

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH e-BULLETIN — 18 JANUARY 2010

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

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Welcome to the first edition of the new

Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health

Letter on its way to all CRC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health stakeholders

Program Leaders, Program Managers and other CRCATSIH staff are working hard to manage the transition from the former CRC for Aboriginal Health to the new structure, and to implement the research agenda that will take us through to June 2014. Much remains to be done but a top priority is to keep our key stakeholders informed of what is happening as the process unfolds.

All stakeholders will shortly receive a letter from our Chair, Pat Anderson, outlining the structure of the CRCATSIH and its host organisation, the Lowitja Institute, as well as our key aims and important upcoming events. Chief among these will be the official launch of the Lowitja Institute: Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research in Canberra on Wednesday 24 February 2010; and the holding of the first Congress of the Lowitja Institute in Sydney from 23–25 March 2010.

The next few months will be an exciting period for us all at the CRCATSIH as we put in place the plans that will take us into the future. We will do our best to keep stakeholders informed as we go along via formal correspondence, the e-Bulletin, our newsletter *Gwalwa Gai* and our website (www.crcah.org.au). We also encourage stakeholders to continue providing us with feedback, and our Program

Managers will do their best to answer any questions that may arise during the transition process.

We look forward to working closely with you all in 2010.

CONFERENCES

17th Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Symposium, Fremantle WA, 30 August – 1 September. This Symposium will bring together international, national and local speakers to present evidence-based research and emerging practice in policy, prevention, harm reduction, law enforcement and treatment including pharmacotherapies. Abstracts by 19 February: <<http://www.hhhe2010.com.au/>>.

JOBS

Research Assistant Professor/Research Associate Professor, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, University of Western Australia. Appointment to 30 June 2013. The Centre's functions include the recruitment of Aboriginal students to the medical and dental courses, the provision of support to Aboriginal students in the Faculty, the expansion of teaching in Aboriginal health and a brief to work on collaborative projects with Aboriginal health organisations. The successful applicant will be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Aboriginality is a genuine qualification for this position. Applicants must have a medical degree registrable in Western Australia or a research higher degree in a health related field. For further information: Dr David Paul, T: 08 6488 7084, E: <david.paul@uwa.edu.au>; or Jan Burrows, T: 08 6488 3743, E: <jan.burrows@uwa.edu.au>. Closing date: 19 February.

Lecturer in Indigenous Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts, The University of Melbourne, full-time continuing. Duties include the teaching of Indigenous Studies across the disciplines of Political Science, Criminology and Sociology, particularly in the area of comparative Indigenous studies. For more information, search for position number 0022316 at <<http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/jobSearch.asp?stp=AW>>. Closing date is 2 May.

Project Manager, Bubup Wilam for Early Learning, Melbourne, fixed term 18 months, full time. In November 2009, the Federal Government announced funding for two Aboriginal Children and Family Centres in Victoria, including one to be located in the City of Whittlesea. The \$8.23 million grant for Whittlesea includes funding for a facility that must be completed by December 2010. Applications close on 22 January. Further information: Mary Agostino, Manager Family Services, T: 03 9217 2301.

Indigenous Secretariat and Administrative Officer, in Darwin, 2-year contract. Menzies Indigenous Development Unit (MIDU) is seeking an independent, organised administrator with experience providing secretariat support to high-

level committees. This is an identified position and Aboriginal people are encouraged to apply. Contact: Bilawara Lee, T: 08 8922 8235, E: <bilawara.lee@menzies.edu.au>. Vacancy closes 1 February.

Senior Research Fellow – Sustainable Livelihoods, in north-west Kimberley, 12 months full time fixed term appointment. Responsible to the Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community Council on behalf of the Nyikina Mangala Aboriginal Corporation (NMAC) Board. Expressions of interest to Dr Anne Poelina, M: 0408922155, E: majala@wn.com.au>. Closing date is 14th February.

MEDIA

Indigenous health scheme getting results. A preventative health program in Kimberley communities is being credited with bucking national trends in Indigenous obesity and diabetes:

<<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/30/2757312.htm>>.

PUBLICATIONS

Gwalwa Gai (vol 21), the newsletter of the Cooperative Research Centre, is available at: <<http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/downloads/gwalwagai21.pdf>>.

Aboriginal spirituality: Aboriginal philosophy, the basis of Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing, by Vicki Grieves, Discussion Paper No. 9, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, Darwin. Available at: <http://www.crcah.org.au/publications/DP_series.html>.

Single-dose azithromycin versus seven days of amoxicillin in the treatment of acute otitis media in Aboriginal children (AATAAC): a double blind, randomised controlled trial, by P S Morris, G Gadil, G B McCallum, C A Wilson, H C Smith-Vaughan, P Torzillo & A J Leach, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2010, vol. 192, no. 1, pp. 24–29.

Birthweight and natural deaths in a remote Australian Aboriginal community, by W E Hoy & J L Nicol, *Medical Journal of Australia*, 2010, vol. 192, no. 1, pp. 14–19.

Progress of the Northern Territory Emergency Response Child Health Check Initiative: Final report on results from the Child Health Check and follow-up data collections, AIHW. Media statement:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2009/mr20091204.cfm>>; report summary:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/ihw/ihw-28-10793/ihw-28-10793-sum.html>>; full report:

<<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10793>>.

Ngarngadji! Listen/Understand! Improving care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients (ICAP) Resource Kit:

<<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/koori/icap/resources/icap-resource-kit>>.

Through APO:

Coordinator General for Remote Indigenous Services – six monthly report:

<<http://www.apo.org.au/research/coordinator-general-remote-indigenous-services—six-monthly-report>>.

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Australia's mothers and babies 2007, P Laws, E A Sullivan, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: <<http://apo.org.au/research/australias-mothers-and-babies-2007>>.

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A snapshot of early childhood development in Australia, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations:

<<http://apo.org.au/research/snapshot-early-childhood-development-australia>>.

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Top Indigenous reports 2009: the five most read reports and commentary pieces in the Indigenous area in 2009 were: Overcoming Indigenous disadvantage; Is 'Close the Gap' a useful approach?; Culture and wellbeing – the case of Indigenous Australians; Ideology, evidence and competing principles in Australian Indigenous affairs; 'You can drop dead': midwives bullying women: <<http://apo.org.au/research/top-indigenous-reports-2009>>.

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Top Social Policy reports 2009: <<http://apo.org.au/research/top-social-policy-reports-2009>>.

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Everybody's business: remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait community stores, House Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs: <<http://apo.org.au/research/everybodys-business-remote-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-community-stores>>.

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Mistrust of health care organizations is associated with underutilization of health services, by T A LaVeist, L A Isaac, K P Williams, *Health Services Research*, 2009, vol. 44, no. 6, pp. 2093–2105.

A historical reflection on research evaluation studies, their recurrent themes and challenges, by S Marjanovic, S Hanney & S Wooding:

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2009/RAND_TR789.pdf>.

Public health, innovation and intellectual property, WHO Report of the Expert Working Group on Research and Development Financing:

<http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB126/B126_6Add1-en.pdf>.

Global Health Justice, by J P Ruger, *Public Health Ethics*, 2009, vol. 2, no. 3:
<http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1502810>.

Capacity Building – Awareness raising actions to address the social determinants of health and to improve health equity: <<http://www.health-inequalities.eu/pdf.php?id=68410efc3dbc18f8b1a0ea0e5e1fa4ef>>.

Support tools for evidence-informed health policymaking (STP), A Oxman & S Hanney (eds), *Health Research Policy and Systems* 2009, vol. 7, (Suppl 1), 16 December: <<http://www.health-policy-systems.com/supplements/7/S1>>.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITES

Closing the Gap Clearinghouse: the clearinghouse library is aware of CRCAH publications and is uploading them onto their database. You are invited to subscribe to the Clearinghouse's e-news which is accessible via <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/news/email-notice.cfm>> and to contribute to the Clearinghouse's research and evaluation calendar by completing a proforma available at <<http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/research/>>, also to inform the clearinghouse of any relevant events to list in the online events calendar.

Diabetes Australia-NSW is now reviewing and updating their 2003/2004 diabetes resource to support Aboriginal Health Workers, called **Diabetes: it's in my hands**. Diabetes Australia invites feedback from Aboriginal Health Workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons with diabetes, or persons working in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. Please contact Ronan Fagan, T: 02 9552 9812, E: <ronanf@diabetesnsw.com.au>, for the appropriate forms.

Guidelines on the management of co-occurring alcohol and other drug and mental health conditions in alcohol and other drug treatment settings. A resource developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre in collaboration with clinicians, researchers, consumers and carers from across Australia to provide AOD workers with up-to-date, evidence-based information on the management of comorbid mental health conditions in AOD treatment settings: <<http://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/comorbidity>>.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND SYMPOSIA

New Courses in Health Research: Beginning in February 2010, the University of Wollongong (Business School in Sydney's CBD) will offer two new postgraduate degrees – a Graduate Certificate in Health Services Research and Development and a Master of Health Services (Research). These courses are

aimed to suit the needs of a wide variety of careers including those working in: policy, planning and public health units of health agencies; universities; health research units and centres; and clinical units. Applications close 4 February: <http://www.phaa.net.au/documents/email/UOW_HSR_Degree.pdf>. More information from Professor Ian Ring, T: 02 4221 4411, E: <iring@uow.edu.au>.

Postgraduate level **public health coursework program** comprising a Graduate Diploma in Public Health, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Health at the Menzies School of Health Research. All courses are accredited through the Charles Darwin University (CDU) and delivered through Menzies by public health professionals and experts in their fields. Courses are Commonwealth Government supported: <http://menzies.edu.au/education-and-training>.

Aboriginal Health Workers: a short course to prepare and upskill remote health practitioners to respond to and manage common and unfamiliar medical emergencies and trauma situations in isolated settings. The course will be held in Darwin, 22–24 February. For more information: <www.crana.org.au> “courses” tab; and coordinator Monia Ostigh, M: 0428 211358, E: <monica@crana.org.au>.

Race, Culture, Indigeneity and the Politics of Public Health, a three-day course in Melbourne, 17–19 February, offered by the McCaughey Centre and *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the University of Melbourne. The course is designed for professionals, policy makers and researchers who work in Indigenous health, social work, education and related areas. Registrations close on 25 January. Details: <<http://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/sph-shortcourses/category/centre-units/mccaughey-centre/>>. Enquiries: Hannah Reich, T: 03 8344 3180, E: <hsreich@unimelb.edu.au>.

Internet seminar: **Why more equal societies almost always do better**, with Professor Richard Wilkinson and Kate Picket (authors of *The Spirit Level*), on Tuesday 19 January 2010, at 3:00– 5:00 pm Washington DC time. Link to participants: <<https://sas.illuminate.com/m.jnlp?sid=1110&password=M.A4FA308B5F1FA6CD60DB62C0137303>>.

Strength Based Approach to Indigenous Mental Health, in Darwin, from 9 to 11 February 2010. This course aims to promote awareness and understanding of Indigenous* mental health in remote settings in the Northern Territory (NT). The presenters are A/Prof. Tricia Nagel, Mr Denis Blackford, Ms Valerie Thompson and Mrs Carolyn Griffin. Course information and registration form at: <http://www.menzies.edu.au/education-and-training/short-courses/workshops>.

*Note that for the purposes of this course ‘Indigenous’ refers to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognises their diversity of language and culture.

Leverage for Social Change: Addressing the Social Determinants of Health, in Melbourne, on 27 January. A roundtable discussion by the Social Science and

Health Research unit at Monash University featuring Sir Michael Marmot, Prof. Stephen Webb (UNewcastle), Prof. Sandy Gifford (La Trobe), Prof. Helen Keleher (Monash), Prof. Lenore Manderson (Monash), Prof. Bruce Hollingsworth (Monash) and Prof. Mitchell Dean (Macquarie): 27 January at 2pm in Building H, room 2.37 at the Caulfield Campus. RSVP is required by January 20 to <Bharati.Kalle@med.monash.edu.au>.

TENDERS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Primary Health Care Resource: The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health with the Department of Health and Ageing is seeking tenders from individuals or organisations to develop a web based resource that brings together existing information, tools and guides relevant to the management of chronic diseases in Indigenous Australians from a wide range of sources. The web site must be a collaborative, publishing and writing system with content management and archive capabilities. The resource will promote better practice in the prevention, identification and management of chronic disease in Indigenous Australians by primary health care workers in the mainstream and Indigenous sector. Register interest at:

<<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/2160910>>.

Contact: Darlene Lawler. T: 02 6289 8957, E: <darlene.lawler@health.gov.au>.

The Rio Tinto Aboriginal Fund provides support for programs and initiatives, both large and small, across Australia. Funding may be provided on a once off basis or over a number of years. The Fund also supports programs where different organisations work in partnership, or where funding comes from multiple sources. The Fund's areas of focus are Education, Health, Youth and leadership, Social justice, Cultural celebration. There are several closing dates in 2010, with the first being on 5 February: <<http://www.aboriginalfund.riotinto.com/>>.

and REMINDERS

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

Beyond Evidence on Reducing Health Inequities Symposium: What works, why and how, in Adelaide, on 27–28th April 2010:

<<http://som.flinders.edu.au/FUSA/PublicHealth/AHIP/2010/>>.

5th International Conference in Health Care: Quality Around the World, in Melbourne, 20–22 May 2010: W: <<http://www.qip.com.au/conference.asp 2010 AES International Conference>>.

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: <<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy/conference>>.

Reflecting on Evaluation, in Wellington, NZ, 30 Aug–03 Sept 2010: <<http://www.aesconference2010.org.nz/drupal/>>.

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, The Sixth Gathering, Hawai'i, 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>>.

8th International Qualitative Research Conference, Bournemouth University, U. K., 6–8 September 2010: <<http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/hsc/international-qualitative-research-conference-form.html>>.

The Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists Scientific Meeting 'Advancing together in Psychiatric Treatment, Research and Education', in Brisbane, 28–30 October 2010. Abstracts close on 30 April: <<http://www.anzmmh.asn.au/PRCP10/AbstractSubmission.asp>>.

Archives of the CRCAH and the new CRCATSIH e-Bulletin are available on our website at <www.crcah.org.au/communication/publications/newsletters.html>. If you have difficulties opening any links, please go to the CRCAH website or contact <cliley@unimelb.edu.au>.