



CCRE Achievements and Milestones document launch

The **CCRE Achievements and Milestones** document was launched at AHCSA offices on Thursday, 20 November, 2008.

Our CCRE Chairperson, Yvonne Buza, (who is also Vice Chairperson of AHCSA, and on the Northern Aboriginal Health Advisory Committee), opened the launch.

Mrs Buza first introduced Uncle Lewis O'Brien, Elder of the Kaurna people, who gave the gathered attendees a Traditional Welcome, and entertained the audience with a brief amusing story from his colourful past.

Mrs Buza then spoke of the CCRE (as Chairperson of the CCRE Board), giving an overview of what its objectives were and its three main areas of focus (research, training and translation). She pointed to some of the CCRE's key achievements, particularly the Certificate IV in Indigenous Research Capacity Building.

AHCSA believes it is important to continue to build the capacity of the Aboriginal community controlled health sector in research and evaluation. Just prior to the launch, AHCSA had received positive indication of funding to continue to deliver this key development in the training of the Aboriginal health workforce. In addition to maintaining the research course, AHCSA is seeking to establish a Sector Research Support Officer.

In addition, as part of its efforts to maintain work in developing chronic condition management approaches, including an Aboriginal self management program, and research and evaluation of such approaches, AHCSA has been working to establish a self-management training and coordination role at AHCSA.

John Singer (Chairperson AHCSA, and Director Nganampa Health Council) spoke next. He acknowledged the achievements of the CCRE, and reiterated the importance for AHCSA and its members of developing the Aboriginal community health capacity in research and evaluation. This is important for Aboriginal health services to monitor, evaluate and improve their services to their communities.

Roy Goldie (Executive Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University), followed Mr Singer. He restated the commitment of Flinders University to its partnership with AHCSA and the work between Aboriginal health services its support to helping develop Aboriginal community controlled health research.

The Minister of Health, Honourable John Hill MP spoke about the project, acknowledging that this was the first such centre in Australia, congratulating AHCSA and Flinders University on the major achievements that the project attained, and recognising that developing the research and evaluation capacity of the Aboriginal community controlled health sector in South Australia,

including in the area of chronic condition management, was an important element of addressing the wide gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians. Minister Hill stated that a Government priority is increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in health, as this improves the health outcomes of Aboriginal people. The Minister observed there were growing opportunities in Aboriginal health research in South Australia, and that he hoped that future research would build on the work of this CCRE.

The report was formally launched by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of AHCSA and the Minister for Health, with a significant gathering of people from the mainstream and Aboriginal health sectors in South Australia.

Mrs Buza finished off the launch by acknowledging the CCRE Board and Executive for their overseeing the project over the past 5 years; thanking the CCRE Investigators for their ongoing efforts to progress the agenda of testing and developing more effective approaches to managing Aboriginal patients with long term illnesses; acknowledging the funders of the project, the National Health and Medical Research Council; and giving special thanks to Glenn Giles, Merridy Malin and all the CCRE team.