

**COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH
e-BULLETIN — 09 November 2009**

This fortnightly bulletin is distributed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (through its Link people and website) to provide you with information on what's happening at the CRCAH and on issues of interest to Aboriginal health research.

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Launch of the new Murrup Barak – Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne. The Institute was launched on Thursday 5 November celebrated with the inaugural **Narrm Oration** presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Massey University, New Zealand, Professor Mason Durie. The Institute will provide a focal point for work in Indigenous Studies across the University and strengthen partnerships with Indigenous Australian communities. Ian Anderson is the Institute's inaugural director. Contact details t.b.a.

Menzies School of Health Research media release:

Encouraging news about Indigenous smoking trends

David Thomas of Menzies School of Health has published new research this week in the *International Journal for Equity in Health* undermining the idea that the prevalence of smoking in the Australian Indigenous community has not changed, whilst smoking has fallen in the rest of the Australian population. 'Australian Indigenous tobacco control has been framed by the idea that nothing has worked and a sense of either despondency or the difficulty of the challenge,' he said. This new research showed that from 1994 to 2004 Indigenous smoking prevalence in non-remote Australia fell in parallel with the total Australian population (by 5.5% in men and 1.9% in women). In remote Australia, smoking prevalence also fell amongst men (by 3.5%) and appears to have peaked in

women. Full article: <<http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/8/1/37>>. Full media release: <<http://menzies.edu.au/news-and-events/media-releases/november-2009/encouraging-news-about-national-indigenous-smoking-tren>>.

New Urban Indigenous Health Institute. The Minister for Indigenous Health, Rural and Regional Health and Regional Services Delivery, Warren Snowdon, welcomed, on 2 November, the establishment of the new Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in Brisbane. The Minister's full media release is available at: <<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr09-ws-ws049.htm>>.

\$487 million to boost health and medical research effort. The funding announced on 29 October will be provided through the National Health and Medical Research Council. The largest slice of the overall funding has gone to Project Grants, including Professor Sandra Eades, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Victoria, \$1,311,000 *Improving care of Type 2 diabetes among Indigenous Australians*, and Professor Brian Kelly, University of Newcastle, NSW, \$805,651 *Mental health and wellbeing in rural and remote*. For more information: <<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/media/rel09/index.htm>>.

Have your say in the new Bunjilaka! Bunjilaka is Victoria's Aboriginal cultural centre at Melbourne Museum, embarking on a major redevelopment program set to open to the public in early 2012. Museum Victoria recognises the Victorian Aboriginal community as key stakeholders for the project. Project staff will therefore be travelling to regional centres to seek the advice and input from the Aboriginal community. Members of the Aboriginal community are invited to meet museum staff and discuss the potential of this exciting project. The consultations will be from 12.30 to 3 pm in Shepparton (6/11, Shepparton Art Gallery), Sale (10/11, Ramahyuck Aboriginal Co-operative), Lakes Entrance (11/11, Bellevue on the Lakes conference room), Mildura (17/11, Mildura Arts Centre), Swan Hill (18/11, Swan Hill Town Hall), Portland (26/11, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly Citizens Association), Horsham (27/11, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-Operative), and in Melbourne from 5.30 to 7 pm on 2/12 at Bunjilaka. Please RSVP to Kimberley Moulton, E: <kmoulton@museum.vic.gov.au> or T: 03 83417368 for catering purposes.

CONFERENCES

Improving Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients (ICAP) statewide conference: Talkin' it up! Showcasing Aboriginal health care, in Melbourne, 25–26 November 2009. This two day conference is being provided free of charge in place of the three previous ICAP forums for rural, metropolitan and state-wide ICAP stakeholders, Victoria. Enquiries to <Raelene.LESNIOWSKA@svhm.org.au>. *Registrations close 11th November 2009.*

Global Congress of Maternal and Infant Health, in Barcelona, Spain, 22–26 September 2010. Call for abstracts closes on 31 May 2010; early bird registrations close 30 November 2009. More information is available from E: <Barcelona2010@matres.mundi.org>, W: <<http://www.globalcongress2010.com>>.

5th International Conference in Health Care: Quality Around the World, in Melbourne, 20–22 May 2010. The convenor is Quality in Practice (QIP) and Australian General Practice Accreditation Ltd (AGPAL). Further information from E: <events@qip.com.au>, W: <<http://www.qip.com.au/conference.asp> 2010 AES International Conference>, T: +61 7 3854 1611, F: +61 7 3854 1507. Early bird registration closes 28 February 2010.

Reflecting on Evaluation, in Wellington, NZ, 30 Aug–03 Sept 2010, convened by the Australasian Evaluation Society. The conference will bring together people and organisations with an interest in the theory and practice of evaluation. W: <<http://www.aesconference2010.org.nz/drupal/>>.

LIMECONNECTION III: Advancing Indigenous Health: Workforce Innovations, Melbourne, on 3–4 Dec 2009, Indigenous Caucus on 2 Dec. Conference program now available at: <<http://www.limenetwork.net.au/content/conference-program-0>>;

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, The Sixth Gathering, Hawaii, 3–10 September 2010. The goal of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide is to celebrate the diverse and unique cultural strengths, knowledge and talents of Indigenous peoples around the world, with a particular focus on successes, best practices and common issues in health, healing and addictions. For more information contact Maria Halkitis at the CRCAH, T: 08 8943 5020, or Mick Gooda – CEO, M: 0409 688 403, or W: <<http://www.hosw.com>>.

JOBS

Chief Executive Officer, Gunditjimara Aboriginal Cooperative, in Warrnambool, Victoria. Gunditjimara is a not-for-profit indigenous cooperative providing health and community services to the Koori community of Warrnambool and surrounding areas. For further details about this position, please contact Trevor Hume (human resources - group training), T: 1300 21 8933, F: +61 3 5221 8966, M: 0425 709 977, W: <<http://www.mentorhr.com.au/>>.

Recruitment & Engagement Officers (2 positions), in Melbourne, at the Centre for Indigenous Education, the University of Melbourne. This is an exciting opportunity to work with the Indigenous community and schools to encourage and support access for Indigenous students to both undergraduate and professional graduate courses at the University of Melbourne. Both positions are

full-time, one is continuing, the other a 12 months appointment. For position description and selection criteria, search by position number 0022247 at: <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>. **Applications close 23 November 2009.**

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer- New Directions Program, in Melbourne, fixed term for 3.5 yrs, 0.8 EFT, at the Mercy Hospital for Women.

An exciting opportunity is available within the New Directions program for a Community Liaison Officer who has an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background; extensive knowledge of and commitment to the Victorian Aboriginal community, mainstream and Aboriginal health services, and the Victorian health system; and extensive understanding of Aboriginal culture and values, particularly as they relate to women's and children's health, and parenting practices. For more information including position description and further requirements: <www.careers.mercy.com.au>. Enquiries to Joanne Borg, Manager, New Directions Program, on T: 03 8458 4392.

Various positions at Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place (MMIGP), in Melbourne. MMIGP is a community controlled Aboriginal organization based in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. MMIGP is an Aboriginal neighbourhood house and will be developmental and evolve over time according to identified need. The positions include: Community Services Worker, Community Wellbeing Worker, Community Wellbeing Worker Youth, Housing Liaison Officer, HACC Planned Activities Group Worker. For positions descriptions: Bec Green, T: 03 97252166, T: <admin@mmigp.com.au>. **Applications close 30 November 2009.**

MEDIA

National Indigenous Television: Indepth Look at Health, Well-Being & Lifestyle: Living Strong is a brand new magazine series containing health tips and lifestyle options to improve and enrich the lives of all Australians to be shown on Tuesdays at 7.30PM EDST from 3 November. More information: <<http://nitv.org.au/>>.

PUBLICATIONS

NHMRC podcast: *Good News on Indigenous Kids Health*. This is 5.25 min podcast where Dr Elisabeth Hodson from the Children's Hospital at Westmead in Sydney discusses her findings that Aboriginal children were no more likely to have kidney abnormalities at an earlier age than non-Aboriginal children': <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/media/podcasts/pod09/elisabeth_hodson.htm>.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey 2008, ABS Cat. No. 4714.0. This publication presents summary results from the 2008 National

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The survey was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from August 2008 to April 2009, collecting information from approximately 13,300 Indigenous Australians living in private dwellings in remote and non-remote areas, including discrete communities: <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0/>>.

An Aboriginal Family and Community Healing Program in Metropolitan Adelaide, Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin. This paper describes and evaluates the process, impacts and outcomes of a program designed to develop effective responses to family violence that took into account the complexities within Aboriginal families and communities (précis by APO): <<http://apo.org.au/research/aboriginal-family-and-community-healing-program-metropolitan-adelaide>>.

Linking Flexible Delivery and Community Development: The Wugularr Story, by S Anderson, National Centre for Vocational Education Research. NCVER's Academic Scholarship Program provided the opportunity for an investigation into the flexible delivery of vocational education and training (VET) in a remote Indigenous community (précis by APO): <<http://apo.org.au/research/linking-flexible-delivery-and-community-development-wugularr-story>>.

Sustaining At-risk Indigenous Tenancies: A review of Australian policy responses, P Flatau, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. The key objective of the study is to outline and evaluate the operation and effectiveness of tenant support programs and other tenancy support measures in assisting at-risk Indigenous tenants (précis by APO): <<http://apo.org.au/research/sustaining-risk-indigenous-tenancies-review-australian-policy-responses>>.

Victims of Violence among Indigenous Mothers Living with Dependent Children, K Cripps, C M Bennett, L C Gurrin & D M Studdert, *Medical Journal of Australia* 2009, vol. 191, no.9, pp. 481–5.

Complications of Otitis Media in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Children, T E O'Connor, C F Perry & F J Lannigan, *Medical Journal of Australia* 2009, vol. 191, no.9, pp. S60–S64.

Medical Journal of Australia 2009, vol. 191, no.9 Supplement on Otitis Media available at: <http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/191_09_021109/contents_021109_suppl.html>.

Annual Report 2008–09, Australian Human Rights Commission: <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/about/publications/annual_reports/2008_2009/>

An Aboriginal Family and Community Healing Program in Metropolitan Adelaide: Description and Evaluation by I Kowanko, T Stewart, C Power, R Fraser, I Love & T Bromley, Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet:
<<http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/an-aboriginal-family-and-community-healing-program-in-metropolitan-adelaide-description-and-evaluation/>>.

SCHOLARSHIPS and GRANTS

Charlie Perkins Scholarships to send Indigenous Australians to Oxford.

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, announced on 22 October that the Government will provide \$132,000 to the Charlie Perkins Trust for Children and Students which will give two talented Indigenous Australians the opportunity to study at the University of Oxford for up to three years. The scholarships will cover living expenses, airfares and all tuition fees for the two scholars to commence at the University during the 2010/11 academic year. The British Government and Rio Tinto will also provide funding for the scholarships. The scholarships are aimed at postgraduate study. Further information:

<www.perkinstrust.com.au/scholarships.html>.

Summer School for Indigenous Postgraduate Students, in Melbourne, at Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, on 8–12 February 2010.

Applications are invited from students who are currently completing a thesis at PhD or Masters level to participate in the eighth **Indigenous Postgraduate Summer School**. Indigenous students who are presently enrolled at honours level are also encouraged to apply. In 2010, the Indigenous Postgraduate Summer School will also be offered as a University of Melbourne-based course and students who successfully undertake the assessment module will gain a Professional Certificate in Indigenous Research Training and Practices. The Summer School is a five-day residential program, bringing together Australian Indigenous postgraduate students and their thesis supervisors with a distinguished faculty of senior Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars. The purpose of the Summer School is to provide students with the knowledge, skills and mentoring to help them toward successful completion of their postgraduate degrees and furthering of their careers. The Summer School will be hosted by the Centre for Indigenous Education (CIE) at the University of Melbourne, in conjunction with the University's Australian Indigenous Studies Program, the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, and the Murrup Barak Institute. Other universities involved include Monash University, LaTrobe University and Deakin University. Students selected to attend the Summer School will be provided with return airfares to Melbourne (discount ticket), meals and accommodation at Trinity College, instruction and course materials. Places are limited to 15 students. Enquiries to Simone Brotherton, CIE, the University of Melbourne, T: 03 8344 0451, F: 03 9347 5487, E: sbr@unimelb.edu.au

<<mailto:sbr@unimelb.edu.au>>. Applications:

<<http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/cie/index.html>>.

Reconciliation Australia's Closing the Gap Conversations: Does the media give Aboriginal Australia a fair go?, Canberra, 12 November at 12 noon.

Kirstie Parker, one of Australia's most senior Aboriginal journalists and editor of the national Indigenous newspaper *The Koori Mail*, says the media has a pivotal role to play in raising awareness and shaping attitudes for positive action to close the gap. Kirstie will examine how historical and contemporary reporting has impacted upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. Bookings: <rsvp@reconciliation.org.au> or T: 02 6273 9200.

LIVE simultaneous webcast and satellite broadcast produced by Rural Health Education Foundation: **Diabetes and Indigenous Australians**, Tuesday 10 November, 8.00pm NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS; 7.30pm SA; 7.00pm QLD; 6.30 NT; 5pm WA. Full program information: <http://www.rhef.com.au/programs/program-1/?program_id=384>.

Public lecture: **Healing, Truth and Justice in Canada**, in Melbourne, at Monash University, on 10 November. Lecture by the founding Executive Director of Canada's Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which is governed by a board of leaders from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. To be held in Lecture theatre H1, building 11, Monash University Clayton, from 2–3.30 pm. Please register at E: <mnhs.rsvp@med.monash.edu.au> or T: 03 9905 5971.

WEBSITES

The Fulbright Symposium 2008 website contains photos, video, audio, and presentation transcripts, from the 2008 'Healthy People, Prosperous Country' symposium: <<http://www.crcah.org.au/fulbright/>>.

and REMINDERS

The 2009 School of Rural Health Research Conference: Improving the Health of Rural and Regional Communities, in Shepparton, Vic., 23–24 November 2009: <<http://www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au>>.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Care 2009, Sydney, 25–26 November: <<http://www.indigenoushealthcare.com/>>.

Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Knowledge Conference (ISIK) 2009: Dialogue or Conflict in the Academy?, University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, WA, 30 Nov–1 Dec 2009; T: 08 6488 2001, E: <jneri@sis.uwa.edu.au>.

Victorian Annual Human Rights Oration, in Melbourne, on 8 December, by Muriel Bamblett, CEO of Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency: 'Practical Self-

determination: The Right(s) Approach to Addressing the Unfinished Business.’
<<http://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/>>.

Nutrition Society of Australia Conference 2009, in Newcastle NSW, on 8–11 December 2009. Scholarships for two Indigenous health workers to attend the conference are available: <<http://www.nsa.asn.au/conferences/2009/index.php>>.

International Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development (INIHKD) Conference ‘Knowing your Roots: Indigenous Medicines, Health Knowledges, and Best Practices’, in Washington State, USA, 24–28 May 2010: <<http://www.iwri.org/inihkd>>.

Inaugural National Indigenous Drug & Alcohol Conference (NIDAC 2010) ‘Listening, Learning and Leading’, in Adelaide, 16–18 June 2010: <<http://www.nidaconference.com.au>>.

International Network of Indigenous Health Promotion Professionals, ‘Elevating Indigenous Visibility at the International Union for Health Promotion & Education’ Conference, in Geneva, Switzerland, 11–15 July 2010: <<http://iwri.org/cihr/>>; <<http://iuhpe.org>>.

2010 Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) Conference, Alice Springs, 27–29 July. Submissions are invited for short formal paper presentations; stories, case studies and workshops; discussion circles; displays. More information: <http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference>.

Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, in Montreux, Switzerland, 16–19 November 2010: <http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/alliancehpsr_symposiumbrochure_2010.pdf>.

Archives of the CRAH e-Bulletin are available on our website at <<http://www.craah.org.au/communication/publications/newsletters.html>>. If you contact Cristina Liley, E: <cliley@unimelb.edu.au>.