

## ***The CCRE 'Wake Up Call' Bulletin No. 33***

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Related Items

CCRE - Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

@ the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

ph : 08 8132 6700

email : [ccre@ahcsa.org.au](mailto:ccre@ahcsa.org.au)



**6 December, 2007**

Dear all,

Please find below our latest CCRE Email Bulletin, ***The Wake Up Call***, as the end of the calendar year fast approaches. Have a safe break over Xmas / New Year.

*Kind Regards,*

*Glenn Giles,*

*CCRE Translation Officer*

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## Research & News Items

1. **Saying sorry is a necessary step to reconciliation**, 19.11.07, The AGE  
ON THE eve of the election campaign Prime Minister John Howard made a dramatic confession, with a promise of amends. ...

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/opinion/saying-sorry-is-a-necessary-step-to-reconciliation/2007/11/18/1195321605556.html?page=fullpage#contentSwap1>

Vos T, Barker B, Stanley L, Lopez AD 2007. The burden of disease and injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples 2003. Brisbane: School of Population Health, The University of Queensland.

From the web-site:

"Burden of disease analysis gives a unique perspective on health.

"Fatal and non-fatal outcomes are combined, but can be examined separately as well. This report provides details of the extent of premature mortality and disability estimated for over 170 disease and injury categories and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote and non-remote areas of Australia. It also presents estimates of the amount of disease and injury caused by 11 major risk factors.

"More importantly, it measures the *Indigenous Health Gap*, which is the difference between the observed burden of disease in Indigenous Australians and what it would have been if the same rates of burden of disease as in the total Australian population would have applied.

"This is of major policy interest. The diseases and risk factors that contribute most to the *Indigenous Health Gap* are identified as health areas where appropriately resourced health services, combined with interventions to address the social and economic disadvantages faced by Indigenous Australians, are likely to have the greatest impact on reducing the burden of disease."

The full report, a policy brief and summary report are available from the following web-site: <http://www.uq.edu.au/bodce/index.html?page=68411>

### 2. Commissioner Calma applauds resolution of native title claim, 16.11.07

First lodged in 1994, the Wiradjuri Wellington native title application was the first native title claim in Australia under the Native Title Act 1993. Under the agreement, the parties have come to a satisfactory arrangement by which the native title applicants surrender any native title rights that may have existed in the lands.

[http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media\\_releases/2007/89\\_07.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/media/media_releases/2007/89_07.html)

### & ABC Message Stick Report

[http://abc.net.au/message/news/stories/ms\\_news\\_2091677.htm](http://abc.net.au/message/news/stories/ms_news_2091677.htm)

### 3. New articles in *Rural and Remote Health*

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**'Assessment of readiness to prevent type 2 diabetes in a population of rural women with a history of gestational diabetes'**

How can we help a vulnerable rural population avoid diabetes mellitus? This pilot study from Victoria Australia uses the transtheoretical model of behaviour change to evaluate the possibility of diabetes prevention.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=802>

&

**'The impact of a rural emergency department rotation on applicant ranking of a US emergency medicine residency program'**

Does a rural emergency medicine training rotation discourage the best trainees from applying to the program? This US study asks the people involved.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=686>

&

**'Retrospective bibliometric review of rural health research: Australia's contribution and other trends'**

This review from a team of medical academics in rural New South Wales, Australia, used the power of electronic data sets to track the trends in rural health publications since 1990 in Australia, Canada and the United States. It's not a race but, hey folks, the number of rural health publications are increasing every year and Australian authors are nosing to the front!

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=767>

&

**'Neonatal mortality in India'**

Neonatal mortality is a serious concern in India, especially in rural areas. The authors of this letter highlight important but often overlooked contributing factors.

<http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/showarticlenew.asp?ArticleID=833>

**4. High levels of cannabis use persist in Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory**

Medical Journal of Australia, 2007; 187 (10): 594-595

[http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/187\\_10\\_19/1107/letters\\_191107\\_fm-1.html](http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/187_10_19/1107/letters_191107_fm-1.html)

**5. NT Intervention Destroys Sacred Site**

The grassroots organisation Women for Wik, which has been monitoring the Federal intervention in the Northern Territory, expressed dismay at the revelation that a pit toilet has been built on a sacred site in the Aboriginal township

of Numbulwar, one of the 73 communities directly affected by the intervention.

[http://www.womenforwik.org/press\\_release.html#6](http://www.womenforwik.org/press_release.html#6)

**6. Doctor denied Top End elder escort, 16.11.07, The Australian**

A DOCTOR admitted yesterday she should have allowed an escort to travel to hospital with a frail, elderly man who later died alone on a remote Northern Territory airstrip.

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,22767030-5006790,00.html>

**7. In spirit country, 10.11.07, The Age**

In the third of our series on the mood of the nation, Martin Flanagan goes to the symbol that lies at the heart of Australia - Uluru

<http://www.theage.com.au/text/articles/2007/11/09/1194329510914.html>

**8. Health care and upgrade will be on the agenda, 15.11.07, Port Lincoln Times**

A MAJOR upgrade underway and changes to health care will be the main points discussed at the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service annual general meeting on November 27.

<http://portlincoln.yourguide.com.au/news/local/general/health-care-and-upgrade-will-be-on-the-agenda/1087125.html>

**9. Taking home the machine: learning self care dialysis, 15.11.07, ABC Regional Online**

Brogas is one of a growing number of Aboriginal people in Central Australia with renal failure. Many live in remote communities and have to make the move

<http://www.abc.net.au/alicesprings/stories/s2091870.htm?backyard>

**10. The Lancet launches another scathing attack on Howard, 2.11.07, AAP**

By Tamara McLean

A PRESTIGIOUS international medical journal has attacked the Federal Government's record on indigenous health and reconciliation in a scathing report which suggests the Coalition will lose the election.

The Lancet published the four-page article which catalogues poor Aboriginal life expectancy and social statistics and a raft of Government "failings" on the issue.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,22690928-23109,00.html>

**11. Australia in top five for smoking less, but also in top five for obesity, AIHW, 13.11.07**

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Australia is a world leader in reducing tobacco consumption, but is also among the leaders in obesity rates, according to a report released today by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). (from Media Release from AIHW, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)

From the OECD summary of the publication, on its web-page, it says

"This fourth edition of Health at a Glance provides the latest comparable data and trends on different aspects of the performance of health systems in OECD countries. It provides striking evidence of large variations across countries in indicators of health status and health risks, as well as in the inputs and outputs of health systems."

The AIHW link, below, has a link to the OECD web-page with the publication.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20071113.cfm>

#### **12. More babies, older mums, caesareans,**

AIHW report of birth statistics in Australia in 2005. Released, 23 Nov 2007.

From the AIHW media release: "The report also presents, for the first time, data that ties maternal socioeconomic status to outcomes such as birthweight."

Media release, and link to page with details on obtaining the full report, is at

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20071123.cfm>

#### **13. Older Australians 'active contributors to family and community' says national report**

22 Nov. 2007, AIHW released their fourth edition of **Older Australians at a glance**. AIHW says it "provides insights into the diversity of the older population of Australia, where they are living, what they are doing, how healthy they are and the services they are using."

Section 5 of the publication has information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians; where it points out the very different age profiles between this group and other Australians. It reports some data showing higher rates among "Indigenous" Australians for various illnesses and disabilities.

An AIHW media release, and link to page for the full report, is at

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20071122.cfm>

#### **14. Welfare spending \$90 billion in 2005-06**

21 Nov. 2007, AIHW report, *Welfare Expenditure Australia 2005-06*, released.

From the AIHW media release, "Mr John Goss, of the Institute's Expenditure and Economics

Unit, said that at \$90 billion, welfare expenditure is similar in scale to the nation's health expenditure (\$87 billion in 2005-06)."

AIHW media release, and link to page for full report, is at

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2007/mr20071121.cfm>

#### **15. Latest edition of Flinders Aboriginal Health Research e-news,** (it has a lot of information, including item 17 below) is now available at

<http://aboriginalhealth.flinders.edu.au/Newsletters/2007/News1607.html>

Please feel free to forward this on to others who might be interested, and let us know about other relevant items. Previous issues are available on our website. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or do not wish to receive Flinders Aboriginal Health Research news in future, Please contact [theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au](mailto:theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au)

Also, if you are not already an official member of Flinders Aboriginal Health Research, please complete the form on our website at <http://aboriginalhealth.flinders.edu.au/>

Kind regards,

Theresa

Theresa Leach

Administrative Officer

Flinders Aboriginal Health Research Unit (FAHRU) Faculty of Health Sciences

Phone: 08 82015890

Fax: 08 82775891

[theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au](mailto:theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au)

#### **16. The obesity epidemic**

This is a programme broadcast on ABC Radio National's Health Report, this week (and back in July). From the transcript introducing the programme, with the web-site below where you can access an audio and transcript:

"Good morning and welcome to the Health Report. Today another chance to hear a controversial program we played a little while ago. It's about a theory with scientific evidence behind it as to why the obesity epidemic is perhaps worse than it should be. The food industry, especially in the United States, hates the message you're about to hear and while certain manufacturing practices mentioned don't happen in Australia, as you'll hear, some in fact do.

"The question is whether there's stuff in our food which makes us even fatter than our calorie excess would suggest. It's about how a carbohydrate may be behaving like a dietary fat. One of the key people pushing this idea is Dr Robert Lustig who's Professor of Pediatric

Endocrinology at the University of California, San Francisco."

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/healthreport/stories/2007/2104024.htm>

**17. Leaders call for intervention review,**  
5.12.07, The Age

INDIGENOUS leaders are warning the new Government to wind back parts of the Northern Territory intervention as further evidence emerges that Aboriginal Territorians are fleeing to escape its tough measures.

<http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/leaders-call-for-intervention-review/2007/12/04/1196530678465.html>

**18. Aboriginal leader dies in SA,** 3.12.07,  
ABC Online

An Indigenous woman who led the unsuccessful campaign against construction of the Hindmarsh Island bridge in South Australia has died.

[http://www.abc.net.au/message/news/stories/ms\\_news\\_2107981.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/message/news/stories/ms_news_2107981.htm)

**19. A new vision for education needed,**  
29.11.07, National Indigenous Times

Dr LESTER-IRABINNA RIGNEY offers new Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd a new vision for black learning and calls for a new Australian Council for Indigenous Education.

<http://www.nit.com.au/opinion/story.aspx?id=13582>

**Note:**

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## Conferences / Forums / Workshops

**1. Which Way Indigenous Health Research?**

Flinders Aboriginal Health Research Unit  
Faculty of Health Sciences, Presents

Which Way Indigenous Health Research?

A Reflection on Indigenous health research:  
past, present and future

by

*Dr Bronwyn Fredericks*

On

Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2007

at 12:30pm until 2:30pm

In room N220A

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Sturt Campus North Building

Flinders University

Light lunch will be provided

RSVP to: Theresa Leach, 8201 5890 by the 6<sup>th</sup>  
December, 2007

[theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au](mailto:theresa.leach@flinders.edu.au)

**2. 2008 - Good Tucker, Good Health  
Nutrition Networks Conference**

The Good Tucker, Good Health Networks Conference will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre from **11 – 14 March 2008**.

The conference will be relevant to anyone working in or interested in the area of food and nutrition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

Conference registration will open in **mid November 2007** on the conference website through [www.ruralhealth.org.au](http://www.ruralhealth.org.au). Also on the conference website in **mid November 2007** will be information on trade display spaces, sponsorship, travel and accommodation.

Requests for assistance to attend the conference should be sent to for consideration.

**3. Population Health Congress 2008 A  
Global World – Practical Action for Health  
and Well-being**

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

July 6-9 2008

Call for Papers (see web-site for more details;  
closing date is 28 February, 2008).

Major Themes:

Environment and Health, Social Cohesion,  
Social Capital and Health, Food and Health

Australasia's four population health professional organisations working together to strengthen the focus on Population Health in the region.

Come to Brisbane and join in Australia's population health event of the decade. For this inaugural event four organisations are working together to provide a line-up of international and national speakers that promises to be excellent.

As well as an exciting range of speakers, this congress will have major trade displays for companies and products which will have a significant future role in addressing governmental and individual lifestyle responses to environmental and nutritional issues.

The Population Health Congress 2008 will be held in the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre - one of Australia's best conference venues.

Secretariat: Conference Co-ordinators

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PO Box 139 CALWELL ACT 2905 AUSTRALIA  
Tel: +61 2 6292 9000  
Fax: +61 2 6292 9002  
congress2008@confco.com.au  
www.populationhealthcongress.org.au  
Congress Registration

Registration will be available on-line or through the Congress registration brochure commencing January 2008.

To ensure you are kept up to date with Congress developments in the meantime, please register your interest on-line at <http://www.populationhealthcongress.org.au/>

#### 4. Aboriginal Researcher Forum

February 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2008  
Whyalla, South Australia

##### *Invitation for ideas, topics and presenters*

A forum for Aboriginal people doing research or who are interested in doing research is being planned for early 2008. The forum is being sponsored by the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School and will provide people an opportunity to meet, talk and learn about research and explore ways they can get involved in research.

At the forum you will hear from SA and interstate Aboriginal researchers and see examples of the types of research being done. The aim of the forum is to identify research questions that are important to Aboriginal people in country South Australia and work out ways some of these questions might be answered.

We would like your ideas about what form the forum should take, who should be invited and the kinds of things participants would like to hear about.

YOUR COMMENTS AND IDEAS VERY  
WELCOME

Do you want to come to the Research  
Forum?

Do you have any topics or guest speakers you  
want included?

Input welcome about the format and structure  
of the forum

Please email, phone or write to:

Kym Thomas

[Kym.thomas@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Kym.thomas@unisa.edu.au)

043 887 1532

(08) 8647 6163

Fax: 8647 6164

Or Elana Rudnik

[Elana.rudnik@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Elana.rudnik@unisa.edu.au)

(08) 86 478 153

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## Scholarships

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## Other Notices

### 1. International Indigenous Disability and Health web discussion group

Sis, Bro, Auntie, Uncle, Cuz & Comrades,

For all those interested in International Indigenous Disability and Health issues we have set up a discussion forum in Yahoo Group at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IIDCWG/>

Originally we were set up by the International Disability Caucus (IDC) to lobby for inclusion of Indigenous issues and references in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We now have an ongoing role to ensure Indigenous disability & health issues are addressed under the CRPD, the other Conventions and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

We are keen to include your interest, experiences and knowledge so please join.

Please pass this message on to your Indigenous Networks so others may join as well. You can join through the Web link above, email IIDCWG-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or if you have problems email Frank at [fhallbentick@connexus.net.au](mailto:fhallbentick@connexus.net.au) and I'll join you in.

Regards,  
Frank

### 2. Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin

A place where you can catch up with recent publications in the area of Aboriginal health is the following web-page on the Australian Indigenous Health Infonet. The Bulletin is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that lists, and has links to, journal articles related to Aboriginal health issues. Vol 7, No 4 is currently in

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progress, October 2007 - December 2007: ISSN 1445-7253

[http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/html/html\\_bulletin/bull\\_74/bulletin\\_journal\\_articles.htm#sid](http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/html/html_bulletin/bull_74/bulletin_journal_articles.htm#sid)

### 3. Indigenous Public Health Network

*[forwarded email message, re An Indigenous Public Health Network is being established ...]*

Since 2003 Onemda Koori Health Unit Melbourne University and the Institute of Koorie Education Deakin University have been involved in a PHERP funded collaborative project aimed at building capacity in the public health sector in the area of Indigenous health. To this end the following activities have/are being undertaken:

- Increasing the number of Indigenous MPH graduates;
- Increasing the quality of Indigenous health curriculum in MPH programs;
- Development of a National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Framework;
- Feasibility Study for the Development of a Nationally Accessible MPH (Indigenous Stream); and
- Establishing an Indigenous Public Health Network.

The development of an Indigenous Public Health Network was initially canvassed at the National Indigenous Public Health Curricula Workshop in Sydney September 2006. At this workshop over 50 Indigenous public health academics, primary health care service providers and policymakers developed a draft set of guidelines for the establishment of a network. These are summarised below.

#### **Purpose**

To provide a forum for Indigenous public health academics and industry practitioners to guide Indigenous public health curriculum development, share teaching and learning innovations, exchange resources, initiate, develop and influence policy regarding Indigenous public health capacity development and ensure academic public health programs are of relevance to Indigenous public health practice.

#### **What might be the benefits of involvement in the network?**

- strengthening partnerships and linkages between the Indigenous primary health care sector and academic public health programs;
- building and enhancing the profile of Indigenous public health practitioners across the sector;
- promoting careers in Indigenous public health to Indigenous people;

- strengthening effective and innovative teaching and learning processes within public health teaching programs;
- developing a cohort of Indigenous academics within public health to enhance higher degree student supervision and examination; and
- enhancing the profile of Indigenous health within Australian Network of Academic Public Health Institutions (ANAPHI) and the academic public health sector.

#### **How to make this Network sustainable?**

Currently the PHERP Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project led by Professor Ian Anderson and Professor Wendy Brabham is able to convene the Network. During 2008, it is anticipated that at the Population Health Congress Brisbane July 2008, the network will have a workshop, set its agenda and choose a convener and caucus.

#### **How you can be involved:**

- return the attached form and join the email list/network
- attend the workshop in Brisbane July 2008
- complete the attached questionnaire indicating an interest in being on a data base for Indigenous public health supervisors and markers

#### **So if you are interested please return the attached registration form to:**

Janice Jessen  
Institute of Koorie Education  
Deakin University  
Waurin Ponds Campus  
Geelong Vic 3217  
Email: [janice.jessen@deakin.edu.au](mailto:janice.jessen@deakin.edu.au)  
Phone: 03) 52272346

### 4. 'Cafe Conversations'

#### **Discussing the 2008 UN Human Rights Theme 'Dignity and justice for all'**

on

United Nations International Human Rights Day

*When:* Monday 10th December 2007

*Time:* 3-6 PM

*Where:* Tandanya Theatre and Cafe  
(Cnr East Tce and Grenfell St)

*What:* Welcome to International Human Rights Day

followed by: an informal gathering with buffet-style food, to discuss the unfinished business of Aboriginal human rights

'Dignity and justice for all' in the Aboriginal context

Increasing cross-cultural co-operation in the spirit of the 2008 UN Human Rights Theme

ANTaR SA - Planning ahead for 2008

Aboriginal & other Community Leaders speaking the truth

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Discussing Dignity and Justice Locally,  
Nationally and Internationally.  
Connecting with and hearing from Aboriginal  
people

Feedback and input from participants

RSVP (for catering) by noon Monday 10  
December

Please indicate your attendance to:

Patrick Byrt, Roma Mitchell Community Legal  
Centre Inc PH: 83621199

Buffet style food to be served

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Glenn Giles, Coordinator of ANTaR SA PH:  
8227 0170

Email: [antarsa@internode.on.net](mailto:antarsa@internode.on.net)

Lynette Crocker, Kurna Elder PH: 0400 234  
788

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