and marries public and private research bodies and industry for a wide cross-section of Australia's key industries. Its annual conference represents an opportunity for exposure for organisations committed to innovation that want to contact and influence the policy makers and key researchers of the ongoing CRC program. For more information, including sponsorship and exhibition information: <<http://www.crca.asn.au/conference/index.html>>.

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Conference Calendar: Council of Australian University Librarians' website lists conferences and events to be held in 2011 in Australia and overseas: <<http://www.caul.edu.au/external-links/caul-conference-register/conferences-2011#jan>>.

JOBS

Statewide Co-ordinator Eye Health, Melbourne, at VACCHO, full time. The Public Health and Research Unit assists Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to prioritise public health approaches within their primary health care service delivery and to strengthen service level responses to public health issues such as chronic illness, communicable disease and environmental health. The Statewide Co-ordinator Eye Health sits within the Public Health Unit and will work collaboratively with the Strengthening Primary Health Care team (SPHC) to undertake a range of activities as it relates to Eye Health and Eye Health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For further information <<http://www.vaccho.org.au/>>. Queries about the role can be directed to Graeme Fletcher, T: 03 9419 3350. Applications close on 21 January 2011 (close of business).

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Head, The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development, The University of Melbourne. The Centre is entering a new phase in its exciting journey. It seeks to strengthen the artistic practice and awareness of Indigenous people through cultural development and a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, research and engagement with Indigenous artists and communities. Building on 10 years of successful support to Indigenous students, artists and the cultural community, funding as just been renewed for the coming 2 years. During this period, the strategic direction of the Centre will be towards research and research excellence in both Indigenous arts practice and scholarship realised through a range of measures, including a very exciting and busy program of Indigenous artists residencies. The Centre will also develop Indigenous content for the existing curriculum, and new subjects and courses. Outreach work to support talented young Indigenous artists to realise their dreams of transitioning to higher arts education will be an important on-going focus. The Head of the Wilin Centre will report directly to the Dean of the Faculty of the VCA and Music. Position description and application process:

<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=703996&lCategoryID=&lWorkTypeID=&lLocationID=&sJobNo=Indigenous&sKeywords=Indigenous&lPayScaleID=&stp=AW&sLanguage=en>. **Applications close 20 January.**

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Head, Kulunga Research Network, Perth, at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. The Institute, a leading national child health research facility, seeks a dynamic executive of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent*, who will lead the strategic direction of Aboriginal Research within the Institute. The incumbent will be responsible for ensuring inclusive and effective relationships with stakeholders in the area of Aboriginal research, capacity building and translation, and will provide leadership, mentoring and professional development planning and opportunities for Kulunga staff. A full job description is available at <www.childhealthresearch.com.au>. Inquiries to Professor Moira Clay at E: <mclay@ichr.uwa.edu.au> or T: 08 9489 7983. Applications close 14 February.

**Being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent is a genuine occupational qualification and is authorized under Section 14 (d) of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.*

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Aboriginal Health Workers and Nurses, Menzies School of Health Research. The Child Health Division has *full-time, part-time and casual* positions vacant for Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers for remote field work in immunisation and healthy skin related research projects. Successful candidates will receive training in research skills and other related requirements specific to the research projects. Contact Irene O'Meara on T: 08 89227927, 08 89228773 or E: <irene.omeara@menzies.edu.au>. **Indigenous people are strongly encouraged to apply.**

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Project Officer, Health and Wellbeing Programs Unit in Health Programs, at VACCHO in Melbourne. The Health and Wellbeing Team consists of Mental Health, Improving Care for Aboriginal Patients (ICAP) and Palliative Care programs. The project officer position **will** work together with the second project officer, and collaboratively with the Senior Project Officer and the Team Leader in achieving the Key Result Areas relating to the Mental Health, ICAP and Palliative Care programs. Responsibilities are varied and will include planning and co-

ordinating forums and workshops, building and consolidating partnerships, assisting in organising and planning committees and meetings, training and professional development activities, planning and participation and reporting. Position description and application instructions are available at <<http://www.vaccho.com.au/>>. For queries about the position please contact Cherie Waight, Team Leader, T: 03 9419 3350. Applications close on **1 February 2011**.

MEDIA

Leading the way – again, by Michael Gordon, *The Age*, 31 December 2010.

‘Kerry Arabena doesn’t mind making an audience feel uncomfortable. A few years back, she opened a community workshop on domestic violence in a remote indigenous community by declaring: “The quality of a society depends on the quality of sex you have.”

When the laughter subsided, she explained that children conceived in stable, loving relationships were more likely to be happy, secure and confident about the future than the products of systemic rape in societies where sex was a weapon of war.

Then there was the time, earlier this year, she delivered an address to a conference on reconciliation around the provocative theme: “We’re all indigenous to the universe.” Many in the audience were taken aback. Some saw the proposition as not merely ill considered, but downright dangerous.

Not only did they think it supported the Hansonite view that indigenous Australians should not be afforded “special treatment”, it undermined the counter-argument that the first Australians occupied a special place in the nation’s story that should be celebrated.

Arabena dismisses both interpretations, and is keen to start a conversation about a much bigger idea – that only by considering ourselves as part of a single, bonded community of the universe will we have any chance of facing the global challenges to future prosperity, from Islamic fundamentalism and people movements to poverty and climate change.’

Full text at: <<http://www.theage.com.au/national/leading-the-way--again-20101230-19b5k.html>>.

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The Lowitja Institute media release, 24 December 2010.

Lowitja Institute Applauds Expert Panel

The Lowitja Institute supports the appointment of the expert panel to lead the process for the recognition of First Peoples in the Australian Constitution.

As the National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, and an organisation committed to improving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we commend the Prime Minister, the Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Attorney General on undertaking such a broad ranging public consultation and engagement program.

Chief Executive of the Lowitja Institute, Dr Kerry Arabena, is excited about the opportunity that engagement with this process presents. “We believe that a positive outcome from constitutional recognition will be better health and wellbeing for Australia’s First Peoples. It is

the job of the Lowitja Institute to provide the evidence to Australians that this will be the case” Dr Arabena said.

As a national organisation with established partnerships in the health and research sector, the Lowitja Institute is uniquely placed to raise awareness of the positive benefits that can be gained.

“We aim to collaborate with the community, health and research sectors through consensus building so that when Australians go to the referendum, our organisation has done everything possible to recognise the proper place and contribution of our First Peoples. But as with every referendum the Australian people have the final say. Australians need to make an informed decision on this very important issue” said Dr Arabena.

2011 will herald the commencement of a significant period in the history of reconciliation in this country. The Lowitja Institute acknowledges the expertise of the individual members of the panel charged with this important responsibility.

The Lowitja Institute will premise its work in this area on the three principles identified by the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples:

- That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be guaranteed the opportunity to participate.
- That there are adequate resources to ensure genuine participation by all Australians.
- That the Governance arrangements are critical. Indigenous leaders must be included at all levels of the strategic, technical and operational work of this campaign.

Media contact for the Lowitja Institute: Tracey Johnston, M: 0428 347 573

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National Affairs Fresh-food health plan for remote communities, by Patricia Karvelas, *The Australian*, 4 January. ‘Community stores in remote Aboriginal communities will be upgraded. Greater amounts of fresh fruit and vegetables will be sold under a plan to increase the life expectancy of indigenous Australians. Under the initiative, 18 remote communities across the Northern Territory will get better access to healthy and more affordable food with a \$50 million funding package made available through the Aboriginals Benefit Account.’ Full story at: <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/fresh-food-health-plan-for-remote-communities/story-fn59niix-1225981270474>>.

PUBLICATIONS

‘Efficient Funding: A path to improving Aboriginal healthcare in Australia?’ J.E. Lloyd & M.J. Wise 2010, *Australian Health Review*, 34(4):430–4. Available at: <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21108903>>.

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Letter: **‘Neuropsychological problems and alcohol availability appear to be key factors in continued heavy alcohol use by Aboriginal Australians’**, K.M. Dingwall, P. Maruff & S. Cairney 2010, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 194(1): 50–1. Available at: <http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/194_01_030111/contents_030111.html>.

'Are You Listening? The inaugural Australian Otitis Media (OMOZ) workshop — Towards a better understanding of otitis media', L-A.S. Kirkham, S.P. Wiertsema, H.C. Smith-Vaughan, R.B. Thornton, R.L. Marsh, D. Lehmann, A.J. Leach, P.S. Morris & P.C Richmond 2010, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 194(10): 569–71. Available at: <http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/193_10_151110/contents_151110.html>.

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Top Indigenous Reports 2010, Australian Policy Online:

- 1. 8 Aboriginal Ways of Learning**, James Cook University's School of Indigenous Studies and the Western New South Wales Regional Aboriginal Education Team
- 2. Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage**, S. Wenham & L. Russell, Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- 3. Aboriginal Spirituality: Aboriginal Philosophy, the Basis of Aboriginal Social and Emotional wellbeing**, V. Grieves, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health
- 4. Indigenous Education 2010**, H. Hughes & M. Hughes, Centre for Independent Studies
- 5. Framework for Measuring Wellbeing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2010**, Australian Bureau of Statistics. Available at: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/top-indigenous-reports-2010>>.

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The Economic Value of Australia's Investment in Health and Medical Research: Reinforcing the evidence for exceptional returns, Research Australia and Lateral Economics 2010. Available at: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/economic-value-australia's-investment-health-and-medical-research-reinforcing-evidence-exce>>.

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Health Expenditure Australia 2008–09, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. Available at: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/health-expenditure-australia-2008–09>>.

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Diabetes in Pregnancy Linked to Poorer Outcomes for Mothers And Babies, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010. Available at: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/diabetes-pregnancy-linked-poorer-outcomes-mothers-and-babies>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

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

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is open for applications for the 2011 round of awards. The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust was established in Australia in 1965 shortly after the death of Sir Winston to honour his memory by the annual award of Churchill Fellowships to Australian citizens. The trust exists to support Australians in all fields of endeavour whose

significant contribution would benefit from the opportunity to undertake research overseas. More information: <<http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/>>. Applications close 28 February.

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Rule 30 PhD Scholarship at Curtin University. This scholarship is being provided to get a deeper understanding of racial and religious vilification in Australia through the AFL's Rule 30 laws. The ARC Linkage project entitled Assessing the Australian Football League's Racial and Religious Vilification Laws to promote community harmony, multiculturalism and reconciliation is a multidisciplinary research project that will examine the AFL's Racial and Religious vilification laws. The PhD student will evaluate the role Australian Football has played in changing contemporary attitudes towards racial and religious vilification. The partner organisations are the AFL, AFL Players Association and the Victorian Multicultural Commission. For more information, contact Dr Sean Gorman, T: 08 9266 2648, E: <S.Gorman@curtin.edu.au>, W: <<http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/scholarship.cfm?id=878>>.

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Scholarship reminders:

Postgraduate Scholarship on Indigenous Chronic Disease and Health Professional Education
For further information, contact Dr David Paul, E: david.paul@uwa.edu.au, or T: 08 6488 7084.

Award for Indigenous academic writing: <<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/events/stanner.html>> for conditions of entry and more information. **The closing date is COB 31 January 2011.**

The Charlie Perkins Scholarships: <www.perkinstrust.com.au>. **The closing date is COB 31 January 2011.**

The 2011 Roberta Sykes Harvard Club of Australia Scholarship:
<enquiries@robertasykesfoundation.com.au>. **Closing date is 31 January 2011.**

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

Bloody Serious Facts: Hepatitis C and what you should know, in Melbourne, 1 March. This workshop is suitable for drug and alcohol workers, nurses, NSP workers, community health staff, students of health professions, prison staff and welfare workers. No prior knowledge is assumed. The session is divided into three parts. The first part will outline the basic facts of hepatitis C, psycho-social issues, and OH&S. The second part will focus on the impact and meaning of hepatitis C for people who inject drugs. The last part will look at testing and treatment options for hepatitis C. The cost is \$22 per person. To register, T: 03 9380 4644, F: 03 9380 4688, E: <admin@hepcvic.org.au>.

and REMINDERS

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

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

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

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

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

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12th International Mental Health Conference 'Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness', Gold Coast, Qld, 24–26 August:
<http://www.anzmf.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html>.

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

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Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium, Impacts & Outcomes, Ballarat, Victoria, 14–16 November: <ruralhealth@anzmf.asn.au>.

If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact E: <c.lochert@unimelb.edu.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>.

Communications Team

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