

Media Release

Available for immediate release

Attention: Newsdesk

Issued: April 17, 2009



Closing the gap: one football match at a time

FOR the Fitzroy Stars Football Club, winning isn't everything – instead the club nurtures a culture that promotes healthy lifestyles and offers pathways to employment. The club is just one local Koori organisation in Melbourne working to benefit the social and emotional wellbeing of community members; work which has been documented in a new short film, *Sharing Our Stories, Building on Our Strengths*.

The film, presented by *Onemda* - a Koori community development, research, teaching and learning unit based at the University of Melbourne - documents the work of two Aboriginal health professionals, Anthony Brown and Troy Austin. The film follows them from the footy field to presenting their work at last year's 'From Margins to Mainstream' 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health.

Gunditjmara man and President of the Fitzroy Stars Football Club, Troy Austin, spoke about the mission of the Fitzroy Stars and how the club is fostering reconciliation by building strong bridges between Aboriginal and no-Aboriginal communities.

Coordinator of the Koori Kids Adolescents Unit at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Northcote, Anthony Brown, spoke on the Family Counseling Service. A service which he says strives to work toward an integrated culturally appropriate team approach.

Project Co-ordinator from Omenda, Ngarra Murray, says the work of these two men epitomise the positive ways in which local Koori community organisations in Melbourne are working together for the good of community members.

"*Onemda* wanted to demonstrate that all social, cultural and community activities can contribute to better health outcomes," she says.

Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit invites you to the launch of the film and report *Sharing Our Stories, Building on Our Strengths* tells the story of Aboriginal health professionals as they prepare to present at the 'From Margins to Mainstream', 5th World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health, and the support given to them by Onemda as part of its capacity-building work in the Koori community.

Date: Tuesday, 28 April 2009

Time: 12 noon for a 12.15pm start (Lunch will be provided following the viewing of the film)

Where: Lecture Theatre B103, Basement 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton South The University of Melbourne

Special guests: Koori Youth Will Shake Spears

For catering purposes and dietary requirements please RSVP to onemda-events@unimelb.edu.au or Nicole Waddell on 8344 0813 by Thursday 23 April 2009.

For media enquiries and to organise interviews contact Jane Yule on 8344 0829 e: j.yule@unimelb.edu.au or Emma O'Neill on 8344 7220 m: 0432 758734e: eaoneill@unimelb.edu.au