28 FEBRUARY 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. To unsubscribe, please E: admin@lowitja.org.au. 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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FELLOW FOR INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT

Professor Ian Anderson, Lowitja Institute’s Director for Research and Innovation has been appointed the next Fellow for Indigenous Leadership. The Fellowship supports Indigenous leaders striving to achieve positive change for Indigenous Victorians and strengthening links between Indigenous and mainstream Australia. The Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership is a sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation. Paul Briggs was the inaugural fellow, 2003–2007. Further details of the program are at <http://www.indigenousfellowship.net.au/>.

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THE REDFERN ORATION – THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS (RACP) CONGRESS 2011

Our Chief Executive, Dr Kerry Arabena, will deliver the Redfern Oration during the RACP Congress 2011 to be held in Darwin, 22–25 May. Topic and date to be advised in a later edition of this bulletin, but in the meantime more information is available at <http://www.racpcongress2011.com.au/congress-program/>. 
National Press Club event, 10 March (from the Australian Human Rights Commission):
How far have we come in our efforts to 'close the gap' in Indigenous life expectancy, and what's needed to close the gap by 2030?

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mick Gooda, and National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking, Dr Tom Calma, are Co-chairs of the Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality. They will answer this question at the National Press Club on Thursday, 10 March 2011.

The Close the Gap Campaign has been an unprecedented 'movement' in the Indigenous health sphere and has played a direct role in bringing the Australian community together on the issue of making Indigenous health and improved life expectancy a national concern. It has also been extremely effective in bringing influence to bear on governments around the country to address Indigenous health equality with a unprecedented focus and unparalleled resource commitments. On 10 March, the campaign celebrates its fifth anniversary.

As previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Dr Calma first called for a national effort to achieve health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within 25 years. It was this call that spearheaded the campaign.

Dr Calma's address will highlight the five-years of progress towards achieving Indigenous health equality catalysed by the Close the Gap Campaign.

Commissioner Gooda will shine the light on what is needed to ensure the campaign remains on target to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation. This includes putting in place targets and adequate resources to address health inequalities, including providing equal access to primary health care for Indigenous Australians within 10 years.

This NPC address represents an important time to reflect and acknowledge the substantial successes of the campaign to date as well setting directions for the future. To register, go to the listing for 10 March 2011 at <http://www.npc.org.au/upcomingspeakers.html>.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS

The Leaders In Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) CONNECTION IV to be held in Aotearoa/New Zealand, from 29 November to 1 December is seeking abstracts for oral and poster presentations which highlight Indigenous medical education and health initiatives. The LIME Connection Abstracts Committee will consider project case studies, research and discussion papers. Abstracts relating to the conference topics of interest are sought. Topics include, but are not limited to: recruitment, retention and support of Indigenous students in medical programs; teaching and learning (curriculum design and implementation, assessment and evaluation); partnerships, placements and community engagement; clinical and vocation training (cultural competency and safety). Please visit <http://www.limenetwork.net.au> to download the abstracts submission form and view the guidelines. Submissions close on 27 May.

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8th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference, in Darwin, 27–30 September. Abstracts are invited until 15 May 2011. For more information, please contact


CONFERENCES

Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (Lime) Connection IV, in Aotearoa/New Zealand, 29 November–1 December. The LIME Network invites you to participate in the fourth biennial LIME Connection. This year, the Connection will focus on Medical Education for Indigenous Health: Building the Evidence Base. Specifically, it will address leading approaches to integrating Indigenous health into medical education and will contribute to the growing body of evidence illustrating the key role medical education plays in Indigenous health outcomes. For further information or questions, please contact us by E: <lime-network@unimelb.edu.au>, or T: +61 3 8344 0828, W: <http://www.limenetwork.net.au/>.

8th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference, in Darwin, 27–30 September. For more information, please contact the Conference Secretariat on T: 03 9018 9332 or E: <adam@natsieh.com.au>.


The Reintegration Puzzle Conference 2011, Alice Springs, 22–24 June. The conference brings together people working to assist prisoners successfully reintegrate into the community after prison. This year’s conference is focussing on over-represented groups, such as Indigenous Australians and people with disability: <http://www.reintegrationpuzzle.com.au>.

JOBS

Evaluation and Monitoring Coordinator, in Darwin, 12-month contract, at the Menzies School of Health Research. Menzies is seeking a Coordinator to support key stakeholders in understanding and developing their own evaluation plans. A thorough understanding of evaluation design,
methodology and application is a prerequisite. The incumbent will be actively involved in promoting a culture of research transfer by strengthening evaluation knowledge and practice among clients, partner organisations and key stakeholders. In particular, the role requires demonstrated knowledge, experience and understanding of Aboriginal culture and how Government policy is implemented in health clinics and other such service delivery areas in the Northern Territory. For more information: A/Prof Ross Andrews, T: 08 8922 7668, E: <ross.andrews@menzies.edu.au> or A/Prof Sue Skull, T:08 8922 6901, E: <sue.skull@menzies.edu.au>. Closing date is 7 March.

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**Associate Lecturer/Lecturer/Senior Lecturer – Indigenous Health**, School of Public Health, Griffith University, Gold Coast or Logan campus, continuing full-time. Griffith University is committed to contributing to and engaging with its local and wider Indigenous communities through teaching, learning and service. To this end the School of Public Health is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified Associate Lecturer/Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in Indigenous Health. This is a continuing position, and will initially be located at the School’s Logan Campus, with a view to relocate to the Gold Coast Campus. Accordingly, the position may involve travel and spread time across both campuses as required. Position description at [http://jobs.griffith.edu.au/jobSearch.asp](http://jobs.griffith.edu.au/jobSearch.asp) (ref. 492137). For position queries, contact Dr Neil Harris, Acting Head, School of Public Health, T: +61 (0) 7 338 21043. For application queries, contact Ms Sarah Szyc, HR Officer, T: +61 (0) 7 3735 6551. **Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply. Closing date is 9 March, 4.30 pm.**

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**Administration Officer**, Brisbane, 12-month contract, at the Lowitja Institute. The Lowitja Institute program ‘Health Start, Healthy Life’ is seeking an Administration Officer to support the program’s operation in Brisbane. Excellent writing skills and the ability to undertake administrative tasks are prerequisites of this position. For more information contact Liz Izquierdo, T: 07 3218 2747. Mob: 0447013058 E: <liz.izquierdo@lowitja.org.au>. Closing date is March 11th.

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**MEDIA**

**Medical careers for Indigenous students**, Mark Metherell, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 19 February 2011:

‘Ten indigenous graduates have gained admission to medical school in Darwin, a move being hailed as a big step towards closing the health gap between indigenous people and other Australians.

They were chosen after a process which replaced the usual 99.9 per cent academic pass rate requirement with a month-long assessment.

There are more than 150 indigenous doctors in Australia and while numbers have been increasing steadily, the intake of 10 in any medical school in one year is the biggest so far…’


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**Reform impacts on Aboriginal community controlled health**, NACCHO/NRHA Joint Media Release, 17 February 2011
'The impacts of implementing recommendations made by the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission—including Medicare Locals and Local Hospital Networks—are destined to play a crucial role in advancing the Aboriginal health reform agenda.

Next month in Perth the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) will present an Aboriginal Health Showcase to ensure health professionals and consumers are fully informed of the latest developments. The event is part of a pre-conference program ahead of the 11th biennial National Rural Health Conference to be held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre from 13-16 March.

The NACCHO showcase, which will start at 11am on Sunday, 13 March, runs until 3pm. The objective is to provide health professionals with an Aboriginal community controlled perspective across the States and Territories, while also examining best practice governance models in health. "Our 150 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across the country are affected by the shortage of professional health staff," said NACCHO Chair, Justin Mohamed. "Our services are suffering, with the recruitment and retention of staff and providing adequate facilities being especially difficult. "NACCHO believes that Aboriginal people having more control over the design and delivery of Australia's health services will make lasting gains in helping to close the existing health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples."

Gordon Gregory, Executive Director of the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA) which is organising the Perth conference, joined NACCHO in calling for more health resources to be put into the areas of greatest need – including the health of Aboriginal people in metropolitan, rural and remote areas.

The NACCHO pre-Conference event will see Vicki O'Donnell and Sue Christopolos provide a Western Australian perspective on what it will mean to implement NHHRC recommendations. Others to provide regional views include NT representatives John Paterson and Chips MacKinolty, Andrew and Stephanie Bell from Central Australia, and Selwyn Button and Sheryl Lawton from the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.

The $66 fee to attend this important event includes lunch. Seats are available but those interested are urged to register fast. Go to <http://11nrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/pre-conference-meetings> for details.

Media Release from the Minister for Indigenous Health:


PUBLICATIONS


‘Making the connection: A qualitative study of brokerage in Aboriginal health in a metropolitan area of Victoria and a regional area of New South Wales’, M. S. Cheng, A. Clarke, T. D. Moore & P.
**RESOURCES AND WEBSITES**

**SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, FUNDING, GRANTS & TENDERS**

Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Prize: competition deadline extended, new category
Do you have a story about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health that needs to be told? Would you like your work to be published in Australia’s leading general medical journal? The
Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) is waiting for your contribution!

In view of disruptions by natural disasters in several Australian States, and in recognition that some stories are better told using images, not words, the editors of the MJA have decided to extend the deadline for this year’s Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay competition, and have created a new category for the prize.

The MJA is looking for contributions that present original and positive ideas aimed at promoting health gains and health equity for Australia’s Indigenous peoples. After all, real insights and solutions come from within, not from without. To enter, you need to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is working or studying in a health-related field.

The two categories are:

- essay (up to 2000 words long) and
- Original artwork – health related.

Winning entries will be published in the Journal’s Indigenous Health issue (16 May 2011), and attract a prize of $2000 each. Other essays or artworks of high merit may also be published.

Please visit the MJA website <www.mja.com.au> or contact Dr Ruth Armstrong, T: 02 9562 6666 (business hours), E: <medjaust@ampco.com.au>. The new deadline is Monday 4 April.

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PhD top-up grant available to examine climate-morbidity and mortality relationships

Applications are invited from APA scholarship-ready students to participate in a funded 3-year NHMRC project that examines the health impacts of climate change on Indigenous Australians. This proposed research project is designed to quantify the health responses to temperature change by comparing Indigenous with non-Indigenous people. The project will focus on people living in Darwin, with the possible inclusion of an additional site.

This project needs a dedicated student researcher to explore the relationship between climate and health outcomes and conduct scenario-based modelling of likely future climate impacts. It is anticipated that the student will have a background in epidemiology, biostatistics or population health; is experienced in relevant quantitative methods, and has an interest, or previous experience, in climate impacts. The student will join either The School of Medicine (UWS) or the Climate Change Research Centre (UNSW) and will receive further training in climate related sciences as necessary. The successful candidate will be based in Sydney, but will travel interstate for limited periods to carry out project work. The candidate will be co-supervised by Associate Professor Hilary Bambrick (UWS) and Dr Lisa Alexander (UNSW). The total top-up scholarship available for the student is up to $10,000/yr for three years in addition to the APA scholarship. The anticipated start date is June 2011 (for Round 2 APA applications, or earlier for existing APA Round 1 holders). For more information, please E: <h.bambrick@uws.edu.au>.

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NHMRC-beyondblue Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships

beyondblue: the national depression initiative, in collaboration with the NHMRC is proud to offer TWO Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellowships to future clinical leaders in Australia in 2011. The purpose of the TRIP fellowships is to train health care professionals who will bring about practical changes and make a real difference to health outcomes. The NHMRC–beyondblue TRIP Fellowships will facilitate an improvement in practice change, specifically relating to the identification, treatment and management of depression and related disorders. In light of beyondblue’s soon to be released Clinical Practice Guidelines, the fellowships will focus on the uptake of evidence into clinical practice for depression in adolescents and young adults and the uptake of evidence into clinical practice for depression and related disorders in the perinatal period. For further information: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/apply/career/index.htm#d>. Information sessions to be held on 28 February and 2 March. Applications close 24 March 2011.

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ANZHPE Research Grants aim to encourage and foster research in the education of health professionals. It is hoped that these grants will allow the recipients to pursue educational research that is unlikely to be funded by other sources. For more information: <http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/awards/grants.htm>. Closing date is 30 April.


Discovery Early Career Researcher Award. The ARC plans to introduce a new scheme for early career researchers (ECRs) to be called the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) in 2011 (for funding commencing in 2012). The Funding Rules for DECRA are anticipated to be available in February 2011. Further information: <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/decra.htm>.

ARC Discovery Projects – Funding Rules
The ARC Discovery Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2012 are now available on the ARC website. Please note the funding rules for 2012 are significantly different from previous years and it is recommended that applicants carefully review the entire document. Further information: <http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dp/dp_fundingrules.htm>. Closing date is 21 March.

SEMINARS, COURSES, COLLOQUIA AND SYMPOSIA

Issues in Social Work Practice with Indigenous People Colloquium, in Melbourne, on 21 March from 2 to 3.30 pm. The School of Social Work and Social Policy, Faculty of Health Sciences is pleased to invite you to this colloquium to be held at the Large Faculty Meeting Room, Level 2, HS1. Coinciding with the publication of a special issue of Australian Social Work on Australian Indigenous Social Work and Social Policy, which is edited by Professor Christine Bigby, this colloquium features school staff and graduates whose papers are published in this issue. Speakers will include Maureen Long & Rene Sephton (Rethinking the "Best Interests" of the Child: Voices from Aboriginal Child and Family Welfare Practitioners), Dr Mary Whitside (A Theoretical Empowerment Framework for Transdisciplinary Team Building), Dr Mark Furlong & James Wright (Promoting "Critical Awareness" and Critiquing "Cultural Competence": Towards Disrupting Received Professional Knowledges).


Sustaining a Culturally Responsive Pedagogy of Relations, AIATSIS Special Seminar to be held in Canberra on 11 March at 12.30 pm. Presented by Professor Russell Bishop, PhD, School of Education, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. This seminar will be webcast at www.aiatsis.gov.au <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/>. 

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The Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research is conducting a series of lectures about measuring of Indigenous wellbeing. The program is available at the link below and lectures and presentations will be available online: <http://caepr.anu.edu.au/population/lectures2011.php>.

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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: <ruralhealth@anzmh.asn.au>.

If you have any difficulties opening links, or other queries, please contact Cristina Lochert, E: <cristina.lochert@lowitja.org.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>.

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