Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health
Bulletin – Monday 19 January 2009

This fortnightly bulletin is distributed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (through CRCAH Link people and on the CRCAH website) to provide you with information about what is happening in the CRC and in Aboriginal Health research.

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- CRCAH sponsorship to attend the PHAA Justice Health in Australia Conference
The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) has made funds available to the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) to cover conference registration for a selection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives to attend the PHAA Justice Health in Australia, Beyond the Convict Era: Meeting Challenges for the 21st Century Conference. The Justice Health in Australia, Beyond the Convict Era: Meeting Challenges for the 21st Century Conference, will be held in Melbourne from 6-7 April 2009. Applications for funding close on Friday 13 February. For more information go to http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/news.html#sfa

- CRCAH Social and Emotional WellBeing survey regarding feedback workshops
In September 2006, the CRCAH held a successful Social and Emotional Well Being roundtable in Cairns to ask stakeholders to have input into identifying research priorities. We are now conducting a survey of stakeholders to help us plan follow-up workshop(s) to feedback research findings from projects in the SEWB program. The survey is open until 30 January 2009. If you are interested in hearing about the evidence developed by the program, we encourage you to complete the survey. For more information, contact Vanessa Harris on 048 8523 606 or by email vanessa.harris@crcah.org.au.

- Media Release: Data collection obstacle to closing Aboriginal health gap
In December 2008, the CRCAH issued a media release on ‘Data collection obstacle to closing Aboriginal health gap.’ It quoted Jane Freemantle of Onemda VicHealth Koori Unit at the University of Melbourne. She warned that the quality of the health data being
collected must be improved in order to develop accurate information to assist with evaluating policies, programs and interventions. The media release can be read at [http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/downloads/Data-Collection-Obstacle1.pdf](http://www.crcah.org.au/communication/downloads/Data-Collection-Obstacle1.pdf)

An ABC Radio interview with Jane Freemantle (‘Academic warns government to support ‘Close the Gap’ campaign’, 22 Dec 2008) can be read at [http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2008/s2452358.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2008/s2452358.htm)

- **Roundtable report and media release on Indigenous tobacco control by CEITC**

Late last year, The Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC) released a report on the Research Roundtable. The roundtable was held by CEITC in May 2008 with assistance from the CRCAH. The publication (full reference in publications section below) gives information on the presentations at the roundtable and the research priorities which were identified for further work. A summary report and a media release are also available. Copies of these documents can be found at [www.ceitc.org.au/indigenous_tobacco_researchers_meeting](http://www.ceitc.org.au/indigenous_tobacco_researchers_meeting)

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

The Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) in partnership with Flinders University, was awarded an NHMRC five year grant (2003-2008) to fund the first CCRE (Centre of Clinical Research Excellence) focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. This work was an in-kind project of the CRCAH. A report and a fact sheet are available online to provide information about the CCRE’s achievements. They can be downloaded from:


- **Menzies scholarships applications invited until 30 January**

The Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin is offering a limited number of PhD scholarships available for a period of 1 - 3 years at an equivalent level to that of the NHMRC. It is also offering The Bracher Scholarship for Honours and/or Masters by Research for 1 year. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications are invited by Friday 30 January. For more information, go to [www.menzies.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.menzies.edu.au/scholarships)

- **Job Vacancies: Menzies vacancies Indigenous Research Assistant**

The Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin has a vacancy for an Indigenous Research Assistant in the Preventable Chronic Diseases Division. This position will contribute to Diabetes, Chronic Kidney Disease and Body composition related research projects. Essential criteria for this position include experience and knowledge in Indigenous culture and health issues, and proficient cross-cultural communication skills. Applications are due by Friday 30 January. For more information and a position description, go to [www.menzies.edu.au/opportunities/](http://www.menzies.edu.au/opportunities/)

- **LIME Connection III to be held on 2-4 December 2009**

The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) network holds the LIME Connection every two years. This event gives network members an opportunity to share and celebrate their learnings. The LIME Connection III is to be held on 2-4 December
2009 in Melbourne and calls for abstracts are to be announced. For more information, go to http://www.limenetwork.net.au/

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework (HPF) 2008 Report and Summary.
  Analyses of data for each HPF measure, containing further detail not in the HPF Report, are available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) website at http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10664


- University of Sydney courses in Indigenous health promotion and substance abuse
  The University of Sydney is currently accepting applications for the one-year Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotion, the one-year Graduate Diploma program in Indigenous Health (Substance Use) or the two-year Master of Indigenous Health (Substance Use). These courses, designed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health professionals, aim to build clinical, public health and academic capacity of Indigenous health workers and administrators. Applications are due by the end of January 2009. For more information go to http://www.health.usyd.edu.au/future/coursework/index.php

- Who am I project seeking scholarship applicants
  An Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) scholarship is available to conduct a PhD as part of a project called ‘Who am I: every record tells a story’. The project, funded by an ARC Linkage Grant, investigates the role of archives in supporting those who have been in institutional care as children (including the Stolen Generation) in the construction of their identity. Interested people should contact Professor Cathy Humphreys at cathy.humphreys@unimelb.edu.au in the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare at the University of Melbourne. More information on the project can be found at http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/view.php?articleID=5302
- **NHMRC update on Indigenous health research**
  The CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) announced in December 2008 that of 688 project grants for 2009, 21 (3%) were in the subject area of Indigenous health, and that Indigenous health will be a priority area for the NHMRC in 2009. The NHMRC has also advised that the final consultation report on the NHMRC Road Map was presented to the Council by Professor Cindy Shannon. The report will be provided to consultation participants and placed on the NHMRC website, prior to public consultation on developing an action plan in April and May 2009. The CEO December 2008 newsletter can be downloaded at [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about/senior_staff/newsletters/index.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about/senior_staff/newsletters/index.htm).

- **The Heart Foundation Conference – abstract deadline extended til 21 January**
  The Heart Foundation Conference will be held on 14-16 May 2009 in Brisbane. The theme is ‘Hearts in focus – celebration, collaboration and challenges’ and Indigenous communities have been identified as a priority population. The call for abstract submissions has been extended until Wednesday 21 January 2009. For more information, go to [http://www.heartfoundation2009.com/abstract.asp](http://www.heartfoundation2009.com/abstract.asp).

- **Publications:**


  If you have difficulties opening any links, please go to the CRCAH website at [www.crcah.org.au](http://www.crcah.org.au) or contact me.
Regards
Johanna

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