



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*

# Congress Lowitja 2010

Aboriginal Health College, 35 Harvey Street, Little Bay, NSW 2036

## PROGRAM

## Tuesday 23 March

08.00	<b>Registration of Delegates</b>
09.00	<b>Warada Dancers</b>
09.15	<b>Opening and Welcome – Aunty Norma Sims, La Perouse Land Council</b>
09.30	<b>Welcome Address from the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council</b>
09.45	<p><b>First Plenary – Ms Pat Anderson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to the Congress Lowitja 2010</li> <li>• History of the CRCATH and CRCAH</li> <li>• Our achievements</li> <li>• Consolidation by CRCATSIH</li> <li>• Future of The Lowitja Institute</li> </ul>
10.15	<b>Address – Dr Lowitja O’Donoghue, AC CBE DSG</b>
10.30	<b>Formal Opening of Congress Lowitja 2010</b>
10.45	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11.15	<p><b>Second Plenary: What have we learned from the CRCAH – Professor Ian Anderson</b></p> <p>This session will highlight the key learnings and achievements of the CRCAH and its partners, and the impact that research has had on the sector.</p>
12.00	<b>Lunch</b>
13.00	<p><b>New Understandings in Indigenous Health Development</b></p> <p><b>Break-out sessions:</b> <i>There will be 3 concurrent sessions following the lunch break, and 3 following afternoon tea. Delegates can choose to attend 2 of the 6 sessions (1 in each). A facilitated discussion on the implications for policy and practice will conclude each session.</i></p> <p><b>1. Structural Barriers to Improving Health</b></p> <p>Structural barriers to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are systemic. This session will examine a range of barriers and will discuss strategies at both a policy and practice level that could be explored to address them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overburden Project – Judith Dwyer</li> <li>• ABCD Project – Ross Bailie / Jenny Brands</li> <li>• Improving Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in General Practice – Margaret Kelaher</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Social Barriers to Aboriginal Health</b></p> <p>To address the social barriers that impede improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, it is necessary to redress issues of control while building resilience within communities. This session will look at strategies that may address this endemic issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men’s Sheds – Jack Bulman</li> <li>• Racism – Yin Paradies</li> <li>• Empowerment Program – Roxanne Bainbridge</li> <li>• Let’s Start Project – Gary Robinson</li> </ul>

	<p><b>3. Building Capacity – Whose capacity are we building?</b></p> <p>Capacity building is a term used (and sometimes over-used) within the sector – but whose capacity are we building and what are the core elements of an effective strategy? This panel discussion will draw upon a range of approaches including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervisors’ Guide – Alison Laycock</li> <li>• Partnerships between Community and Researchers – Jackie Ahkit</li> <li>• CRCAH Students – Megan Williams</li> <li>• QIMR Institutional Perspective – Gail Garvey</li> <li>• Community Capacity – Paul Stewart</li> </ul>
14.45	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
15.15	<p><b>4. Working in Effective Partnerships – Engagement across the sectors</b></p> <p>What makes an effective and sustainable partnership approach to addressing the health and social inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This session will ask stakeholders to examine the learnings from a range of projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitated Development Approach, Aboriginal Prisoner Health Research – Scott Davis</li> <li>• AHCSA / CRCAH Partnership – Alwin Chong</li> <li>• Tobacco Project – David Thomas</li> <li>• Holding Men – Brian McCoy</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Improving Services to Aboriginal Peoples</b></p> <p>Key to addressing health inequities is the need to improve and enhance services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This session will showcase a diverse range of strategies employed to achieve this objective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CQI/ABCD – Ross Bailie</li> <li>• Learning from Action – Cindy Shannon</li> <li>• Support Systems for Indigenous PHC Services – Alister Thorpe</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Knowledge Exchange – Ensuring that community benefits from research</b></p> <p>Essential to ensuring that research has an impact is the need to ensure that it can be translated into policy and practice for all stakeholders. Example projects for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AimHi – Carolyn Griffin</li> <li>• Healthy Skin – Ross Andrews</li> <li>• Improving Patient Pathways – Monica Lawrence</li> <li>• Improving the Culture of Hospitals – John Willis</li> </ul>
17.00	<b>Closing remarks – Ian Anderson</b>
17.30	<p><b>Welcome Function:</b></p> <p>St Michael’s Golf Course Club (next door to AHC) Guest performer Glen Doyle ( music)</p>

## Wednesday 24 March

09.00	<p><b>The Lowitja Institute Research Agenda – Presentation by Ian Anderson</b></p> <p>This session will outline the new research agenda and framework for the Lowitja Institute’s three programs and explain how the agenda has evolved to meet the future needs of the sector.</p>
09.45	<p><b>Break-out sessions around the new program areas:</b> <i>These break-out sessions will be an opportunity to engage with the new programs, and provide advice and input into refining issues and gaps that can be considered by the Program Leaders as part of the planning process.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Healthy Start, Healthy Life:</b> Research focused on reducing the chronic illness risk across the life-course, and improving early intervention and chronic illness management. <b>Program Leaders:</b> Ross Bailie and Tom Brideson</li> <li><b>2. Healthy Communities and Settings:</b> Research focused on the capacity of local communities and organisations to develop interventions that address the determinants of health across a range of local sectors and settings. <b>Program Leaders:</b> Leisa McCarthy and Kevin Rowley</li> <li><b>3. Enabling Policy and Systems:</b> Research enabling the reform of policy and programs, workforce development, and whole-of-government approaches to Indigenous health. <b>Program Leaders:</b> Alwin Chong and Judith Dwyer</li> </ol> <p>The Program Leaders will facilitate a discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scope of each program and opportunities to engage with the research agenda.</li> <li>• Identifying the gaps, boundaries and issues that can assist in refining and enhancing the program areas.</li> <li>• How the program is going to engage with stakeholders.</li> <li>• How capacity is going to be built in each of the programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Informal morning tea 11.00–11.30</b></p>
12.30	<b>Lunch</b>
13.30	<b>Wrap up: Critical reporting back by Program Leaders</b>
14.15	<p><b>Congress: What are the functions and purpose of the Congress Lowitja?</b> <b>Presenter: Pat Anderson – Interim Chair, Lowitja Institute</b></p> <p>This session will outline both the function and purpose of Congress Lowitja, and how organisations can become involved and partner with the Lowitja Institute to advance the research agenda.</p>
15.00	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
15.30	<p><b>Congress Forum: Facilitated discussion with Kerrin Anderson</b></p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity for delegates to participate in a discussion about the future function of the Congress. The facilitated discussion with the whole group will focus on the issues arising, e.g. mechanism via which members can shape the research agenda.</p>
17.00	<b>Closing remarks – Ian Anderson</b>
18.30	<p><b>Formal Congress Dinner at Stamford Plaza Hotel:</b></p> <p>6.30pm for 7pm dinner serve Guest performers Jimmy Little and Microwave Jenny TBC</p>

\* **NB For ALL concurrent sessions – please indicate when you register which of these sessions you wish to attend.**