

12 DECEMBER 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.

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FESTIVE SEASON GREETINGS

All of us at the Lowitja Institute wish you a very happy and safe festive season and a productive and healthy 2012. We look forward to the next edition of this eBulletin on Monday 16 January 2012.

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LEGALLY INVISIBLE—HOW AUSTRALIAN LAWS IMPEDE STEWARDSHIP AND GOVERNANCE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH

On Monday 5 December, former Social Justice Commissioner Dr Tom Calma launched a discussion paper that poses another challenge to the Australian Government to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Australian Constitution. The launch took place at the 7th Health Services and Policy Research Conference in Adelaide.

Legally Invisible—How Australian Laws Impede Stewardship and Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health is a review commissioned by the Lowitja Institute in response to widespread recognition of problems in the policy and administrative

arrangements for health and health care for Australia's First Peoples, including lack of clarity about the responsibilities of governments at various levels

The review found that Australian laws allocating responsibility for the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples fail to set up a structure in which system-wide stewardship and good governance may be undertaken.

The author of the study is optimistic that it will promote action in the right places. Adjunct Associate Professor Genevieve Howse said she hopes 'that *Legally Invisible* stimulates policy makers and legislators to break free from the prison of history in which we have been so slow to recognise Australia's First Peoples in law and to embrace them in every part of our laws governing health, beginning with our Constitution.'

Similarly, Dr Calma, founding Chair of the Close the Gap for Indigenous Health Equality Campaign, sees the value of the study and its contribution to the debates about health and wellbeing and constitutional change. 'This study highlights another issue brought about by the absence of recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our Constitution. Recognition would provide the basis for clarifying responsibility for the health of Australia's First Peoples in legislation. Now is a good time to consider how things might be different,' said Dr Calma.

To obtain a pdf version of *Legally Invisible* go to <www.lowitja.org.au>. Hardcopies can be purchased for \$15; please email <publications@lowitja.org.au>.

Media contact: Tracey Johnston, M: 0428 347 573

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REVITALIZING HEALTH FOR ALL: INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE GROUP LEARNING FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF COMPREHENSIVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE IN ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA—A COMMENTARY ON THREE PROJECT REPORTS

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 discussion paper *Revitalizing Health For All: International Indigenous Representative Group Learning from the Experience of Comprehensive Primary Health Care in Aboriginal Australia—A Commentary on Three Project Reports*, prepared by Bronwyn Fredericks and David Legge, highlights common themes and lessons of Revitalizing Health For All in the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Australia. The three Australian projects were at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Ltd in Melbourne, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Inc. in Alice Springs in the Northern Territory, and the Urapuntja Health Service, Utopia, also in the Northern Territory.

For more information on the project, please visit <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/revitalizing-health-all-international-indigenous-representative-group>>. A pdf version of the report is

available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-publishing>> and hard copies can be requested by email from <publications@lowitja.org.au>.

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NEW DISCUSSION PAPER SERIES

The *Legally Invisible* and *Revitalizing Health for All* discussion papers featured above, together with *Genetic Research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: Beginning the Conversation* by Emma Kowal, Lobna Rouhanian and Ian Anderson, all published in 2011, constitute the Lowitja Institute's new discussion paper series and are available in pdf format at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/publications>>.

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RESEARCH AT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

Please see entry under Conferences, below.

Chronic Conditions Management Strategies project update

This update is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcah/chronic-condition-management-strategies-aboriginal-communities>> and includes posters and a list of outcomes.

The report for the **Workforce Roundtable** held in Brisbane on 15 September 2011 is available at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/files/docs/Workforce_roundtable_report2011.pdf>. This work is part of our Enabling Policy and systems research program, for which more information is available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/crcatsih-program-3-enabling-policy-and-systems#workforce>>. Please see the Expressions of Interest call, below.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2011 FOR THE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH

The report is available in pdf format at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/annual-reports>>.

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CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR TWO WORKFORCE POLICY PROJECTS

The Lowitja Institute seeks expressions of interest for one or both of two new projects:

1. Model for flexible career pathways into the health professions for existing Aboriginal health staff
 2. The 'new workforce' and allied- and para-professional roles for Aboriginal people.
- Interested parties are invited to consider the projects as defined in the Expression of Interest document, available at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/call-expressions-interest-two-workforce-policy-projects>>. For further information contact Vanessa Harris, Program Manager, T: 08 8946 7769 or E: <vanessa.harris@lowitja.org.au>. Closing date is Monday 16 January 2012.

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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>.

Managing Two Worlds Together: Six reports for the Managing Two Worlds Together project are available in PDF format from the Lowitja Institute website at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-institute-publishing>>. More information about this project is also available at <<http://www.flinders.edu.au/medicine/sites/health-care-management/research/mtwt/>>.

Art Into Health: Puntu Palyarrikuwanpa *Aboriginal Men Becoming Well*, B. McCoy <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/announcements/art-health-booklet>>.

Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers, A. Laycock with D. Walker, N. Harrison & J. Brands 2011 <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers#purchase>>.

CONFERENCES & CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS

A list of 2011 conferences is available at <www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2011>. 2012 conferences are at <<http://www.lowitja.org.au/conferences-2012>>.

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The Lowitja Institute National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care ‘CQI for everyday and everybody’, in Alice Springs, 14–15 May 2012.

Who should attend the conference? People interested in Continuous Quality Improvement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care, including:

- Primary health care practitioners
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers
- Researchers
- Primary health care consumers
- Health policy advisers
- General Practitioners
- Representatives from community controlled and government health services
- Government decision-makers in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peak bodies.

The conference **aims** are: to bring together service providers (including community based and community controlled services), government agencies, researchers, industry and policy development departments to present their work/research on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; to share information and stories about current research, tools and expertise on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; and to identify gaps and complementary CQI initiatives.

The conference **themes** are: CQI state of the art practice at local and regional level; consumer perspectives; CQI models and systems; CQI influence in health practices and policies; data as a key driver for change in primary health care; national health reform; and accreditation.

More information is available at <www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-conference-2012>, or T: 07 3309 3414, E: alana.gall@lowitja.org.au

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Population Health Congress, Adelaide Convention Centre, 10–12 September 2012. The overall theme of this four-yearly event is ‘Population Health in a Changing World’. Conference website is at <<http://www.conferenceco.com.au/PopHealth/Index.html>>.

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2012 PHC Research Conference ‘Inform, Influence, Implement: Research improving policy and practice’, in Canberra, 18-20 July 2012. This is the premier annual primary health care research meeting. Delegates include primary health care researchers, allied health practitioners, general practitioners, academics, policy makers, decision makers, consumers and students. For more details visit <www.phcris.org.au/conference/2012>.

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Aboriginal Health Conference, in Melbourne, 24–25 May 2012. The ‘Aboriginal Health – Everyone’s Responsibility’ conference acknowledges the Aboriginal definition of health is broad and inclusive and in which health is linked to all aspects of life. It aims to inform and inspire delegates through

- defining the context of Aboriginal health in Victoria
- outlining the priority areas and enablers for better health outcomes
- demonstrating the value of investment in Aboriginal health
- workshopping ways to close the health gap (it’s not easy but not impossible)
- sharing the experience of innovative and excellent work happening in Victoria; and
- learning how better health outcomes are being achieved for Aboriginal people.

To register your interest, please email <aboriginalhealth.conference@health.vic.gov.au>.

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The 8th International Organisational Behaviour in Healthcare Conference, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 15–18 April 2012. The theme of the conference is ‘Patient-centred healthcare teams: achieving collaboration, communication and care’ and will be hosted by the School of Business at Trinity College Dublin on behalf of the Society for Studies in Organizing Healthcare (SHOC). Conference website (abstracts only at the moment) is at <<https://www.openconf.org/obhc2012/openconf.php>>.

EVENTS

Thursday, 15 December 2011, in Melbourne: Josée Lavoie will talk about Knowledge Translation in her research work. Josée became a faculty member at the University of Northern British Columbia in July 2006. Prior to pursuing an academic career, she spent 10 years working for Indigenous controlled primary health care services. Broadly speaking, her research interests lie with the engagement of the non-government and Indigenous sectors in health care delivery, health care policy and financing, and in primary health care delivery, health care policy and financing, and in health care planning and implementation challenges in remote environments. She maintains an active research program in British Columbia, Manitoba and in Australia (Flinders University and the George institute in Alice Springs) and New Zealand. Josée leads the international Contracting at the Margins Research Group and retains an affiliation with the University of Manitoba Centre for Aboriginal Health Research and a Faculty Appointment with the Department of Community Health Sciences. She is also affiliated with the UBC Centre for Health Sciences and Policy Research.

Time & place: 10.45 am to 12 noon, at Graduate House, The University of Melbourne, 220 Leicester Street, Carlton.

JOBS

Vacancy on executive committee, Australian Injury Prevention Network Executive Committee

The Australian Injury Prevention Network (AIPN) is the peak national body advocating for injury prevention and control in Australia. It is a not-for-profit, non-government organisation with membership from all sectors of the injury prevention community. AIPN has a vacancy on the executive committee for a member interested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injury issues. The position involves attending monthly teleconferences and occasional face-to-face meetings. The committee member would be responsible for working with the executive committee to advocate for better development of programs that address injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. For more information please contact Associate Professor Rebecca Ivers, E: <rivers@georgeinstitute.org.au>.

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Student Support Coordinator – Indigenous & First Year, at The University of Melbourne, Faculty of Arts, part-time (.8) and fixed-term (2 years). The Indigenous & First Year Coordinator is responsible for the provision of high quality support, advice and case management for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Extended). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for this position. For more information, search for position 0027808 at <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>. Support with applications (Indigenous applicants only): Siobhan Birch, T: 03 9035 4839, E: <sbirch@unimelb.edu.au>. Closing date is 21 December 2011.

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Professor/Associate Professor and Director, Indigenous Health Education, in Melbourne, at Monash University, full-time, 5-year appointment. The University is seeking a suitably qualified appointee to lead a program of education for Indigenous Australian health within the Harvest Alliance School for Indigenous Health: <<http://www.monash.edu.au/jobs/>>. Applications close 15 January 2012.

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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Constitutional Recognition Will Close the Gap: Report, 5 December podcast interview by Karen Ashford on SBS with Dr Tom Calma and *Legally Invisible* author Dr Genevieve House <<http://www.sbs.com.au/podcasts/Podcasts/radionews/episode/195105/Constitutional-recognition-will-Close-the-Gap-report>>.

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Aboriginal Call for Intervention on Health Nightmare, by Rebecca Puddy writing about *Legally Invisible* in *The Australian*, 6 December: ‘Hundreds of different laws across the country have created a "diffused and muddled" approach to Indigenous health, sparking calls from an Aboriginal leader for a government intervention to rescue the system...’

Full text is available at <<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous/aboriginal-call-for-intervention-on-health-nightmare/story-fn9hm1pm-1226214559174>>.

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Health benefits to Constitutional Recognition Raised in Report, report by the National Indigenous Radio Service dated 6 December: ‘A discussion paper looking at the Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians and its impact on their health argues legislators need to be more legally-accountable for policy outcomes. The “Legally Invisible” paper was released yesterday by the Lowitja Institute. The author, Adjunct Associate Professor Genevieve Howse, says the report responds to widespread problems in policy-making and governance of health care of Indigenous Australians.’

Full text available at <<http://www.nirs.org.au/news/latest-news/6687-health-benefits-to-constitutional-recognition-raised-in-report>>.

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“Legally Invisible” Report Supports Active Involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in Health Policy, media release by the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, 5 December 2011

‘The National Health Leadership Forum Co-Chairs, Jody Broun and Justin Mohamed, today welcomed the paper *Legally Invisible—How Australian Laws Impede Stewardship and Governance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health* saying its findings add weight to the importance of having a national body to monitor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health programs and to plan and lobby for better outcomes.

The report shows there are 250 State and Federal health laws but very few of them deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and in those that do, responsibilities are diffused and co-ordination is lacking.

“The National Health Leadership Forum has united every major player in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health area as members – that’s over ten peak health bodies, including the community controlled health sector, and the TSRA,” said Ms Broun, “but bodies such as this can only do so much when there is a mishmash of responsibilities and a lack of mechanisms for input.

Full text available at <<http://nationalcongress.com.au/“legally-invisible”-report-supports-active-involvement-in-health-policy/>>.

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The Australian Policy Online (APO) website uploaded the *Legally Invisible* discussion paper on 6 December at <<http://apo.org.au/research/legally-invisible-how-australian-laws-impede-stewardship-and-governance-aboriginal-and-torr>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Consensus-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the Management of Volatile Substance Use in Australia, NHMRC 2011:

<<http://www.clinicalguidelines.gov.au/search.php?pageType=2&fldglrID=1965>>. Hard copies can be request from E: <health@nationalmailing.com.au> or T: 02 6269 1080.

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‘Macro-Economic Commission on Health, Social Determinants and Health as a Right – The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health: 10 years on’, P. Daw & U. Samarasekera 2011,

The Lancet, Volume 378, Issue 9807 <<http://bit.ly/uKDqA7>>.

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'Addressing Inequalities in Access to Primary Care: Lessons for the training of health care professionals from a regional medical school', S. Larkins, T. S. Gupta, R. Evans, R. Murray & R. Preston 2011, *Australian Journal of Primary Health*, vol. 17(4): 362–8 <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22112705>>.

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Benchmarking the Burden of 100 Diseases: Results of a nationwide representative survey within general practice, L. Grimaldi-Bensouda, B. Begaud, F. Lert, F. Rouillon et al. 2011, *BMJ Open*, vol. 1(2): e000215 <<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/1/2/e000215.abstract>>.

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Public Access and Use of Health Research: An exploratory study of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy using interviews and surveys of health personnel, J. O'Keeffe, J. Willinsky, L. Maggio 2011, *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 13(4): e97 <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22106169>>.

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Patient Experiences in Australia: Summary of Findings, 2010–11, ABS 2011 <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4839.0main+features32010-11>>.

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Primary Care Partnerships Integrated Health Promotion, Department of Health, Victoria 2011 <<http://www.nepcp.org.au/resources/new-publication-primary-care-partnerships-integrated-health-promotion-2011>>.

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The Social Mission of Australian Medical Schools in a Time of Expansion, J. S. G. Biggs & R. W. Wells 2011, *Australian Health Review*, vol. 35(4): 424–9 <<http://www.publish.csiro.au/paper/AH10970>>.

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Intern Culture, Internal Resistance: Uptake of peer review in two Australian hospital internship programs, C. Owen, P. W. Mathews, C. Phillips, W. Ramsey, G. Corrigan, M. Bassett & J. Wenzel 2011, *Australian Health Review*, vol. 35(4): 430–5.

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Drugs in Australia 2010: Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs, AIHW 2011 <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail/?id=10737420497>>.

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Through Australian Policy Online (APO)

Native Title Report 2011, Mick Gooda 2011, Australian Human Rights Commission <<http://apo.org.au/research/native-title-report-2011>>.

Social Justice Report 2011, Mick Gooda et al. 2011, Australian Human Rights Commission <<http://apo.org.au/research/social-justice-report-2011>>.

Indigenous Cultural Festivals, L. Slater & P. Phipps 2011, Globalism Research Centre <<http://apo.org.au/research/indigenous-cultural-festivals>>.

Divided We Stand: Why Inequality Keeps Rising, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development 2011 <<http://apo.org.au/research/divided-we-stand-why-inequality->

keeps-rising>.

eResearch Australasia 2011 Conference Papers, eResearch Australasia 2011
<<http://apo.org.au/research/eresearch-australasia-2011-conference-papers>>.

A Scheme to Address Online Copyright Infringement, Communications Alliance 2011
<<http://apo.org.au/research/scheme-address-online-copyright-infringement>>.

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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APS bursaries for Indigenous postgraduate psychology students

In the context of its Reconciliation Action Plan, the Australian Psychological Society (APS) has established bursaries to support Indigenous postgraduate psychology students in difficult financial circumstances. This is one of the Society's responses to the need to accelerate the growth in the numbers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander psychologists if we are to approach parity (2.5% of the Australian population and the profession) any time this century.

Each bursary is valued at \$15,000 per annum during the time that the applicant is in full-time study in a postgraduate psychology coursework degree at either Masters or professional Doctorate level accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council.

APS is the largest professional association for psychologists in Australia, representing more than 20,000 members. It is also the auspice body for the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA). During the yearly membership renewal process, APS members donate to a fund that awards these bursaries.

Application details and further information are available from Samantha Smith, E: <s.smith@psychology.org.au> and will be posted at APS scholarships webpage at <www.psychology.org.au/academic/scholarships/>. Closing date is 13 January 2012.

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beyondblue National Priority Driven Research Program Round 2

beyondblue is seeking applications for the beyondblue National Priority Driven Research (NPDR) program ROUND 2. This national, competitive grant program aims to fund quality research in depression and anxiety in key priority areas: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex people; men (aged 12–65 years). Grants up to \$300,000 per project. Projects must be two years' duration or less. More information at <http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=6.1415>. Closing date is 28 February 2012.

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Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA). Scholarships are worth up to \$7,500 per year for part time study or up to \$15,000 per year for full time study and will be available for the normal duration of the course.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are or will be studying at a TAFE (certificate IV and above) or entry-level university course in the following professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, Allied health (excluding pharmacy), Dentistry/oral health, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing. Applicants must identify as and be able to prove their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status.

For more information contact RCNA, free call 1800 688 628, E: scholarships@rcna.org.au, W: www.rcna.org.au.

SEMINARS, COURSES, COLLOQUIA AND SYMPOSIA

A nationally recognized **Certificate IV in Indigenous Research Capacity Building**, will be offered by the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia in 2012 beginning in March. The course is presented in four block release workshops of four days each. The class learns how to do research by conducting a group research project from beginning to end. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are invited to attend from anywhere in Australia. Travel and accommodation is covered. Please contact Merridy Malin on T: 08 8273 7200 or E: merridy.malin@ahcsa.org.au.

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Master in Public Health, Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University, Victoria

Applications are now open for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons to undertake a Master in Public Health delivered in residential mode at the Institute of Koorie Education Deakin University. For further information, W: www.deakin.edu.au/ike or telephone Janice Jessen T: 03 5227 2346.

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