22 September 2014

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The Eberhard Wenzel Oration

On 5 September 2014—at the 22nd National Australian Health Promotion Association Conference & 18th Chronic Diseases Network Conference—Ms Mary Guthrie, General Manager (Policy) delivered The Eberhard Wenzel Oration: Empowerment and Closing the Gap on behalf of our Chairperson, Ms Pat Anderson AO.

In her paper, Ms Anderson addressed the social determinants of health and how they fit with the ongoing struggle to improve the health of Australia's Aboriginal peoples. She noted in particular that, while the social determinants of health are now widely accepted in policy-making, one of the critical determinants, 'empowerment' is often missing. She also discussed how racism is a key way in which Aboriginal people remain disempowered.
The full text of the oration is available [here](http://thelowitjainstitute.cmail1.com/t/ViewEmail/j/802741BC376CCE87/E7AC535A7D1D52C56A4D01E12DB8921D).

The **Australian Health Promotion Association** presents this yearly memorial oration hoping to stimulate a culture of critical and reflective discussion for the advancement of health promotion in Australia.

**Congratulations Professor Judith Dwyer**

Our warm congratulations to Professor Dwyer on her award by the **Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association** (AHHA) of the **2014 Sidney Sax** medal. The AHHA honoured her lifelong commitment to delivering high quality health services in Australia, particularly in the area of Indigenous health.

The Sidney Sax medal is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development and improvement of the Australian healthcare system in the field of health services policy, organisation, delivery and research (excluding clinical research). [Text AHHA]

Professor Dwyer is Director of Research in the Department of Health Care Management at Flinders University School of Medicine and a Program Leader at the Lowitja Institute.

**Congress Lowitja 2014 and CQI Conference 2014 presentations**

Not everything is available, but most presentations are in PDF, audio and/or video format, including video footage of:

- [Program, presentations, audio and video for the 2nd National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care](#)
- [Program, presentations, audio and video webpage for Congress Lowitja 2014](#)
- [Aunty Di Kerr’s Welcome to Country (Congress Lowitja 2014)](#)
- [Lowitja Institute Chair Pat Anderson AO address to Congress, Futures thinking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health](#)
- [Successful stories to share, Q&A panel at the CQI conference](#)

**CQIconnect Yarning Place**

**Are you working or interested in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care?**

The CQIconnect Yarning Place is an online network for health and community workers, researchers, policy makers and anyone working in CQI. Become a member at the **Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Yarning Places** and join us to discuss common interests, exchange ideas, promote events and ask questions.

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet will be conducting a HealthInfoNet café at the **CATSINaM conference** in Perth on 24–25 September, where friendly staff members will show you how to join!

For more information contact Avinna Trzesinski, CQIconnect Yarning Place Coordinator, Australian...
Indigenous HealthInfoNet, e: a.trzesinski@ecu.edu.au, t: (08) 9370 6395.

Congratulations Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

The HealthInfoNet reached new heights breaking the 5,000 'hits' per day barrier – receiving more than 5,052 hits on Monday 1 September 2014. This milestone highlights the fact that policymakers and health practitioners continue to turn to this unique and vital service in support of their work in closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

The Gavin Mooney Memorial Essay Competition

The Gavin Mooney Memorial Essay Competition is a joint project of the Sydney School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, the public health blog Croakey, and Inside Story, an online current affairs publication from Swinburne Institute for Social Research.

Each year the competition will call for entries related to a theme around equity and social justice. In 2014, the topic is: The social and cultural determinants of mental health: collective responsibilities; individualism; austerity; entitlements.

Entry is open to anyone, in Australia or overseas, whether academics, writers, journalists or citizens.

Entries close on 1 October 2014, and the winner will be announced by the end of November 2014.

More information

CRC Association Early Career Researcher Showcase

Each year at the CRC Association Annual Conference a number of early career researchers are selected to attend and present their research to the conference. Initial entries are submitted in a 30-second video. Finalists give a 5-minute presentation at the conference. The prize money available is $10,000 in total.

Communicating about your research is vital, find out more. Closing date for applications is 25 February 2015.

Presentations will be at Australia 2040, 25–27 May 2015, in Canberra.

Conferences

6th Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium, 12–14 November 2014, Albury NSW
The 6th Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium Program is now available. The 2014 program includes 9 keynote speakers, 60 concurrent sessions, 20 discussion groups, interactive workshops and poster presentations.

AMSANT Our Health Our Way Conference, 5–6 November 2014, Alice Springs
The Our Health Our Way Conference coincides with AMSANT’s 20th Anniversary and will reflect on their proud 40 years of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in the Northern Territory.
The Conference will bring together Aboriginal health leaders, health service managers, clinicians and other health service staff with clinicians, researchers, policy makers and government staff from the Northern Territory and across the nation. The intention is to discuss the achievements and successes of the Aboriginal community controlled health sector in the NT and the future development of Aboriginal comprehensive primary health care here and beyond. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the very real difference being made in Aboriginal health by AMSANT members.

The Conference program includes invited speakers who will present on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander approaches to integrated care, and on international examples of innovative approaches to integrated care for Indigenous people.

IBECC 2014 offers a rigorous and exciting forum for dialogue and exchange on how we can foster the health and growth of Indigenous businesses, enterprises and corporations across their life-cycle.

Save the date: 6th SNAICC National Conference, 5 – 17 September 2015, Perth (abstract submissions will open on 1 December 2014).

CONFERENCE REMINDERS:
CATSINaM Conference, 23–25 September 2014, Perth

AIDA’s 2014 Conference and Annual General Meeting, 1–4 October 2014, Melbourne

Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes – A Whole of Life Approach – An Educational Symposium, 23–24 October 2014, Alice Springs

NATSIHWA National Conference 2014, 29–30 October, Canberra

Action Learning, Action Research Association Inc 2014 Australasian Conference, 7–12 November 2014, Canberra

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) National Forum, 24–27 November 2014, Canberra

Events

Tuesday, 21 October 2013, in Melbourne: UNESCO Chair Cultural Diversity and Social Justice lecture. The UNESCO Chair of Cultural Diversity and Social Justice has a broad ranging mandate that encompasses both national and regional developments that pertain to emerging ethical challenges to the democratic governance of cultural diversity and intercultural relations.

The 2014 UNESCO Chair, Cultural Diversity and Social Justice lecture is hosted by Deakin University Vice-Chancellor Professor Jane den Hollander and will be delivered by Emeritus Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission. [text Deakin]

Time & place: 4:00pm–6:00pm, Deakin University Melbourne City Centre, Level 3, 550 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Jobs

**Training and Development Officer**, at Danila Dilba Health Services in Darwin  
*The Training and Development Officer is an identified role for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*  
The Training and Development Officer role is part of the Human Resources team and will provide advice, direction and support on organisational development and workforce capability issues to ensure that the organisation’s workforce strategies and initiatives build and sustain a capable workforce. For further information please contact Foster Stavridis (General Manager Human Resources) on e: foster.stavridis@daniladilba.org.au.

All applicants must address the selection criteria and submit with CV to the HR Coordinator at hr@daniladilba.org.au or post to GPO Box 2125, Darwin NT 0801. **Closing date is COB (Central Standard Time) Monday 29 September 2014.** More information and position description

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**Indigenous Research Coordinator**, 5-year appointment at CSIRO in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, or Alice Springs  
For more information, please visit Research Careers at CareerSpot  
**Closing date is 25 September 2014 at 11:30pm AEST**

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**Inquiry for Indigenous Science Students Manager**, 5-year appointment at CSIRO in Canberra  
For more information, please visit Research Careers at CareerSpot  
**Closing date is 25 September 2014 at 11:30pm AEST**

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**Link-Up Counsellor**, full time at Nunkuwarrin Yunti in Adelaide  
The primary aim of this role is to support Link-Up caseworkers and clients on all aspects of their Link-Up journey. This role will also include supporting those clients who have been reunited as part of the program's post reunion services. More information, position description and applications

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**Expression of Interest: Gudaga Research Program Leader (Senior Research Fellow/Associate Professor), at the Ingham Institute in Sydney**  
The Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation (CHETRE), part of the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity at UNSW, is seeking EOI for the Gudaga Research Program Leader role. The Program Leader will join the Gudaga leadership team and work with the Chief Investigators to implement, disseminate and further develop the Program.

As program manager the incumbent will effectively manage the program’s staff, research processes and dissemination, and maintain productive relationships with our many partners and stakeholders. As research leader, he or she will take a leading role in the ongoing development of the program, including promotion of the research, sourcing funding, and working with stakeholders to identify new opportunities for research and intervention to improve outcomes for urban Aboriginal children and young people.

CHETRE is keen to hear from researchers of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage who may be interested in this career opportunity. More information

Media

**Lowitja Institute boss wants equality for all**, by Josh Jennings, Sydney Morning Herald, 13 September 2014  
“As the new chief executive of the Lowitja Institute, Australia’s national Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, Romlie Mokak says he’s still brushing up on aspects of the
Institute's inner workings and nutting out a strategic roadmap for the next five years. But his ambitions are large.

Mokak, who was appointed by the institute on the back of a rigorous three month-long recruitment process, is keen to advance the organisation's goal of achieving equity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It's been a rewarding experience so far, he says.

"In an organisation that values, as a core, the importance of Aboriginal people being at the forefront of the work is so fundamentally important," he says. "This isn't about things being done to or for Aboriginal people, but really being led by Aboriginal people." Mokak has a bachelor of social science and a postgraduate diploma in special education. He spent 15 years of his career in the public sector, working in community, state and national roles that focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in disability, ageing, population health and substance abuse..." Read full article

Social Determinants of Health Alliance Newsletter, 12 September 2014

PHCRIS eBulletin, 18 September 2014

Yarn safe tackling Indigenous youth issues, ABC Rural, 17 September 2014
"Yarn safe is a youth-led Indigenous mental health campaign. Coordinated by Headspace Alice Springs, the campaign aims to increase the number of young indigenous people connecting with the service. Manager of Headspace Alice Springs, Natalie Colmer, says she believes there are many more young indigenous people who could benefit from their service...."

Australia's 7 Up: The revealing study tracking babies to adults, by Gurmeet Singh & Susan Sayers from the Menzies School of Health Research, The Conversation, 17 September 2014
"It's Australia's own 7 Up, following the progress of 686 tiny babies into adulthood, through sickness and health, for the rest of their lives. What started with one researcher working out of a linen cupboard 27 years ago has become the largest, longest-running and most significant study of the lives of Indigenous babies in Australia...."

Well-connected Indigenous kids keen to tap new ways to save lives, by Bronwyn Carlson, The Conversation, 16 September 2014
"Two things are part of the everyday reality of life for many Australian kids, teens and 20-somethings. One is their avid use of social media to connect with friends and share their feelings via status updates, spending hours glued to their mobile phones. But, sadly, too often the other everyday reality is self-harm and suicide...."

Deadly Choices: better ways of doing health promotion, by Melissa Sweet, Croakey health blog, 16 September 2014
"Mainstream health promotion has failed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, according to Karen McPhail-Bell, a PhD candidate at Queensland University of Technology...."

Indigenous Australia's rapid rise is shifting money and votes, by Andrew Taylor & Rolf Gerritsen from Charles Darwin University, The Conversation, 16 September 2014
"A dramatic change has been underway in Australia for some decades – yet few people know about it, or understand its far-reaching impacts.

Quite simply, official measurements show the number of First Australians has skyrocketed to far outstrip growth in any other sub-section of the national population. From 1981 to 2011, the number of Indigenous Australians increased by around 185% (compiled from Australian Bureau Statistics here and here...)"
CSU researcher looking to address high rates of heart disease in Aboriginal men, ABC News, 16 September 2014
"CSU PhD researcher, Brett Biles, is hoping to develop a tailored cardiovascular exercise and education program for Aboriginal men in regional areas.

Mr Biles says he wants to make meaningful change in his people's lives, and take the program back to his home town of Brewarrina in the state's north-west."

Indigenous eyesight, ABC Radio National podcast, Ockham's Razor, 14 September 2014
During early white settlement in Australia, around the mid 1800s, Aboriginal people had much better vision than Europeans. Unfortunately that situation has changed dramatically and now Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults have six times more blindness than non-Indigenous adults and nearly three times as much vision loss. Professor Hugh Taylor, who is the Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health at the University of Melbourne, says that 94 per cent of this vision loss is unnecessary.

Full and true stories about Aboriginal health, Charles Darwin University Newsroom, 12 September 2014
"CDU researchers Rosemary Gundjarranbuy and Lawurrpa Maypilama are helping Yolngu communities share health information.

A project aiming to improve access to health information for Yolngu communities of Northeast Arnhem Land has had resounding effects in the region."

Indigenous Australians experience diabetes 20 years earlier: ABS, Mark Colvin, ABC News PM, 10 September 2014
"Indigenous adults experience diabetes 20 years earlier than non-Indigenous adults: that's just one of the findings in a new release by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

It involved the biggest ever survey of blood and urine samples of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults."

Beyond Victims – the challenge of Indigenous leadership, ABC Radio National, Big Ideas, 8 September 2014, Griffith Review lecture by Dr Chris Sarra
"There is a need for both a new approach to Indigenous leadership and a new relationship with the First Peoples of Australia, based on respect and high expectations, argues Aboriginal leader, Dr Chris Sarra. He believes we must find a better way to recognise and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Announcement, Australian Government, 8 September 2014: Minister Scullion: A new era of Indigenous grant funding commences
"Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, announced the first grant round for funding under the $4.8 billion Indigenous Advancement Strategy will open today, Monday 8 September 2014, for six weeks."

Publications

Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health survey: Biomedical results, 2012–13, ABS 2014 (4727.0.55.003), ABS, Canberra

Hepatitis B notifications in a vaccinated cohort of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley region,


Medical workforce 2013, AIHW 2014

Study: Inuit health: Selected findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, Statistics Canada website (viewed 29 Sept 2014)


Funding Indigenous organisations: improving governance performance through innovations in public finance management in remote Australia, AIHW 2014

Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin, including:
*** Effect of a family-centered, secondhand smoke intervention to reduce respiratory illness in Indigenous infants in Australia and New Zealand: a randomized controlled trial
*** Large and forgotten in rural Australia: assessment, attitudes and possible approaches to losing weight in young adult males
*** ‘Choice, culture and confidence’: Key findings from the 2012 having a baby in Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survey
*** Northern Territory Heart Failure Initiative-Clinical Audit (NTHFI-CA) – a prospective database on the quality of care and outcomes for acute decompensated heart failure admission in the Northern Territory: study design and rationale

Through Australian Policy Online
*** Exploring methods to estimate the intercensal population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians
*** Mortality and life expectancy of Indigenous Australians 2008 to 2012
*** A case study in the use of evidence in a changing political context: an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health service re-examines practice models, governance and financing
*** The relative effectiveness of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services compared with mainstream health service
*** Suicide trends in WA: an urgent call to action
*** Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health survey: biomedical results, 2012-13
*** Overweight and obesity among Indigenous children: individual and social determinants

Scholarships

Find a scholarship at The Aspiration Initiative