

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 22 NOVEMBER 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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THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE APPOINTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Lowitja Institute has appointed a permanent Board of Directors to oversee the implementation of its national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research programs. The new permanent Board has a majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership and comprises the highly skilled and experienced health sector professionals Ms Pat Anderson (Chair), Ms Stephanie Bell, Professor Peter Buckskin, Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Mr Robin Lonergan and Dr Louise Morauta. A tender process is currently under way to select a Torres Strait Islander representative to the Board.

For more information about the Board members, please go to <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-board>>.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO CARRY OUT A RESEARCH PROJECT

A National Appraisal of Continuous Quality Improvement Initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

The Lowitja Institute is seeking a project leader to conduct a research project to help inform future policy and practice around Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care.

The project aim is to review current efforts in CQI in the Australian primary health care arena over the past several years, with specific reference to national, regional and local quality improvement initiatives and major strategic directions of relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care.

Objectives will include appraising evidence, from a service provision perspective, on:

- Uptake/engagement by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care services in various jurisdictions
- Impact on quality of care, health outcomes and system development
- Acceptability and sustainability of quality improvement in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PHC sector, and the factors affecting acceptability and impact.

A project outline has been developed, and can be obtained from the Acting Program Manager for Program 1 of the Lowitja Institute, E: <jenny.brands@menzies.edu.au>. The project outline is not definitive and it is expected that it will be refined by the appointed project leader in consultation with a project reference group.

The outcome of the project will be advice on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and priorities for development of approaches to and tools to support quality improvement in Indigenous primary health care over the next decade.

The project is expected to commence in early 2011 and be completed within 12 months. For more information and to obtain an Expression of Interest form, please go to

<<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/call-expression-interest-cqi-research-project>>.

Closing date is 10 December 2010.

DR KERRY ARABENA DELIVERS THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ANNUAL RECONCILIATION LECTURE

The lecture, titled 'Post-Normal Reconciliation – Using Science to Reframe the Reconciliation Agenda' was given on Friday 12 November. In her lecture, Kerry said: 'I think we all know, that in order to truly reconcile, we need to take stock of where we are, who we are and where we want to be in 100 years time. We need to start with the story of Australia how it and its people came to be, we need to reconcile our hopes for the future within this country and with others in the Asia Pacific region. We need a long term and inclusive view, we then need to purposefully craft a new story around that view and use that story to build new ways of living, new ways of being, and new ways of having relationships. It is an extension of the reconciliation agenda we have in Australia, a view 'beyond' where we are now.' You can read the full text at the Reconciliation Australia website:

<<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/home/media/speeches>>.

Prior to the lecture Kerry was interviewed by Louise Maher on the Drive program for ABC 666, Canberra. Listen to Kerry's interview at <http://blogs.abc.net.au/canberra/2010/11/dr-kerry-arabena-on-reconciliation.html?site=canberra&program=canberra_drive>.

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

CALL FOR PAPERS

Indigenous action research and decolonisation

The *Action Learning Action Research Journal* promotes the study and practice of Action Learning and Action Research and networking on a global basis. The journal contains project reports, reflections on seminars and conferences, articles related to the theory and practice of action learning, action research and related approaches, and reviews of recent publications. It aims to be highly accessible for readers, contributors and practitioners.

A strong decolonising stream emerged at the September 2010 Congress on Action Research and Action Learning, held in Melbourne. A number of papers and workshops raised much discussion and debate about methods and processes for conducting this type of research. Topics such as the murky boundaries of insiders and outsiders, benefits for both colonisers and colonised, seeming blindness to Indigenous knowledges and the importance of careful listening were but a few of the discussions held. A dialectic tea party drew attention to the delicate nature of intrusion versus respectful presence in research. This edition of the Journal is aiming to capture the current dilemmas and solutions actions researchers experience in the decolonising space.

For this edition, Dr Karen Adams and Dr Bronwyn Fredericks will be the guest editors. A panel of expert Indigenous reviewers will be invited to review submitted papers for the edition. 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.

Papers should address both action research and decolonisation and authors should take note of the Action Learning Action Research Journal submission guidelines. Papers should be a maximum of 8,000 words for peer reviewed articles or 3,000 words for other journal items (e.g. essays, book reviews, commentaries). Due date for submission: 18 February 2011, by email to <alara@alara.net.au>.

For the **2011 diabetes issue**, *The Lancet* invites submissions of high-quality original research on any aspect of diabetes. Closing date for abstracts is 1 February 2011. For more information:

<[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)62010-7/fulltext#article_upsell](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)62010-7/fulltext#article_upsell)>.

CONFERENCES

11th National Rural Health Conference, 'Rural and Remote Australia: The heart of a healthy nation', Perth, 13–16 March 2011. The Conference is a biennial event managed by the National Rural Health Alliance and attracts some of the country's finest minds in confronting the challenges associated with providing safe, accessible and reliable health services to rural and remote areas. The focus of Keynote addresses will include 'resources for regions', child and maternal health, healthy Indigenous communities, workforce redesign, and change management in rural and remote health services. There will be nine concurrent streams, with sessions on sustainable communities, the rural and remote health workforce, chronic disease, and e-health. beyondblue is supporting special sessions on

mental health. There will be presentations from the Women's Health Longitudinal Study. An arts and health stream will also feature again in the concurrent sessions. All participants, including paper givers, will be encouraged to suggest recommendations for action on rural and remote health services. Conference website is at: <<http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/>>. Early bird rate available until 18 December.

Global Health Metrics and Evaluation: Controversies, Innovation, Accountability Conference, in Seattle, WA, USA, 14–16 March 2011. The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (Seattle, WA, USA), The Lancet, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the University of Queensland School of Population Health invite submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentation: <<http://ghme.org/>> **no later than 6 December**. The peer-review process will be organised by The Lancet: <<http://bit.ly/cAsLPh>>.

Conferences and Events 2011

Visit 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

Positions available at Danila Dilba Health Service, Darwin:

Bringing Them Home Counsellor, full time. The BTH Counsellor will play an active role in the Bringing Them Home Program, providing support for carers and assisting members of the Stolen Generations to access the right health care and other relevant community support services. Applicants will have tertiary qualifications in the field of Social Work, Psychology or Behavioural Sciences, the ability claim Medicare, awareness and respect for the Aboriginal culture, history and beliefs and be able to operate effectively within a team using case management practice framework.

Aboriginal Health Workers (multiple positions), full time. There are several openings for Aboriginal Health Workers at our Darwin Clinic, Mens Clinic, Family Centre and Outreach Team. AHWs participate in the provision of comprehensive primary health care by being the first point of contact for clients. Candidates **must** have Aboriginal Health Worker qualifications, which are **recognised in the Northern Territory** together with registration as an Aboriginal Health Worker with the Northern Territory Registration Board and a current practising certificate.

Dental Assistant, full time. DDHS is seeking a Dental Assistant to provide high quality dental assistance to the Dental practitioners in an efficient, supportive and cooperative.

Registered Nurses, full time (multiple positions). This is a re-advertised role, prior applicants are welcome to reapply. Opportunities exist for Level 2 (NT Public Service Award) Nurses to work within our clinics providing clinical services to our patients.

Registered Nurse, full time. A position also exists within Danila Dilba's Family Centre in Palmerston, for a Level 3 (NT Public Service Award) Nurse to assist in the delivery of primary health care through the provision of clinical services.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply. Applications close 3 December 2010

For more information, including a copy of Position Descriptions and Selection Criteria, contact HR Coordinator Layne Burgess on T: 08 8943 5144 or E: <layne.burgess@daniladilba.org.au>.

Jobs at the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin

Human Resources Manager, 12-month contract. Menzies is seeking an experienced Human Resource professional with a strong business focus to provide strategic, organisational leadership in people management and lead its human resources team. This is a significant leadership role servicing a rapidly developing and progressive research organisation that seeks to take its people management practices to the next level.

Operational HR & HRIS Coordinator, 3-year contract. This position coordinates Menzies human resource management information system (Aurion) and oversees the delivery of operational HR services across the organisation.

For more information, contact Tina Lambert, T: 08 8943 5080, E: <tina.lambert@manzies.edu.au>.

Applications close 3 December 2010.

Positions at the KOYA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION, Midland, Western Australia

Executive Officer: A dedicated person is required to provide an appropriate high standard of support to the Managing Director and to manage the day-to-day operations. Other duties include leading a dedicated team of staff and volunteers to deliver a range of grass roots community services and research whilst ensuring sound management, legal and financial compliances are maintained.

Maali PaCE Coordinator: The Maali PaCE Program is seeking a full-time motivating and energetic person to manage, plan, coordinate, monitor and evaluate the implementation and outcomes of the Parent and Community Engagement Program.

Maali PaCE Outreach Worker: A Community Outreach Worker will assist the Maali PaCE Coordinator on a part-time basis (at three days per week) to recruit and retain families into the PaCE program; provide hands-on support and guidance to parents, carers and community; undertake outreach and research activities and administrative support to the Project Coordinator.

Job Description and Selection Criteria available from Sue Renshaw, T: 08 93601771 or E:

koya.corp@gmail.com. **Aboriginal applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for all positions.**

Applications Close 2 December 2010.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Research Officer, casual position. Expressions of Interest are sort for the following position with the Healing and Resilience Division at Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin. The Research Officer's role as a member of the research team, is to undertake research activities within the Healing and Resilience Division in both Darwin and remote communities. For more information on this position please contact Jodie Ellis, T: 08 8922 6904, E: <jodie.ellis@menzies.edu.au>.

ABCD Research Partnership Northern Territory Research Officer, Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin. The Partnership is a national research project that aims to support efforts to improve the quality of primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The project builds on the Audit and Best Practice for Chronic Disease Extension (ABCDE) participatory action research which supports staff in health centres around Australia to engage in systematic quality improvement activities and uses data to inform broader policy and program improvement in the sector.

Indigenous people are strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Cynthia Croft, T: 07 3010 3902, M: 0437 244 944 or E: <Cynthia.croft@menzies.edu.au>. Applications close 6 December 2010

Health Professionals Educator (two positions), in Brisbane, Menzies School of Health Research, full-time until December 2012. Menzies' One21seventy program delivers a Continuous Quality Improvement system developed specifically to support high quality comprehensive primary health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The current vacancy is for a Health Professionals Educator who will develop and deliver high quality curriculum based training packages for participating primary health care stakeholders in locations across Australia. The successful applicant will work to achieve program deliverables in a small team of dedicated educators. For more information please contact Jennifer Hains, T: 07 3010 3903, E: <jennifer.hains@menzies.edu.au>. The position description is available at <www.menzies.edu.au>, E: <humanresources@menzies.edu.au> or T: 08 8943 5052. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply. Closing date is 6 December 2010.

MEDIA

Jenny Macklin backs Constitution bid, Patricia Karvelas and Sarah Elks, *The Australian*, 10 November 2010. 'INDIGENOUS Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin says she is open to a push for recognition of indigenous Australians in the Constitution. But she has ruled out a treaty. "This process is about recognising indigenous people within the Australian Constitution. It is not about a treaty," she told The Australian. "We are not going to pre-empt what options the expert panel may identify and we expect their consultations to canvass a range of issues." Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission chairwoman Lowitja O'Donoghue has declared indigenous Australians must be recognised in the body of the Constitution and not mentioned tokenistically in the preamble. Ms O'Donoghue's intervention follows Aboriginal leader Marcia Langton's call for Julia Gillard's expert panel advising on the recognition of indigenous Australians in the Constitution to go further than inserting something "light" in the preamble.' Full text at: <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/jenny-macklin-backs-constitution-bid/story-fn59niix-1225950364799>>.

Kalinda named NT Young Australian of the Year, Charles Darwin University Newsroom, 16 November 2011. 'Charles Darwin University graduate, Kalinda Griffiths has been named the 2011 Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year. The 29-year-old Indigenous health researcher was recognised for her critical work into improving Indigenous health and cancer survival rates. An Indigenous woman born in Darwin of Yawuru heritage, Kalinda graduated from CDU in 2009 with a Bachelor of Biomedical Science. Her interest in Indigenous health was sparked when she witnessed the preventable illness and disease suffered by her immediate and extended family.' Full story at: <<http://ext.cdu.edu.au/newsroom/a/2010/Pages/101116-KalindanamedNTYoungAustralianoftheYear.aspx>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Injury of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Due to Transport, 2003–04 to 2007–08, AIHW,

cat. no. INJCAT 134: <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/12265>>.

Deaths, Australia, 2009 – Deaths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, ABS, cat. no. 3302.0: <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3302.0?OpenDocument>>.

Conference Report: 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*, vol. 193(10): 569–71: <http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/193_10_151110/kir10803_fm.html>.

Building Multisectoral Partnerships for Population Health and Health Equity, S. Fawcett, J. Schultz, J. Watson-Thompson, M. Fox & R. Bremby, *Preventing Chronic Disease*, vol. 7(6): <<http://bit.ly/bX7ndE>>.

Performance Audit Handbook: Routes to effective evaluation, RAND Corporation: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR788/>.

Through APO:

Community Safety in Australian Indigenous Communities: Service providers' perceptions, Matthew Willis 2010, Australian Institute of Criminology: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/community-safety-australian-indigenous-communities-service-providers-perceptions>>.

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Nursing and Midwifery Labour Force 2008, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2010: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/nursing-and-midwifery-labour-force-2008>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

The publications page at the Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health Queensland <<http://www.crrmhq.com.au/>> has many interesting publications, including *‘Little Children’ and Big Sticks: Paternalism and Autonomy in Indigenous Northern Australia*, by Ernest Hunter, Regional Psychiatrist, Queensland Health and Adjunct Professor, University of Queensland, North Queensland Health Equalities Promotion Unit, available for download in PDF format.

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

New award for Indigenous academic writing

On 1 November 2010 the new Stanner Award opened for nominations. Sponsored by AIATSIS, this prestigious award now relates to unpublished academic/scholarly manuscripts written by an Indigenous person. The prize includes publication by Aboriginal Studies Press, a cash payment of \$5000 and up to 50 hours mentoring/editorial support. The closing date is COB 31 January 2011. Visit <<http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/events/stanner.html>> for conditions of entry and more information.

The Charlie Perkins Scholarships

The Charlie Perkins Scholarship Trust is offering two annual postgraduate scholarships to provide talented Indigenous Australians with the opportunity to study at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge for up to three years. The scholarships are directed at Indigenous Australians who have the potential to become leaders in their field of study and in their communities. The first two Charlie Perkins scholars have been funded by the Australian Government, the British Government (through the Chevening program) and Rio Tinto. Qantas is the official airline partner for the scholarships. The Charlie Perkins Scholarships will only be awarded to candidates who have been accepted into a postgraduate degree program offered at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. In most circumstances, candidates will need to hold a First Class or upper Second Class Honours degree in order to be accepted to either university.

Applications for the 2011/2012 Charlie Perkins Scholarships will close on **Friday 28 January 2011**. Applicants are required to submit their application to the University of Cambridge by **1 December 2010** and to the University of Oxford by **21 January 2011**. For further details on how to apply, please go to the Charlie Perkins Trust website at: <www.perkinstrust.com.au>.

About Dr Charles Perkins AO

The Charlie Perkins Scholarships are inspired by and in memory of Dr Charles Perkins AO – Australia's first Indigenous man to graduate from university, who dedicated his life to achieving justice for Indigenous Australians.

2011 Roberta Sykes Harvard Club of Australia Scholarship

The Roberta Sykes Scholarship Foundation and the Harvard Club of Australia are offering a scholarship to provide talented Indigenous Australians with the opportunity to undertake up to two years of postgraduate study at Harvard University. The scholarships are directed at Indigenous Australians who have the potential to become leaders in their field of study and in their communities. The inaugural scholarship will be offered for study at Harvard commencing in September 2011. The value of the scholarship will be at least \$60,000 per annum to be paid over the course of the scholar's study. The scholarship covers tuition, travel costs and living expenses. Only one scholarship is available at any point in time. The scholarship will only be awarded to candidates who have been accepted into a postgraduate degree program offered at Harvard University. In most circumstances, candidates will need to hold a First Class or upper Second Class Honours degree in order to be accepted. Applicants are required to submit their Harvard application by the deadline required for the degree program they wish to pursue. **This can be as early as 1 December 2010**. Applications for the 2011 Roberta Sykes Harvard Club Scholarship will open on November 15, 2010 and will close on **31 January 2011**. For further details, E: <enquiries@robertasykesfoundation.com.au>.

About Roberta Sykes

Roberta Sykes was the founder of Black Women's Action in Education Foundation (BWAEF), which was formed in the early 1970s. BWAEF grew out of a need for an organisation whose primary focus was to support Australian Indigenous women scholars in educational pursuits. From the mid-1980s, BWAEF enabled a number of Indigenous women to undertake postgraduate studies at Harvard. Over time, the ambit of funding was expanded to include support for Australian Indigenous men attending Harvard, and then also for Indigenous postgraduates to attend other overseas universities. Roberta was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal in 1994 for her tireless and valuable work in the

arena of Indigenous affairs. In 2009, the name of BWAEF was changed to the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation and a new Board of Trustees was appointed to carry on Roberta's important work.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

2011 Melbourne University Summer Program: Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research Training, in Melbourne, 31 January–4 February 2011

This productive, interesting and fun week, conducted by leading Aboriginal academics, is a five-day intensive course conducted at the Parkville campus of the University of Melbourne. Part-time enrolments are not available. This is a University of Melbourne-accredited course and is fee exempt. Applicants may also apply for their supervisor to attend.

Entry requirements: Applicants must be currently enrolled in an Australian university in an Honours, Masters by research, or Doctoral degree (PhD or professional doctorate) and must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Application closing date: Friday, 26 November 2010.

For more information contact Simone Brotherton, E: <srb@unimelb.edu.au>, T: 03 8344 7722, or visit <<http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/cie/programs/SummerSchool/index.html>>.

Postgraduate Public Health Training – Specialist Units in Indigenous and Global Health. For course information: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/coursework>>. Apply by 4 January 2011 for commencement in semester 1 2011.

and REMINDERS

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference, Canberra, 28 November–1 December: <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/>>.

11th National Rural Health Conference, Perth, 13–16 March 2011: <<http://www.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. Closing date for abstract submission is 29 November: <<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.anzmfh.asn.au/conference2011/call_papers.html>.

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

If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact <c.lochert@unimelb.edu.au>. Archives of the CRAH, 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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Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

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