

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
www.lowitja.org.au

e-BULLETIN 20 DECEMBER 2010

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>. Alternatively, to subscribe, please go to <www.lowitja.org.au/node/add/profile>. A PDF version is available at <www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>.

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FESTIVE GREETINGS FROM THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

Very best wishes to our readership from the Board, the Chief Executive and all the staff at the Lowitja Institute for a happy and safe Festive Season with family and friends and a healthy and productive 2011.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DR KERRY ARABENA TAKES UP APPOINTMENT FULL TIME

On Monday 14 January, after standing down as Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, Kerry has taken up her appointment as Chief Executive of the Lowitja Institute full time. We welcome Kerry aboard!

THE LOWITA INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER *WANGKA PULKA*, DECEMBER 2010

The second edition of the Lowitja Institute's newsletter *Wangka Pulka* is now available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/newsletters>>. *Wanga Pulka* means 'Big Talk' in the Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara language from our Patron Lowitja O'Donoghue's traditional lands in northern South Australia.

In this issue, we welcome aboard our new permanent Board of Directors, and feature The Lowitja Institute Principles as a prelude to the formation of a Charter for the Institute. We also provide an update on developments across our three research programs, review the latest activity in our Research Communications area and deliver a round-up of national policy news in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

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 and 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.

WELCOME DR SANCHIA SHIBASAKI AS TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE BOARD

We are pleased to inform you that Dr Sanchia Shibasaki has been appointed as a Torres Strait Islander representative to the Lowitja Institute Board. Sanchia is Executive Manager of the Population Health Unit at the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council, and many of you will remember her as a former CRCAH Research Fellow.

Dr Sanchia Shibasaki is of Torres Strait Islander descent and has more than 15 years' experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health research. She has clinical experience working as a physiotherapist in Far North Queensland and the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area. Her research includes completing a Masters degree in Applied Epidemiology in Indigenous Health and working with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress in Alice Springs as the CRC for Aboriginal Health Research Fellow. Dr Shibasaki has since completed a Doctorate of Philosophy in Epidemiology, Population Health and Health Services at the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, Australian National University.

Dr Shibasaki was awarded a National Health and Medical Research Council Training Fellowship to explore knowledge translation in primary health care services, later withdrawing from the program to return to primary health care service delivery.

This appointment completes the Lowitja Institute permanent board with **Ms Pat Anderson** as Chair; **Ms Stephanie Bell**, a director of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and former CRCAH Board member; **Professor Peter Buckskin**, the Dean and Head of School of the David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of South Australia; **Professor Lisa Rae Jackson Pulver**, the inaugural Chair of Indigenous Health and Professor of Public Health at the University of New South Wales; **Mr Robin Lonergan**, a corporate lawyer and partner

at Brisbane-based firm Macrossans Lawyers; and **Dr Louise Morauta**, a long-serving senior federal bureaucrat who, following her retirement, was appointed to the Australian Capital Territory Human Research Ethics Committee in January 2010. We invite you to read more about them on our website at <www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-board>.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CANCER ROUNDTABLE OUTCOMES

The National Roundtable on Priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Research that met on Friday 3 December brought together for the first time almost 50 representatives from national, State and Territory cancer organisations, major cancer-treating hospitals, cancer survivors and representatives from the Aboriginal community controlled primary health care sector in an effort to maximise the impact of current and future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer research. The roundtable was hosted by the Lowitja Institute, and supported by the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

The meeting urged greater coordination, collaboration and strategic direction from those working on research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cancer, and the adoption of a research agenda driven by the priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Other research priorities identified included identifying ways to improve the patient journey, evaluation and wider adoption of models of care that work, and using systems approaches to improve cultural safety at all levels of cancer care.

By the close of the roundtable a number of areas for action had been agreed to including:

- Holding a bi-annual meeting to share knowledge about cancer and Indigenous people across research, service provider and community sectors.
- The establishment of a portal where all sectors can access research done to date, underway or planned.
- Seek further funding to support the future of this work and increase collaboration and meetings.
- Taking future work in this area beyond the descriptive and into the development of health systems and intervention studies.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR A PROGRAM LEADER ROLE

The Lowitja Institute is looking for a suitably qualified researcher to undertake a Program Leader role our Healthy Communities and Settings program (Program 2), with a particular responsibility its scientific leadership. This role will work with an established team. Responsibilities include providing scientific leadership and advice on all activities undertaken within the scope of the program; undertaking research activity as agreed and producing research reports, publications and presentations; contributing to the development of capacity building and research transfer processes; as part of a team, supervise personnel—including students—working on program activities and research projects; support the team to keep financial, technical and research records in the approved form; contribute to the management and reporting of any issues which may impact on the achievement of deliverables; provide any other reports or information as may be requested by the National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Ltd (NIATSHR) within ten business days of the request unless otherwise agreed; participate in the CRC

review that will be commissioned by the Commonwealth in the third year, 1 Jan 2012–30 June 2012.

The program goal is an improved understanding of the determinants of Indigenous health through the development and use of tools that more accurately measure enabling environments for improved Indigenous Australian health and wellbeing outcomes.

For more information and selection criteria, please visit:

<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/call-expressions-interest-program-leader-role>>.

Closing date is 31 December 2010.

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (INDIGENOUS STRATEGY AND SERVICES), THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The Senior Executive Group (SEG) has recently finalised the University of Sydney's response to the external Review of Indigenous Education at the University, completed in August 2009.

One of the key recommendations of this review was the appointment of a senior person with responsibility for Indigenous affairs.

As a result, a new position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services) will soon be advertised with a view to the successful applicant commencing in this important new role as early as possible in 2011.

As a member of and working in collaboration with all other members of the Senior Executive Group and key units across the University, the DVC (Indigenous Strategy and Services) will initially be responsible for finalising the integrated Indigenous Participation, Engagement, Education and Research Strategy which is part of the University's Strategic Plan 2011–15.

From 2012 onwards the new DVC will be responsible for leading the implementation of a comprehensive Indigenous Strategy, which will be agreed by SEG in 2011 and supported by the University as a strategic priority.

The reports of the SEG Working Group that informed SEG's consideration of these matters make compelling reading. Please visit the Review of Indigenous Education website

<<http://sydney.edu.au/learning/RIE/rie.shtml>> where all the reports are available for download.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for papers for the 2011 National Indigenous Domestic Violence Conference to be held at the Gold Coast, Qld, 17–19 May 2011 closes on 25 December: <<http://ica-dv.webs.com>>.

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

For 2011 conferences and events, please see the REMINDERS section of this bulletin, and the Council of Australian University Librarians' website for a list of 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

Lecturer / Senior Lecturer, in Darwin, 2-year contract. An opportunity exists for a highly motivated person with appropriate academic/teaching/research expertise to make a major contribution to postgraduate education and research in Menzies School of Health Research. The successful applicant will have a Master degree, PHD or equivalent and a knowledge and experience in epidemiology, biostatistics or a discipline relevant to public health. Experience in tertiary teaching particularly within an on-line environment as well as sound knowledge of epidemiological research skills and methods are also essential. Contact: A/Prof Ross Andrews on T: 08 8922 7668 or E: <ross.andrews@menzies.edu.au>.

Lecturer in Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project, in Melbourne, full time fixed term until 30 June 2013 at the Centre for Health and Society, Melbourne School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne. This position will have a lead role in the successful implementation of Stage 3 of the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project funded through DoHA. The Project builds on two earlier Indigenous public health capacity building projects (see <http://www.onemda.unimelb.edu.au/research/professionaltraining.html#pherpcd>). This position is based at the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit.

Enquiries only: A/Prof. Marilys Guillemin on T: 03 8344 0827 or E: <marilys@unimelb.edu.au>. For position description and selection criteria, search for job 25131 at: <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>.

Closing date is 5 January 2011. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

Administration Officer, in Melbourne, full-time fixed-term, at the Centre for Health and Society and the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit, Melbourne School of Population Health. 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 position requires the ability to exercise judgement, set priorities and schedule work to meet deadlines. 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. For further information, search position 0025134 at <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>. **Closing date is 5 January 2011.**

Research Business Manager, in Darwin, 3-year contract (0.8 FTE), at Menzies School of Health Research. This position will be required to ensure effective coordination and research management

support across a range of current and new research programs under The Child Development: Education, Health and Wellbeing research group within Menzies. It will also assist in the development of new funding opportunities and build synergies with other research groups within Menzies, government and community stakeholders to encourage more effective and efficient outcomes. The successful applicant will have senior level program management experience, experience in staff, team and financial management and strong communication skills. The ability to build and maintain formal and informal networks is also essential. Experience in research or research management would also be desirable. Contact: Margaret Landrigan on T: 08 8922 6967 or <margaret.landrigan@menzies.edu.au>. **Vacancy closes 7 January 2011**

MEDIA

Julia Gillard sets Indigenous report card in stone, by Jeff Waters, ABC *The Drum*, 9 December. 'Prime Minister Julia Gillard has cemented her predecessor Kevin Rudd's Indigenous health reporting initiative, continuing his efforts to close the vast gap between health outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

A spokesman for the Prime Minister has told The Drum that she will continue Mr Rudd's recent tradition of making a "Closing the Gap Statement to Parliament" early in the 2011 sitting period... Now, by outlining an intention to continue with what are widely called "report cards", Julia Gillard has established a tradition that future Labor leaders will find impossible to shy away from, and which will certainly put a great deal of pressure on any up-coming Coalition prime ministers as well...

While the report cards have, in the past, been described by some as inadequate or superficial, Melbourne University's Professor of Indigenous Health Ian Anderson says they are entirely beneficial.

"They do two very significant things," he said, "first of all they keep a national focus on what we're doing around Indigenous health [and] the second is that it sends an accountability signal that I think is very important."

Full text available at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/12/09/3088883.htm>.

National Workforce Launched to Tackle Indigenous Smoking and Improve Health, media release by the Minister for Indigenous Health, 8 December. 'Minister for Indigenous Health, Warren Snowdon, has launched a new workforce featuring 82 new positions to help reduce smoking and help improve nutrition and physical activity in Indigenous communities across the country...'

Full media release at: <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws082.htm>>.

Early Successes in Efforts to 'Close the Gap', media release by the Minister for Indigenous Health, 9 December. 'A new report on the Australian Government's multi-million dollar commitment to tackling chronic disease in Indigenous communities shows positive progress is being made.

Minister for Indigenous Health Warren Snowdon said a new report on the Australian Government's multi-million dollar commitment to tackling chronic disease in Indigenous communities shows positive progress is being made.

The Indigenous Chronic Disease Package Annual Progress Report 2009–10 is the first government report detailing the achievements and progress of the historic commitment to help close the gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians...'

Full media release at: <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-ws-ws083.htm>>.

Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop the first Torres Strait Islander to earn a PhD from University of Queensland, James O'Loan, *The Courier-Mail*, 13 December. 'Born on a mission and always "on a mission". Dr Noritta Morseu-Diop is living proof that self-belief and hard work can overcome any challenge. Today, in front of indigenous Elders, she becomes only the fifth Torres Strait Islander in history to receive a PhD from an Australian university. Her PhD thesis findings aim to create a more effective and humane criminal justice system in Queensland, which is currently blighted by an over-representation of indigenous people.' Full story at: <<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/dr-noritta-morseu-diop-the-first-torres-strait-islander-to-earn-a-phd-from-university-of-queensland/story-e6freoof-1225969797608>>.

Congratulations from the Lowitja Institute!

PUBLICATIONS

The Importance of Resilience and Stress to Maintaining Smoking Abstinence and Cessation: A qualitative study in Australia with people diagnosed with depression, G. Tsourtos, P. R. Ward et al. 2010, *Health & Social Care in the Community*, DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2524.2010.00973.x.: <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2524.2010.00973.x/abstract>>.

Three discussion papers have been published as part of a series considering key issues in ethnicity data, and implications for Māori health. Commissioned by the Ministry of Health:

Classification and Output of Multiple Ethnicities: Considerations for Monitoring Māori Health, D. Cormack & C. Robson 2010.

Improving and Maintaining Quality in Ethnicity Data Collections in the Health and Disability Sector, D. Cormack & M. McLeod 2010.

Ethnicity, National Identity and 'New Zealanders': Considerations for Monitoring Māori Health and Ethnic Inequalities, D. Cormack & C. Robson 2010.

Available at: <<http://www.maorihealth.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexma/three-new-ethnicity-discussion-papers>>.

Targeted Research in Depression, Anxiety and Related Disorders 2007–2010, beyondblue 2010. This book comprises summaries of the outcomes from more than 60 *beyondblue*-funded projects that have been completed between 2007 and 2010. Printed copies can be ordered online at <www.beyondblue.org.au/resources> or T: 1300 22 4636. Electronic copy available at: <www.beyondblue.org.au/researchbook2010>.

A Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming Manual, prepared by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Program on International Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health 2010: <<http://www.unfpa.org/public/publications/pid/4919>>.

Global Health Estimates, *Public Library of Science Collections (Medicine)*. Available at: <<http://bit.ly/goci45>>.

Through APO:

National Mental Health Report 2010, Department of Health and Ageing 2010. This report, the eleventh in the series, presents the latest data on progress made under the National Mental Health Strategy: <http://www.apo.org.au/research/national-mental-health-report-2010>.

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The Northern Territory Intervention and Human Rights, M. Edmunds 2010, Whitlam Institute. The Northern Territory Intervention has, for all of its drawbacks, provided an opportunity to review and reapproach how government enables or prevents the exercise of Aboriginal human rights: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/northern-territory-intervention-and-human-rights>>.

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Implementation review of the Family Responsibilities Commission, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs 2010. Highlights the progress made and recommends changes where these could help to improve the effectiveness of the Family Responsibilities Commission for the remainder of its term: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/implementation-review-family-responsibilities-commission>>.

The **Medical Journal of Australia** archive of 361 articles related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is available at: <<http://www.mja.com.au/Topics/Aboriginal%20health.html>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Closing the Gap Clearinghouse. A clearinghouse for evidence-based research on overcoming disadvantage for Indigenous Australians: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/>>.

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

Postgraduate Scholarship on Indigenous Chronic Disease and Health Professional Education

Several full-time postgraduate scholarships are available over the next three years for suitably qualified candidates to undertake research studies leading to a Masters (Research) or Doctorate on exploring how health professional education can reduce disparities in chronic disease care and improve outcomes for Indigenous populations. Indicative degrees available include Master of Philosophy, Master of Education, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Master of Aboriginal

Health, Master of Health Professional Education. Research areas are Indigenous Health, Health Professional Education, inter-professional education, medical education, e-health.

These scholarships are part of the **Educating for Equity** project that compares, builds and shares experiences and approaches to Indigenous health teaching and learning in the area of chronic disease. A major focus of the project is to ensure that the lessons from the project are translated into practice. The research will make a substantial and enduring contribution to improving the quality of health care for Indigenous people with chronic disease and thus health outcomes.

Applicants should have a Bachelors degree with Honours or a Masters Degree in Indigenous health, education, public health, social science, or a related discipline. Experience/background in qualitative research and/or knowledge of Indigenous health and health professional education would be an advantage. Applicants must be Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents or New Zealand citizens. The successful applicant/s will be in a position to commence their candidature subject to successful enrolment in a research Masters or PhD through the University of Western Australia, University of Melbourne or University of Queensland.

The standard-rate NHMRC scholarship stipend (including support) is \$33,488 in 2010 (tax exempt) and may be renewed for the standard duration of their course (3 years for PhD), subject to satisfactory progress. Indigenous applicants should also seek out targeted supports through the Indigenous studies centres at the respective Universities.

For further information, contact Dr David Paul, E: david.paul@uwa.edu.au, or T: 08 6488 7084.

Scholarship reminders:

PhD Scholarship: Tobacco control for Indigenous Australians, University of Canberra. W: <http://www.canberra.edu.au/research-students/apply>. **Closing date is 14 January 2011.**

2011 Rural Medical Student Scholarship: <http://ramus.ruralhealth.org.au>. **Closing date is COB 17 January 2011.**

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

Advances in Health Outcomes Assessment – Call for Expressions of Interest in a one or two-day workshop by Dr. John E. Ware, facilitated by Menzies School of Health research in Darwin in May 2011. For more information, E: sharon.thompson@menzies.edu.au.

and REMINDERS

11th National Rural Health Conference, 'Rural and Remote Australia: The heart of a healthy nation', Perth, 13–16 March 2011. Conference website is at: <<http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>>.

Australian Health Promotion Association 20th National Conference, Cairns, 10–13 April 2011. The focus of the conference will be on the determinants of health: <www.healthpromotion.org.au>.

3rd Aboriginal Health Research Conference 'Research for a Better Future', in Sydney, 5–6 May 2011, presented by the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health: <<http://www.gemsevents.com.au/criah2011/>>.

CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference, in Alice Springs, 17–18 June 2011: <<http://www.ichc2011.org/>>.

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

12th International Mental Health Conference 'Personality Disorders: Out of the Darkness', Gold Coast, Qld, 24–26 August 2011: <http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html>.

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 2011: <ruralhealth@anzmmh.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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