

THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE
Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Health Research
Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre for
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
e-BULLETIN — 25 OCTOBER 2010

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THE LONG WALK WOMEN'S LUNCHEON 2010: Notes from Dr Kerry Arabena's speech

Kerry extended to luncheon guests the greetings of the Board and staff of the two organisations with which she's currently involved: The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples and the Lowitja Institute, two organisations that are part of the continuing journey to social justice and that contribute to the legacy left for us to follow by so many courageous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

These organisations also make very real contributions in the area of women's leadership: the National Congress, of which Kerry is Co-Chair, has stated in its Constitution gender equity as a principle—50 per cent of all the representative positions in the organisation are to be held by women—the only company registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission to do so. At the Lowitja Institute, Kerry is part of a three-generational team of women's leadership: Lowitja O'Donoghue, the former Chairperson of ATSIC; Pat

Anderson, the Chairperson of the Lowitja Institute, and Kerry, the Institute's Chief Executive.

Kerry then thanked Michael Long for his contribution to the Australian community, for being a role model and for trying to find understanding in places few of us would want to go, for raising issues for public debate, in ways that have resonated in decisions about the social, economic and political fabric of our society. Kerry noted that is no more important public policy issue before us today than addressing the unfinished business with Australia's First Peoples' and about realising our desire for justice and the power to control their own affairs.

In her talk, Kerry described the situation in Australia for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the time when Michael Long asked: **Where is the love, Prime Minister, where is the love for my people?** "No question has resonated so deeply, nor raised so many issues about ourselves, our capacity for nurturance, and our rightful place in Australian society," Kerry stated.

Kerry also told us: "What I learned from Michael's question was this: love manifests as relationships and connection. If we push away or abandon our sense of connection with others – our acknowledgement, our sensitivity, and our love; there is no limit to the sadness, terror and pain that our unchecked power can produce. When Michael asked that anguished question to the person with the most power in the country: Prime Minister, where is the love for my people? he was asking where was the loving relationship between all Australians in which power is given with love in ways that will facilitate our move toward self-realisation. We all feel the anguish that results from the deficit of love. And Michael was moved to do something about it and in doing so introduced me to a different notion of love. Love is the drive to unite the separated. Michael through his long walk inspired a world anew – not because the world changed overnight, but because he provided yet another opportunity to see ourselves and our role and responsibility to create the world anew. He sought to encourage loving power, in a Prime Minister and an institution that had wielded power over, not given power to, or facilitated power for, the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

A full version of Kerry's speech will be uploaded onto the Lowitja Institute website. We'll let you know.

THE 2010 NARRM ORATION

Indigenous Nation Re-Building Renaissance: Lessons about leadership, governance and resiliency of Native North America

The Murrup Barak Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne invites you to the Narrm Oration and the launch of the Institute's foundation corporate partnership with Rio Tinto Australia. The Narrm Oration will be delivered by Dr Manley A. Begay Jr, Faculty Chair, Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, University of Arizona and co-director of the Harvard Project on

American Indian Economic Development at Harvard University.

The Oration will be delivered on Thursday 11 November, 6.00 to 8.00pm, at 'The Spot' (Basement Theatre), Faculty of Economics and Commerce, 198 Berkeley Street, Carlton, Victoria. Please note that seating may be limited and RSVP on-line at <www.murruupbarak.unimelb.edu.au>.

CONFERENCES

CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference, in Alice Springs, 17–18 June 2011. The second CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference promises to provide an exceptional platform for combining political, social and medical expertise to address the significant life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia and New Zealand. This conference will have as its focus inequities in cardiovascular health care and outcomes. Presentations and discussions will develop the detailed policy recommendations of the inaugural conference and apply these to health care delivery. Invited presentations will discuss international perspectives, determinants of cardiovascular disease, rheumatic heart disease, improving access to cardiovascular health care, and acute and chronic coronary disease in Indigenous populations. Invited presentations will be followed by panel-led discussions welcoming contributions from the audience. Please visit the conference website: <<http://www.ichc2011.org/>>.

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. The Conference will showcase Aboriginal health research and promote community, research and policy engagement and exchange in Aboriginal health, to allow communities to describe their health and research priorities and to provide opportunities for sharing information and establishing collaborations among Aboriginal community members, researchers and policy makers. Papers are invited in the areas of Effective Partnerships with Communities, Child Health, Chronic Disease, Mental Health, Infectious Diseases and Policy Relevant Research. In addition to these streams, abstracts about research across all areas of Aboriginal health are being sought. The organisers are encouraging submissions from across a wide spectrum of people involved in research, including masters and PhD students, Aboriginal health and community workers and experienced health researchers. Closing date for abstract submission is 29 November: <<http://www.gemsevents.com.au/criah2011/>>.

Australasian Ethics Network Conference 2010, in Melbourne, 18–19 November. This conference will discuss research with Indigenous/First Nations peoples among other topics in health research ethics: <http://www.research.unimelb.edu.au/humanethics/aboutapproval/australasian_human_ethics_network_conference_2010>.

For the diary: The next Oceania Tobacco Control Conference will be held in Brisbane in 2011 from 18–20 October.

JOBS

NATIONAL MANAGER, RespectED, Red Cross Australia, in Sydney (Melbourne and Adelaide are possible locations). The RespectED National Manager is responsible for the design, development, implementation and day-to-day management of the national RespectED program, national and state RespectED staff, and Community Prevention Educators. This position reports directly to the Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy. This is a start-up role and therefore requires very strong coordination, planning, relationship-building and communication skills and the ability to lead a virtual team. Significant domestic travel is required for this role. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply for this role. For more information, contact E: <john.irwin@chandlerwoods.com.au>.

Jobs at HealthInfoNet:

Research Officer, in Perth, 13-month contract. The Research Officer will undertake information research and knowledge transfer across a variety of health and health-related areas and the synthesis of information for dissemination for the Australian Indigenous Health/*InfoNet* website. The successful applicant will have: the appropriate tertiary qualification or equivalent experience; research experience ideally with an Indigenous and/or general health focus; experience in the use of the internet, computer and other bibliographic searches to source information; experience in the preparation of material for publication; and a demonstrated ability to work well within a team and communicate effectively. This position can be part-time or full-time. Indigenous people are particularly encouraged to apply. Contact: Pauline Shanley on T: (08) 93706931 or E: <p.shanley@ecu.edu.au>. Applications close 1st November.

Information Officer, in Perth, 13-month contract. The Information Officer will undertake information searches across a variety of health and health-related areas for the Australian Indigenous Health/*InfoNet* website and provide general administrative tasks for the research team. The successful applicant will have: the appropriate post-secondary qualifications or equivalent experience; administrative experience ideally with an Indigenous and/or general health focus; experience in the use of the internet, computer and other bibliographic searches to source information; a demonstrated ability to work well within a team and communicate effectively. This position can be part-time or full-time. Indigenous people are particularly encouraged to apply. Contact: Pauline Shanley on T: (08) 93706931 or E: <p.shanley@ecu.edu.au>. Applications close 29th October.

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics (ref 10272) and **Research Associate in Biostatistics** (ref. ref 10288) at the Flinders Prevention, Promotion and Primary Health Care, School of Medicine, Flinders University. Full details

including how to apply on-line can be found at:
<<http://www.flinders.edu.au/employment>>.

MEDIA

Aborigines 'missing out' on heart care, *The Age*, Julia Medew, 13 October 2010: VICTORIAN Aborigines are missing out on crucial interventions to manage heart disease and many are discharging themselves from hospitals before they receive treatment, research shows. Ian Anderson, professor of Indigenous health at Melbourne University, yesterday told a Heart Foundation seminar that an analysis of Victorian hospital data between 2005 and 2008 showed Aborigines were not being treated for cardiovascular disease at the same rate as the broader population. For example, he said the rate of Aboriginal people receiving angiogram investigations to detect heart problems was 31 per cent lower than the rest of the population. The rate of percutaneous coronary interventions – a treatment for narrowed arteries – was also 50 per cent less than the rate for other patients. "There is a significant difference," he said. "Once Aborigines get into the hospital setting they are not getting interventions at the same rate you would expect for the broader Australian community" Full story available at: <<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/aborigines-missing-out-on-heart-care-20101012-16hux.html>>.

Quit smoking is Gooda's advice, *National Indigenous Times*, Issue 212, 14 October 2010. 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda has appealed to Aboriginal people to quit smoking. Mr Gooda said figures now released showed Aboriginal people smoke three times more than non-Aborigines. He said smoking contributed to an estimated 17 per cent of the current health gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and he appealed to the Federal Government to be more focused on controlling the risk factors that lead to bad health. "The health gap is not going to be fixed wholly and solely in a doctor's surgery," he said. More of this story can be read in the Print Edition': <nationwide.<http://www.nit.com.au/News/story.aspx?id=20508>>.

\$8 Million Boost For Remote And Regional Health Services, joint media release by The Hon Nicola Roxon MP, Minister For Health And Ageing, Simon Crean MP Minister For Regional Australia And Regional Development, and Warren Snowdon MP Minister For Indigenous Health; 22 October 2010. 'People living in rural and remote communities are already benefiting from an innovative program that is boosting health and medical services in communities across the nation. Forty-two organisations around Australia are receiving funding of more than \$8.3 million for health infrastructure projects under the fourth round of the Government's National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP). Under the program, funding is provided for infrastructure and equipment projects, including building new medical, surgical and training facilities, refurbishing doctors' rooms, purchasing medical equipment and other

essential resources. Aboriginal health services and small rural private hospitals have also received vital funding for refurbishments, equipment or vehicles for outreach services.' Full text available at:
<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr159.htm>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Assessing Equity in Systematic Reviews: Realising the recommendations of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, P. Tugwell 2010, British Medical Journal, vol. 341:c4739:
<<http://www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c4739.full?paper=toc>>.

Through APO:

The Subjective Wellbeing of Indigenous Australians, A. M. Dockery 2010, Centre for Labour Market Research: <<http://www.apo.org.au/research/subjective-wellbeing-indigenous-australians>>.

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Snapshots of Indigenous Families, R. Parker, C. Caruana & L. Qu 2010, Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse:
<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/snapshots-indigenous-families>>.

Growing Them Strong, Together: Promoting the safety and wellbeing of the Northern Territory's children report, Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Child Protection System in the Northern Territory 2010:
<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/growing-them-strong-together-promoting-safety-and-wellbeing-northern-territory's-children-r>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Consultation on research resource: The National eResearch Collaboration Tools and Resources (NeCTAR) project is a \$47M initiative, funded under the Australian Government's Super Science scheme, to develop national eResearch collaboration infrastructure. The goals of the project are to enhance research collaboration and research outcomes by providing information and communication technology infrastructure that creates new information centric research capabilities; significantly simplify the combining of instruments, data, computing, and analysis applications; and enable the development of research workflows based on access to multiple resources. The NeCTAR project is currently undertaking a national consultation process to seek the research sector's views on the structure, composition, and details of the project. Written responses to the Consultation Paper (<<http://www.nectar.unimelb.edu.au/>>) are invited by COB Friday 5 November to E: <admin@nectar.org.au>.

NSW Aboriginal Mental Health Worker Training Program Practical Guide:
<<http://www.crrmh.com.au/amhwtp>>

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage. Linkage projects support research and development projects that are collaborative between higher education researchers and other parts of the national innovation system, which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and which involve risk or innovation. Proposals for funding under linkage projects must involve a partner organisation from outside the higher education sector. The partner organisation must make a significant contribution in cash and/or in kind, to the project that is equal to, or greater than, the ARC funding. Under the linkage projects scheme, the ARC provides opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to engage in industry-oriented research training and enables postdoctoral researchers to pursue competitive research opportunities in collaboration with industry. Closing date is 17 November: <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_default.htm>.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

Master of Public Health at the Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University, Geelong, Vic. Applications are now open for study in 2011. Study in residential mode with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Enhance your skill base in health policy, program development and research for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Enquiries to Janice Jessen E: <janice.jessen@deakin.edu.au>.

Current Issues in Tropical Health short course, in Darwin, 16–19 November, Menzies Seminar Room, Royal Darwin Hospital campus. Participants will be introduced to key public health issues in the tropics and develop an understanding of major diseases including Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV global epidemiology and control strategies. For more information and to register: <<http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>>.

School of Population Health Summer School 2010, The University of Western Australia. The Summer School unit range is designed to allow professional development colleagues and students to complete the coursework requirement of a unit in a oneweek intensive block. These units are taught through a combination of lectures, small-group tutorials and discussion, plus practical demonstrations and 'hands-on' experience. Designed for health professionals, practitioners, researchers, clinicians and business managers interested in gaining a better understanding of clinical research methods, patient data analysis and the economic evaluation of health resources. The units are in Clinical Epidemiology (22–26 Nov); Introductory Analysis of Linked Health Data (29 Nov–3 Dec); Economic Evaluation of Health Care (6–10 Dec); Advanced Analysis of Linked Health Data (13–17 Dec). For more information, E:

<enquiries@sph.uwa.edu.au>, W: <www.sph.uwa.edu.au/courses/summer-school>.

and REMINDERS

PHCRED WA Research Conference Primary Health Care Research, Partnerships in Practice, Perth, 12 November 2010:
<<http://www.phcredwa.org.au>>.

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

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

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs 2010 Conference, Canberra, 28 November–1 December. Conference draft program <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/program/program/>> is now available. Registration <<http://www.apsadconference.com.au/registration/>> is also open with early bird closing Friday 24 September.

‘Advancing Child and Family Policy Through Research’ Conference, Canberra, 31 January–1 February 2011. The conference is jointly organised by the Research School of Economics, Australian National University, and the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, University of Chicago. More information at: <<http://publicpolicy.anu.edu.au/events/other.php>>.

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>. Conference coordinators, T: 02 6292 9000, E: <ahpa@confco.com.au>.

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

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>>.

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