

**17 OCTOBER 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 subscribe: <[www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile](http://www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile)>. To unsubscribe: E: <[admin@lowitja.org.au](mailto:admin@lowitja.org.au)>.

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**APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE**

We are very pleased to announce that Associate Professor Janelle Stirling has accepted a short fixed-term appointment to the position of Executive Director for Research, commencing 24 October.

Janelle has had a long association with the CRC programs, starting in 2001 when she took on the role of Coordinator Indigenous Health Research at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Janelle has had a variety of roles in the three iterations of the CRC, including Program

Leader and Board Member. More recently, she has worked at the University Centre of Rural Health – North Coast.

Janelle brings strong research and research capacity building to the Lowitja Institute and we welcome her to the Melbourne office!

Her contact details will be available on our website from 24 October.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO DANILA DILBA HEALTH SERVICE** on their 20th anniversary. Danila Dilba will celebrate from 23 to 29 October with a full program of events, which you can see at their website <<http://www.daniladilbaexperience.org.au/>>.

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**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LOWITJA CONGRESS 2012** which will be held on 13 and 14 November 2012, in Melbourne. There will be more details on our website very soon.

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A LOWITJA INSTITUTE CONFERENCE: **2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CQI IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PRIMARY HEALTH CARE ‘CQI FOR EVERYDAY AND EVERYBODY’**, in the Alice Springs Convention Centre, on 14–15th May 2012

The aims of the conference are

- to bring together researchers, service providers (including community based or controlled services), government agencies, industry and policy development departments to present their work/research in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care
- to share information and stories about the current state of play in relation to research findings, tools and expertise on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people primary health care; to identify gaps and overlapping CQI initiatives; and
- to create a space where different sectors working in CQI can share information beyond the conference.

Conference website is at: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-conference-2012>>.

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## **RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE**

### **Program 1 – Healthy Life Healthy Start**

#### **REMINDER: Call for Expressions of Interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal and child health research**

The Lowitja Institute is interested in supporting the development of a research grant application on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal and child health. The project is to be one that will lead to improvements in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal and child health and fits with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council recommendations.

Through our networks, we are able to engage people and organisations at regional and national levels to ensure research proposals in Aboriginal and Torres Strait health have input from key stakeholders and experts in the field, resulting in the highest possible quality when applying for funds.

The expected benefits for applicants are:

- Improve the quality of the research proposal and its chances of being successful
- Receive feedback from qualified researchers and end-users in designing and refining the project
- Maximise the project's likelihood of having an impact on maternal and child health care
- Connect to a network of people and organisations working in similar research contexts.

We intend to support successful applicants by hosting a one-day quality assurance workshop where key relevant stakeholders (such as government and community representatives) and researchers review the proposal and discuss it with the research team with an emphasis on producing the best quality outcome. Workshops are facilitated by experienced Lowitja Institute facilitators who emphasise the importance of robust discussion within a safe environment and the value of taking into account the diverse perspectives in the room.

If you wish to apply for this support, please submit the following information to the Program Manager (details below): name/s; contact details (include organisation, postal address, email and phone number); current occupation; relevant CV; description of the research proposal you are planning, including rationale, potential impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and maternal health, and outline of proposed methods.

The criteria for assessment will be: potential impact of the proposed research on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal and child health; capability as evidenced by proposal description, qualifications and track record; experience and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; ability to maximise opportunities for the project to influence the relevant stakeholders.

Program Manager is Liz Izquierdo E: <liz.izquierdo@lowitja.org.au>. For any further enquires, T: 07 3309 3414 or 03 8341 5521. The Expression of Interest form is also available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/call-expressions-interest-proposal-support>>.

**Closing date: Tuesday 15 November 2011.**

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## **Program 2 – Healthy Communities and Settings**

A new webpage with project information and resources is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/revitalizing-health-all-international-indigenous-representative-group>>

The Revitalizing Health for All – Learning through Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC) Experiences study was conceived in 2005 at a meeting of the Peoples' Health Assembly held in Ecuador. Its purpose was to document the importance of CPHC as an appropriate and essential system response to improving the health of the world's Indigenous and marginalised peoples.

The study brought together an international group of community health practitioners, researchers and activists, under the broad umbrella of the People's Health Movement and the International People's Health University. The Indigenous sites were funded by Canada's Teasdale Corti Foundation and involved separate research projects in Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia.

The aim of the research teams in each project location was to build and strengthen a global CPHC network, and to increase the understanding of and support for CPHC as a basis for health system renewal among researchers, practitioners, policy makers and civil society organisations.

The CRC for Aboriginal Health (CRAH) and now the Lowitja Institute supported the Australian leg of the study, which commenced in 2008–09 at locations in

- \* Alice Springs (Ingkintja – Learning From Comprehensive Primary Health Care Experiences, managed by CAAC)
- \* Utopia in Central Australia (through the Urapuntja Health Service), and
- \* Melbourne (with the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service).

All three projects have now finished. A regional commentary report detailing the outcomes and findings from the three projects is in its final stages of design which will be loaded onto our website.

A new webpage in our website detailing more information and resources is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/revitalizing-health-all-international-indigenous-representative-group>>.

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### **Program 3 – Enabling Policy & Systems**

A Workforce Roundtable focusing on the development of a workforce research agenda was held in September 2011. Experts from the practice, policy and research arenas convened to shape a research agenda that is relevant to current needs and policy dilemmas. A report is being prepared, which will be publicised in this eBulletin and made available through our website.

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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](mailto:publications@lowitja.org.au)>.

#### ***NEW: Art Into Health: Puntu Palyarrikuwanpa Aboriginal Men Becoming Well***

This beautiful full-colour booklet describes a unique collection of 15 paintings through which Aboriginal men from the Western Desert offer their perspectives on their lives and wellbeing through art. Using contemporary techniques and methods, the artists present a wide range of narratives that link ancient ways of understanding and describing their world today. The collection, therefore, provides an important and valuable body of knowledge about Aboriginal health. Enquiries by email to <[publications@lowitja.org.au](mailto:publications@lowitja.org.au)>.

***Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers*** by Alison Laycock with Diane Walker, Nea Harrison and Jenny Brands, is available for purchase from the Lowitja Institute. A new interactive pdf order form is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers#purchase>>.

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### **WE ARE ON TWITTER!**

‘Follow us on Twitter’ button now on our home webpage: <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/>>.

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## CONFERENCES, CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS & FUNDING

A list of 2011 conferences is available at <[www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2011](http://www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2011)>.

2012 conferences are at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2012>>.

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### **Abstract submission extended: NIDAC National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference, 6–8 June 2012, in Freemantle, Western Australia.**

The opportunity to submit presentation, workshop and/or poster abstracts that address the conference theme **Beyond 2012: Leading the Way to Action** has been extended to 11 November 2011. More information and a list of suggested topics is available at <[http://www.nidac.org.au/images/2012\\_Conference/speakernote.pdf](http://www.nidac.org.au/images/2012_Conference/speakernote.pdf)>. Super Earlybird Registrations have also been extended.

NIDAC 2012 aims to highlight how the sector is able to lead the way to action in addressing the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs and its associated harms among Indigenous Australians. This year's conference will provide opportunities to showcase innovative programs that are making a difference; to explore new ideas and ways that can be taken forward into action; to learn about new evidenced based interventions; and to develop strongly connected networks.

For more information, W: <<http://nidaconference.com.au/>>, E: <[nidac@eventcorp.com.au](mailto:nidac@eventcorp.com.au)>, T: 07 3334 4400

**Closing date is Friday, 11 November 2011.**

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**Call for abstracts: 2012 Health Professionals Teaching and Learning Conference, Alice Springs, 30 & 31 March 2012.** The title and theme of the conference is 'True Colours – Performance and Professionalism in Health Education'. Themes include: clinical supervision; vertical integration; e-learning; Inter-Professional Education (IPE); workplace assessment; reflective teaching and learning; teaching in rural and remote contexts; teaching in the Indigenous context.

Abstracts must be submitted online at <<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/abstract2012>>. For more information, including presentation formats, visit <<http://ntgpe.org/index.php/teaching-and-learning-conference>>. Closing date is 28 November 2011.

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**REMINDER: LEADERS IN INDIGENOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION (LIME) CONNECTION IV**, in Auckland, New Zealand, 29 November to 1 December 2011, focusing on Medical Education for Indigenous Health: Building the Evidence Base. More information at <<http://limenetwork.net.au/content/lime-connection-iv>>.

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**REMINDER: Abstracts are invited for the International Health Care Reform Conference**, Brisbane, 6–7 March 2012. The conference website is at <<http://ihcrc.yrd.com.au/>>. Closing date is 28 October 2011.

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**REMINDER: Indigenous PhD and Professional Doctorates Graduates Conference**, in Canberra, on 7–8 November 2011. Please contact <[susan.jabs@innovation.gov.au](mailto:susan.jabs@innovation.gov.au)> for further information.

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## EVENTS

Sunday 23 October to Saturday 29 October 14 2011: **Danila Dilba Health Service** will celebrate 20 years of Aboriginal Community Control Health Service with a range of activities. More information is available from their website at <<http://www.daniladilbaexperience.org.au/>>.

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Thursday 3 November 2011, in Melbourne: **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Symposium**, at The University of Melbourne

Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development, *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit, the Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control, and Professor Marcia Langton (Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne), together with the Lowitja Institute, are pleased to announce this inaugural Research Symposium. Details at <<http://www.murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/>>.

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Wednesday 02 November 2011: **Narrm Oration**, in Melbourne. The Orator will be Mr William Iggiagruk Hensley, an Inuit leader who will talk on 'Resilient Spirit: Alaska Native People and Our Struggle for Land, Identity and Self Determination'.

When and where: 6.00pm to 8.00pm at 'The Spot' (Basement Theatre), Faculty of Economics and Commerce, The University of Melbourne, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton (corner of Pelham Street). On-line registration is essential at <<http://murrupbarak.eventbrite.com/>>.

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Wednesday 30 November 2011: **National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee (NIDAC) Consultation on Drug and Alcohol Issues**, in Perth. NIDAC is seeking views from non-government, community-based, government, education, health and law enforcement staff on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and other drugs issues in WA.

When and where: 9.30am – 12.00pm, at the Holiday Inn City Centre, 778–788 Hay Street, Perth. RSVP by Friday 25 November, T; 02 6166 9600, F: 02 6162 2611, E: [nidac@ancd.org.au](mailto:nidac@ancd.org.au).

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## JOBS

**Senior Indigenous Fellow**, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 May to 31 July 2012.

The Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section (IPMS) of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is seeking an indigenous person to fill the position of 'Senior Fellow' for a duration of approximately three months.

The Senior Indigenous Fellowship aims at giving the selected Indigenous person an in-depth understanding of the international human rights system and mechanisms, especially those dealing with indigenous issues.

Through this experience, the Senior Fellow will gain practical knowledge and working level experience by directly contributing to the programs and activities of the IPMS. Such exposure will also allow him/her to develop an extensive contact network with OHCHR staff in general, as well as other UN departments or agencies and human rights NGOs in Geneva.

The Senior Fellow is expected to return to his/her home country with an enhanced set of skills and expertise to contribute towards the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples at the national, regional or international level.

More information on the position and application procure, search for 'Senior Indigenous Fellow' at <<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>>. Closing date is 30 November 2011.

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**REMINDER: Research Fellow**, 'Closing the Gap' Project, full-time fixed-term (to June 2013), at Flinders University: <<http://flinders.edu.au/employment/vacancies/academic.cfm>>. Closing date is 31 October 2011.

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**REMINDER: Professor/Associate Professor and Director**, Indigenous Health Research, in Melbourne, full-time 5-year fixed-term appointment at the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, Harvest Alliance School for Indigenous Health, Monash University: <<http://monash.clients.pageup.com.au/jobDetails.asp?sJobIDs=496523&stp=unijobs&sLanguage=en>>. Closing date is 30 October 2011.

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## **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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**School Workshops Encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Kids to Work in Health**, a media release by the Hon. Warren Snowdon, Minister for Indigenous Health, 30 September 2011.

'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander secondary students are being encouraged to consider pursuing a career in health, as part of the Australian Government's Attracting More People to Work in Indigenous Health campaign. A round of 20 workshops is being conducted in schools and as part of careers exhibitions across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, until November 2011. The workshops will bring together local health professionals and representatives from local training institutions to talk to students about what it's like to study and work in the health area. Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon said, "hearing the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples already working in health will hopefully inspire some students to seriously think about following in their footsteps."

Full text at <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr11-ws-ws049.htm>>.

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Young People's Project: A Study of the Health and Wellbeing of Koori Youth in Melbourne**, a VAHS report by J. Luke, P. Steward, R. Thorpe & I. Anderson 2011, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne. More information at <[http://www.vahs.org.au/research\\_current\\_projects.html](http://www.vahs.org.au/research_current_projects.html)>.

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**A Pilot Study of Aboriginal Health Promotion from an Ecological Perspective**, by R. Reilly, M. Cincotta, J. Doyle, B. Firebrace, M. Cargo et al. 2011, *BMC Public Health*, vol. 11:749.

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**Principles on the Use of Direct Age-Standardisation in Administrative Data Collections**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011 <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420133&tab=2>>.

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The latest edition of the **Victorian Department of Health Aboriginal health e-bulletin** is available at <<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/aboriginalhealth/publications/bulletin.htm>>.

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### **Through APO**

**Measuring Alcohol Risk in the 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey: Implementation of the 2009 Alcohol Guidelines**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011 <<http://apo.org.au/research/measuring-alcohol-risk-2010-national-drug-strategy-household-survey-implementation-2009-alc>>.

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**Modelling Potential Impact of Improved Survival of Indigenous Australians on Work-Life Labour Income Gap Between Indigenous and Average Australians**, B. Nepal & L. Brown 2011, National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling <<http://apo.org.au/research/modelling-potential-impact-improved-survival-indigenous-australians-work-life-labour-income>>.

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**Access to Eye Health Services Among Indigenous Australians**, M. Kelaher 2011, Indigenous Eye Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population Health <<http://apo.org.au/research/access-eye-health-services-among-indigenous-australians>>

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**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2010: Detailed Analyses**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011 <<http://apo.org.au/research/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-performance-framework-2010-detailed-analyses>>.

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**The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision**, Hugh Taylor 2011, Indigenous Eye Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population Health, <<http://apo.org.au/research/roadmap-close-gap-vision>>.

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**Maternity Data in Australia: A Review of Sources and Gaps**, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2011 <<http://apo.org.au/research/maternity-data-australia-review-sources-and-gaps>>.

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### **RESOURCES AND WEBSITES**

#### **Living Safely: Preventing Accidents and Injury in Indigenous Communities**

A DVD resource available from the Rural Health Education Foundation. The documentary addresses the environmental and social factors behind the high rate of accident and injury, as well as their immediate causes and highlights various successful projects and initiatives in Indigenous communities. The Foundation's website is at <[www.rhef.com.au](http://www.rhef.com.au)>.

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## 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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### **CRC-REP Scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholars**

The Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation (CRC-REP) is seeking to recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars as part of its postgraduate program, to help build a brighter future for remote Australians. Applicants can apply for scholarships worth \$23,000 a year for three years, and for \$6k top-ups for travel and conferences. They will carry out research that has a direct benefit to the jobs, lives, enterprises and communities of remote Australia. They will be supported by industry and research mentors, and will have numerous professional learning opportunities.

Research areas where the students can work cover all the CRC's main research programs, such as population mobility and labour markets, remote climate adaptation, precision pastoralism, bush tucker and art economies, remote education, the links between health and work and pathways to employment. More information and application forms are available at <<http://crc-rep.com/education/scholarships>>. Closing date is 31 October 2011.

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**Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA)** are prestigious scholarships funded by the Commonwealth Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and provide an indexed stipend of \$22,860 (2011 rate) per annum. Additional benefits include paid sick leave, maternity/paternity leave, relocation and a thesis allowance. You must be an Australian citizen, or a permanent resident, to apply and have an Honours 1, or equivalent results. For more information, visit <<http://www.innovation.gov.au/RESEARCH/RESEARCHBLOCKGRANTS/Pages/AustralianPostgraduateAwards.aspx>>. Closing date is 31 October 2011.

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**University Postgraduate Research Scholarships (UPRS)** These scholarships are offered by Charles Darwin University to postgraduate research students undertaking projects that fall within the University's research priority areas. UPRS are open to Australian and overseas applicants and pay stipend of \$22,860 (2011 rate) per annum. Overseas applicants must be able to cover their course tuition fees to apply. Applicants must have received at least Honours IIA, or equivalent. Additional benefits include paid annual leave, sick leave and maternity/paternity leave entitlements, relocation and thesis allowance. For more information contact Mrs Sian Gyte, E: <[research.scholarships@cdu.edu.au](mailto:research.scholarships@cdu.edu.au)>. Closing date is 31 October 2011.

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## SEMINARS, COURSES, COLLOQUIA AND SYMPOSIA

**Introduction to Longitudinal Data Analysis**, in Adelaide, 14–15 November 2011. This workshop is intended for non-statisticians and statisticians new to the field of longitudinal data analysis. A basic knowledge of linear regression is assumed (as could be obtained through the first workshop 10-11 Nov). Convenor: Australian Development Agency for Statistics and Information Systems. Contact is Taryn Mungur, T: 0411 397 130, E: [t.mungur@adasis-oz.com](mailto:t.mungur@adasis-oz.com), W: <http://www.adasis-oz.com/storage/events-2011/ADASIS%20Adelaide%2011.2011%20Full.pdf>

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If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact E: <publications@lowitja.org.au>. Archives of the CRAH, CRCATSIH and Lowitja Institute eBulletins are available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>. To unsubscribe, please E: <admin@lowitja.org.au>.

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