5 October 2015

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Vale Dr Margaret Williams-Weir

The Lowitja Institute expresses its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Dr Margaret Williams-Weir and recognises with great respect her role as educator, as advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, and as an example for future generations.

A member of the the Malera/Bandjalang people of northern New South Wales, Dr Williams-Weir was the first recorded Aboriginal person to enrol in a university course in Australia, the first Aboriginal graduate of the University of Melbourne and the first Aboriginal graduate of any Australian university (University of Melbourne website).

The University of Melbourne has announced that a new fellowship would be created from 2015 to honour the historic contributions of Dr Williams-Weir and that Mr Noel Pearson will be the inaugural Dr Margaret Williams-Weir Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow.
Ms Pat Anderson AO, a woman of influence

Ms Pat Anderson AO has been recognised for her contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards for 2015. She is one of eight women recognised for their work in the field of public policy.

In its fourth year, the 100 Women of Influence Awards celebrate outstanding women from a wide variety of sectors across Australia. There are 10 categories: Board/Management, Public Policy, Diversity, Business Enterprise, Young Leader, Global, Local/Regional, Innovation, Culture and Social Enterprise.

The awards will be celebrated at a gala event in Sydney on 15 October when the category winners will be announced.

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet annual survey

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (now in its 18th year) is conducting an evaluation of their web resource. The HealthInfoNet annual survey opens Monday 28 September and will take 5–10 minutes to complete. Closing date is Friday 23 October 2015.

Participate in the HealthInfoNet annual survey and enter the draw to win a $350 Gift Voucher or an iPad Mini.

Happy 18th birthday, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet from all of us at the Lowitja Institute!

Pathways and Aspirations Program – Griffith University

The “Hands Up” First Peoples Aspirations and Pathways to Health Program aims to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have the ability, have the desire and have the capability to attend university have the opportunity to do so. The program focuses on developing more clearly articulated, seamless and supported pathways through the secondary, vocational and higher education. The program further aims to empower and inspire you to consider university as a possibility.

Join the program for 2016

Griffith University is seeking enthusiastic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students who want a career in health to participate in their 2016 “Hands Up” First Peoples Aspirations and Pathways to Health Programs. Join in with hands-on activities, where you get to do what real university students do! Meet the mob from GUMURRI Student Support Unit. These mob support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who go to Griffith university. Yarn with current students about university life, including living in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. More information
Conferences

List of forthcoming conferences

The Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute Annual Educational Symposium, 29–30 October 2015, Alice Springs

This year’s theme is ‘Challenges in managing heart and diabetes in primary health care’. The symposium is designed for health professionals who are working with the impact of chronic diseases in Indigenous communities, in particular cardiovascular disease and its complications. Leading professionals travelling across the continent to present at this symposium. Within the program, a symposium workshop will outline the essentials in diabetes education in Central Australia.

After the symposium, an oration by Professor Ngiare Brown, Deputy Chairperson of the Indigenous Advisory Council, will encourage discussion around important topics with an emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community health.

This event is free. Health Network NT will be providing 5 travel grants to assist delegates travelling to Alice Springs. Closing date is Friday 16 October 2016 at 5:00pm.

Program | Symposium workshop | Oration | Travel grants | Registration (free but places limited)

REMINDER:

CRANAplus 33rd Conference
15–17 October 2015, Alice Springs

7th Australian Rural & Remote Mental Health Symposium
26–28 October 2015, Creswick, Victoria

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide, the Seventh Gathering
15–19 November 2015, Kirikiriroa/Hamilton, Aotearoa/New Zealand

2015 Indigenous Allied Health Australia National Conference
29 November–2 December 2015, Cairns, Queensland

9th Health Services and Policy Research Conference
7–9 December 2015, Melbourne

World Indigenous Cancer Conference
12–14 April 2016, Brisbane

Events and courses

Monday 12 October 2015, in Sydney: The value of justice targets and a justice reinvestment approach, a conversation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda presented by the University of New South Wales.

Over the last decade the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison has increased by nearly 84%, with more than half of the prison youth population and a quarter of all adults in detention being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. Justice reinvestment, as adapted from the American system, is key to creating safer communities and addressing the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system.
**Time & place:** 6:00pm–7:30pm, UNSW CBD Campus. Level 6, 1 O’Connell Street Sydney. More information and RSVP [here](#).

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**Friday 13 November 2015, in Melbourne, short course: CREST (Cultural Respect Encompassing Simulation Training), presented by Victoria University and the University of Melbourne.** This half-day course will provide an opportunity to workshop a range of frameworks for communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD simulated patients, practice using communication tools and participate in exercises with simulated patients. On completion, participants will be able to:

* summarise the national Closing the Gap health initiatives for Indigenous Australians and explain the importance of cultural respect for Indigenous patients
* explain the principles of effective communication with culturally diverse patients and the strategies to facilitate disclosure of sensitive issues, and
* use the Kleinman’s explanatory model and the cross cultural negotiation framework to influence decisionmaking. More information

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**Jobs**

**Indigenous Traineeships at the CSIRO,** several one and two year traineeships are available in various locations around Australia: earn while you learn and achieve a National Certificate qualification.

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**Parliament of Australia Graduate Program,** closing date is 31 October 2015.

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**Research Assistant – Indigenous Suicide Prevention,** fixed term, Centre for Mental Health, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne)
The Research Assistant will support the coordination of an Indigenous suicide prevention study funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The project aims to develop and evaluate a suicide gatekeeper-training course for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and for non-Aboriginal frontline workers, which will empower them to take action to reduce the risk of suicide and self-injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults and youth. **Closing date is 20 October 2015.**

*Only Indigenous Australians are eligible to apply as this position is exempt under the Special Measure Provision, Section 12 (1) of the Equal Opportunity Act 2011 (Vic).*

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**Research Fellow (Epidemiologist),** 18-month full-time appointment, based in Darwin, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Western Australia

The Centre for Research Excellence in Improving Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children (CRE) is located at Princess Margaret Hospital in the School of Paediatrics and Child Health. The CRE is headed by Prof Karen Edmond at UWA and has researchers in Perth, regional Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland. The CRE aims to improve health and developmental outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by conducting research into improving access to health services and quality of care across a range of different health areas. The Research Fellow will provide epidemiological research support to a prestigious NHMRC Center of Research Excellence (CRE) and the Northern Territory Department of Health Child Youth Health (NTDOH) Strategy Unit. **Closing date is 30 October 2015.**

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**Melbourne Poche Indigenous Leadership Fellowship,** Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, University of Melbourne

This Indigenous Leadership (in health) Post-Doctoral Fellowship is being offered to contribute to the
academic dialogue within the Melbourne Poche Centre, and more broadly across the Faculty. The Post-Doctoral Fellowship is available for up to one year, however fellowships of a planned shorter duration will also be considered. The Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health recognises the value of international Indigenous perspectives, knowledges and expertise. Therefore applicants who identify as Indigenous in the country of their citizenship are eligible to apply. **Closing date is 1 November 2015.**

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**Career opportunities at Danila Dilba Health Service in Darwin**

Danila Dilba Health Service is an Aboriginal community controlled organisation that provides comprehensive, high-quality primary health care and community services to Biluru (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) people in Yilil Reung (greater Darwin) region.

**Acute Registered Nurse, full-time, Knuckey Street Clinic**

To facilitate the delivery of acute care within Danila Dilba Health Services, by providing high quality, comprehensive and culturally appropriate clinical care to identified patients with the aim of achieving an increase access for health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. **Closing date is 12 October 2015 COB (ACST)**

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner, full-time, mobile team**

The Aboriginal Health Practitioner within mobile the team will participate in the provision of comprehensive primary health care to the Indigenous people of the Greater Darwin and Palmerston areas. In addition the AHP will provide a support role to other health practitioners both within the organisation and the community. The AHP is crucial to maintaining cultural integrity and advocates strongly for our patients. **Closing date is 19 October 2015 COB (ACST)**

This is an Aboriginal Identified position, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

To be considered for these roles, applicants must address the Selection Criteria, complete a Declaration of Interest Statement and submit with CV.

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**National Manager, The Aurora Education Foundation – The Aspiration Initiative, full-time, based in Melbourne, Sydney or Canberra.**

**Program Coordinator, Western Australia, The Aurora Education Foundation – The Aspiration Initiative, full-time, based in Perth.**

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Jobs in the Family History Unit at [AIATSIS](http://aiatsis.gov.au/) in Canberra:

**Family History Unit Manager**

The Manager of the Unit will: manage and support the team to deliver the Unit’s work program; ensure strong links between the Unit and other parts of the Institute; develop relationships with significant external stakeholders including Link Ups; and manage the training program and Indigenous family history outreach.

**Indigenous Family History Research Officer**

The Indigenous Family History Research Officers will liaise directly with clients of the Family History Unit. They are responsible for providing guided self-help support for people undertaking their own research: accepting and monitoring family history research requests and providing Help Desk clients with support and assistance including briefing them on research results; and participating in the delivery of training. (Note that undertaking the family history research will be done by specialist researchers contracted by AIATSIS.)

These jobs would suit people with experience working in the area of Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing. Closing date is 13 October 2015. For more information, please visit [the](http://aiatsis.gov.au/)
AIATSIS website.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.

Media

Using the Australian bush to improve Indigenous mental health in the Kimberley, by Ben Collins, ABC Kimberley, updated 2 October 2015

"The healing potential of wild landscapes is being used to counter the devastating impact of the history of colonisation on Indigenous mental health in the Kimberley.

It may look like a simple fishing trip in the vast landscape around west Kimberley's Fitzroy River.

But the four-wheel-drive trailing a plume of dust across the seemingly endless mudflat is at the forefront of a progressive mental health initiative running out of the small town of Derby.

For four years, Aboriginal mental health worker James Howard has tackled some of Australia's worst mental health statistics by going bush and building relationships with other Indigenous men…"

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Ken Wyatt becomes first federal Indigenous frontbencher after swearing in as Assistant Health Minister, Anna Henderson, ABC News, updated 30 September 2015

"West Australian Aboriginal MP Ken Wyatt has been sworn into the federal ministry to become the first Indigenous Member of Parliament to reach the frontbench.

The Member for Hasluck was elevated as part of the Turnbull Government reshuffle and will serve as Assistant Health Minister, working with Health Minister Sussan Ley and Rural Health Minister Fiona Nash.

In an interview with Radio National's Patricia Karvelas to be aired after 6:00pm, Mr Wyatt reflected on the symbolic and practical impact of his promotion…"

Ken Wyatt interview on ABC Radio National (Patricia Karvelas, Drive program)

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SA Health renal truck helps APY Lands patients return home during treatment, Natalie Whiting, ABC News, updated 30 September 2015

"Dozens of Indigenous people from South Australia's remote APY Lands have been forced to relocate to receive treatment for kidney disease.

People with end-stage kidney disease must get dialysis every two or three days if they are to survive.

It currently means moving hundreds, sometimes thousands, of kilometres away from family and their community…"

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Racism hits Indigenous students’ attendance and grades, Nicholas Biddle & Naomi Priest, The Conversation, 29 September 2015

"Previous research we undertook showed that racism towards Indigenous students negatively affected school attendance.

In further research we have found not only attendance but wider school outcomes are negatively affected when Indigenous Australians experience racism at school.

‘Closing the Gap’ initiatives ignore racism aspect
Discrepancies between Indigenous and non-Indigenous education outcomes persist despite significant government attention and investment. Since 2008, Australia’s Indigenous Affairs policy platform has been driven by eight targets related to “Closing the Gap”.

Indigenous women have healthier pregnancies if given 'cultural care' study shows, Sylvia Varnham O'Regan, SBS News, 21 September 2015
"Pregnant Indigenous women who are treated by Indigenous carers may have healthier pregnancies than those who receive conventional treatment alone, new research suggests.

A group of pregnant women in Western Australia were treated by Aboriginal midwives, grandmothers and health officers as part of a study by the Aboriginal Maternity Group Practice Program (AMGPP) between July 2011 and December 2012.

Dr Tina Bertilone, of WA Public Health, said the care the women received was "holistic" in nature and included spiritual guidance and cultural advice.

Protecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Australian Human Rights Commission News, 21 September 2015
"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda and National Children’s Commissioner Megan Mitchell last week attended the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family issues conference in the southern hemisphere.

The SNAICC National Conference in Perth was attended by more than 1000 people and featured both local and international keynote speakers.

Commissioner Gooda participated in a panel discussion on ‘The decade ahead: learning from the past to create a new future’. The panel reflected on the past decade and discussed strategies for the decade ahead to raise strong, healthy and proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Publications

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care 6th SNAICC National Conference Communiqué

A reciprocal responsibility: Accountability for public value in the Aboriginal community sector, P. Sullivan 2015, The Lowitja Institute, Melbourne.

Connective Services: Post-prison release support in an urban Aboriginal population, PhD thesis by Dr Megan Williams (UNSW; Lowitja Institute scholarship holder)


Through Australian Policy Online:

**National partnership agreement on Indigenous early childhood development** (second annual report on health performance indicators), AIHW

**Health expenditure Australia 2013–14**, AIHW

**Indigenous intermediaries: new perspectives on exploration archives**

**The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health 2015 accountability report**

**Indigenous belief in a just world: New Zealand Māori and other ethnicities compared**

**Effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit of a single annual professional intervention for the prevention of childhood dental caries in a remote rural Indigenous community**

**Lessons lost in sentencing: Welding individualised justice to Indigenous justice**

**Cancer in Victoria: statistics & trends 2014**

**Tobacco indicators baseline data: reporting under the National Tobacco Strategy 2012–2018**

**Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Corporate Plan 2015–16 to 2018–19**

**National partnership agreement on Indigenous early childhood development**

Through Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin:

**The roadmap to close the gap for vision: summary report September 2015**

**A systematic review of the evidence that swimming pools improve health and wellbeing in remote Aboriginal communities in Australia**

**Improving health service access and wellbeing of young Aboriginal parents in an urban setting: mixed methods evaluation of an arts-based program**

**'It's like going to a cemetery and lighting a candle': Aboriginal Australians, sorry business and social media**

**Rheumatic heart disease in Indigenous children in northern Australia: differences in prevalence and the challenges of screening**

**Review of the cultural safety of a national Indigenous point-of-care testing program for diabetes management**

**Developing a best practice pathway to support improvements in Indigenous Australians’ mental health and well-being: a qualitative study**

**Effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit of a single annual professional intervention for the prevention of childhood dental caries in a remote rural Indigenous community**

**A sexual health quality improvement program (SHIMMER) triples chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing rates among young people attending Aboriginal primary health care services in Australia**

**Ken Wyatt becomes Australia’s first Indigenous frontbencher in Federal parliament**

**Bloodborne viral and sexually transmissible infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: surveillance and evaluation report 2015**

**Iling Sidaun: Torres Strait Islands healing gathering**

**Acute kidney injury in Australia: a first national snapshot.**

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### Scholarships

**Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship**

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program (QES) is a prestigious scholarship program. This joint initiative of the Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and Universities Canada was created through contribution from the Government of Canada, provincial governments, the private sector and individuals. Thirty-four universities will offer scholarship program opportunities to approximately 2000 graduate and undergraduate students within 46 different Commonwealth countries worldwide. The program will develop global citizens, activate a new generation of global leaders, enhance collaborative capacity and relationship building and enable scholars to pursue and amplify community development across the Commonwealth.

http://thelowitjainstitute.cmail2.com/t/ViewEmail/j/767D12A9EA7C67F1/E7AC535A7D1D52C6A4D01E12DB8921D[7/10/2015 4:07:37 PM]
Promoting International-University Partnership in Global and Indigenous Health is an exciting opportunity, funded through the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Program. This program is designed for students to have the chance to go to another Commonwealth country to spend 3-4 months working as an intern with world-class experts in Global and Indigenous health research. Health is understood very broadly. It includes people interested in basic science, clinical science and social science. As long as you are interested in health, disease and/or wellbeing, you are right for this program. You design a project with your proposed mentor that YOU find interesting.

Please visit the website for more information and various closing dates.