

Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2023

Program | Wednesday 11th October 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



'Gulpa gaka' (Welcome)

to Yorta Yorta country to attend the Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conference brought to you by The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health.

Our aim for the conference is to facilitate the exchange of information on key topics in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' health and wellbeing through the delivery of high impact keynote addresses by national leaders from within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The conference also provides a forum for the presentation of cutting-edge program initiatives and research findings in Aboriginal health and wellbeing by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and their colleagues.

Cover Art

Mr Norman Stewart

Community / Language Group: Yorta Yorta

Kidneys of the Dungala, 2014

Acrylic on canvas

Conference MC

The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health Aboriginal team, have successfully selected an outstanding selection of keynote speakers and presenters for this year's Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.



Gwenda Freeman

Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education, The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Gwenda is a Yorta Yorta woman and lives north of Ballarat, on Dja Dja Wurrung country. Gwenda is passionate about rural Aboriginal health and education: the well-being of Aboriginal people and has worked mainly in management and programs areas - with organisations and service providers in Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory.

Gwenda's role is Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education at Melbourne University's Department of Rural Health. She has qualifications in psychology, philosophy, business administration, community services, mental health, volunteer coordination, and teaching and training. Gwenda and her colleague, Raylene Nixon, won the faculty award for Excellence in Indigenous Education – 2021, co-teaching the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities course. She is a Fellow of the ACHSM (Australasian College of Health Service Managers) and won the 2005 ACHSM Victorian 'Fellow of the Year' Award. She has facilitated both Aboriginal and Standard Mental Health First Aid training sessions.



Dr Raylene Nixon

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Dr Raylene Nixon is presenting and you can view her bio in the Presenter Biography section.



Alice Pettit

Project Officer in Aboriginal Health, The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Alice Pettit is presenting and you can view her bio in the Presenter Biography section.



Dr Zubaidah Mohamed Shaburidin

Research Associate – Culture and Rural Health, The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Zubaidah is a migrant settler from Singapore living and working on the lands of the Yorta Yorta people. She is a qualitative researcher with a strong interest in racism, Critical Race scholarship and the anti-racism movement nationally and internationally and has worked on multiple research projects looking into healthcare access for rural residents. Embedding herself into the community, Zubaidah has sat on community and local government advisory boards to pursue advocacy work. Zubaidah also volunteers with grassroots community organisation to support the work they do to provide services for those that fall through the service gap.



Noha Merchant

Research Associate in Rural Mental Health, The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Noha Merchant is a part of the University Department of Rural Health at The University of Melbourne as a research associate in rural mental health. Noha has a background in program evaluation and health promotion and is particularly passionate about mental health and well-being. She's currently conducting an evaluation of an innovative service-learning placement program for psychology, nursing and allied health students based in rural Northeast Victoria.

Welcome from the University of Melbourne



Professor Barry Judd

*Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) Professor Indigenous Studies
The University of Melbourne*

Barry Judd is a distinguished academic and accomplished leader, currently holds the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and Professor of Indigenous Studies in the school of Culture and Communication at the University of Melbourne. As the DVC (Indigenous), he plays a crucial role in shaping the institutional policy, strategy, and guidance on all aspects of Indigenous higher education.

With over 30 years of experience in supporting Indigenous activity in Australian higher education, Professor Judd is widely published and holds several current Australian Research Council research grants. His invaluable contributions to the field of Indigenous Studies are a testament to his exceptional work, inspiring and leading the way for future Indigenous leaders.

Closing comments



Professor Lisa Bourke

Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Professor Lisa Bourke is Director of the University Department of Rural Health program at The University of Melbourne, based in Shepparton. Her current role supports nursing and allied health students to 'go rural' for clinical placements as well as Aboriginal Health education, workforce development and research.

Lisa holds a PhD in Rural Sociology from The Pennsylvania State University and has received ARC and NHMRC funding to understand rural health, cultural inclusion and population health in rural communities. Lisa is also a board member of the Australian Rural Health Education Network and Greater Shepparton Connected Communities.

Lisa has lived in rural areas most of her life and in the Goulburn Valley for over 20 years. She is passionate about improving the quality of life for rural and remote Australians.

Keynote Speakers



Roy Ah-See

First Nations Story Telling Expert

Roy Ah-See is an inspirational leader and current Board Member of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation who will discuss the upcoming Voice to Parliament. He believes land rights and connection to country is integral to the spiritual healing and cultural empowerment of Aboriginal people.

Adversity is a highlight of Roy's journey. He shares his journey with others, and by taking them on a journey of self-discovery, he inspires and motivates people to be the best they can be.



Shelley Ware

MC, Media Personality, Speaker, Educator & Consultant

Shelley Ware is a proud Yankunytjatjara and Wirangu woman from Adelaide, South Australia, who resides in Melbourne. Shelley is an accomplished and well sought-after MC and keynote presenter to corporations and events, espousing her personal journey, perspective on females in sport, racism, Aboriginal issues, and also childhood education. Shelley is an experienced teacher who is passionate about embedding Aboriginal history and culture into classrooms around Australia.



Donnell Wallam

Professional Australian Netballer and 2023 NAIDOC Sportsperson of the Year

Recently named 2023 NAIDOC Sportsperson of the Year and star goal shooter - Donnell Wallam - is the keynote speaker for the upcoming 8th Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.

Originally from Korijekup (Harvey) in Western Australia, Donnell quickly rose to become an international sporting sensation thanks to her exciting and original netball style and her courage in using her voice as a proud Noongar woman to speak out.

She then made her debut for the Australian Diamonds in October 2022 against the England Roses, where she entered the game in the 4th quarter. Donnell not only held her own in this debut but scored the game winning goal on the buzzer in classic Donnell style – a layup. This feat made international headlines, especially as it came after a week of intense media scrutiny after Donnell had raised concerns with comments made by the founder of a potential sponsor.

The star goal shooter was recognised at this year's National NAIDOC Awards ceremony in Brisbane on 8 July 2023. In her acceptance speech, Wallam acknowledged her ancestors, who “carried her through” the game last October, where she helped secure Australia's gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. Donnell is very passionate about First Nations matters and mental health and is an ambassador for Deadly Choices and Diamond Spirit.

Conference Activities



Craft Workshops

Join us for optional group craft workshops with Kaiela Arts to create either a coil weaving installation or group painting. You will be contributing to an art installation that will permanently be on display at the Department of Rural Health to celebrate the 8th Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.

Kaiela Arts is an Aboriginal art centre in Shepparton that references the linear art style, traditional to Kaiela Dungala (Goulburn Murray), Yorta Yorta Country.



Conference Dinner

\$30.00 Conference Dinner (optional)

6:00pm The Connection, 7287 Midland Hwy, Shepparton



Conference Dinner Entertainment

Benny Walker

Singer/Songwriter

Benny Walker is a Yorta Yorta man from Echuca who received a NIMA nomination for the 2021 Best Album for his song 'Chosen Line'. His love songs and epic tales are mixed with passion for people, the land, summer vibes and deep grooves that reach the soul. Benny will be playing at the conference dinner at The Connection.

Conference Program

Wednesday 11th October 2023 (subject to change)

8:30am	Conference registration		
8:50am	Opening ceremony Labyrinth		
9:20am	Conference welcome Lecture theatre		
9:25am	Welcome to country		
9:30am	Welcome from The University of Melbourne	Professor Barry Judd <i>Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous), Professor Indigenous Studies The University of Melbourne</i>	
9:45am	Morning keynote address	Roy Ah-See <i>First Nations Story Telling Expert</i> The Voice to Parliament	
Teaching & Learning room 3, 4 & 5			
10.30am	Morning tea		
Room	Lecture theatre	Conference room 1 & 2	Tute room 2 and courtyard
10:50am	Indigenous innovation to project a voice Dr Tui Crumpen <i>Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow – The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	Self-determination in action: Lessons from the ACCHO sector on bushfires, floods, and a global pandemic Abe Ropitini <i>Executive Director Population Health - VACCHO</i> Jessica Mitchell <i>Executive Manager Workforce Development - VACCHO</i>	Aboriginal craft activities Kaiela Arts – Coil weaving Maximum 30 people You will be contributing to an art installation that will permanently be on display at the Department of Rural Health to celebrate the 8th Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.
11:10am	Restorative justice depends upon acknowledging institutional, structural, and systemic racism. My perspective of the Coronial Inquest process for Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Dr Raylene Nixon <i>Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow - The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	Gambling experiences and supports for the Victorian Aboriginal community Kye Bancroft-Gardiner <i>Aboriginal Research Officer - La Trobe University</i>	
11:30am	Employing Indigenous knowledges to understand the intersection between health and justice Dr Shawana Andrews <i>Director - Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	Curriculum design for a cultural immersion education program for health professionals - On Country 4 Health Dr Ngaree Blow <i>Director - Wurru Wurru Health Unit (First Nations Health) The University of Melbourne</i> A/Lecturer Todd Bennett <i>Associate Lecturer - Wurru Wurru Health Unit (First Nations Health) The University of Melbourne</i> Dr Uncle Wayne Atkinson <i>Senior Fellow - The University of Melbourne</i> David van der Heide <i>Medical student - The University of Melbourne</i>	
11:50am	Breaking my cycle, my story Tammy Chapman <i>Team Leader - National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS)</i>	Understanding how Indigenous students navigate tertiary education Alice Pettit <i>Project Officer in Aboriginal Health – The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	
12:10pm	Break Lecture theatre		
12:15pm	Midday keynote address	Shelley Ware <i>Media Personality, Speaker, Educator & Consultant</i>	

Teaching & Learning room 3, 4 & 5			
1:15pm	Lunch and networking		
Room	Lecture theatre	Conference room 1 & 2	Tute room 2 and courtyard
2:10pm	An evaluation of cultural awareness/safety training offered by Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance (VCCCA) members Brooke Conley <i>Aboriginal Programs Coordinator - Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance</i>	Yarning about the experiences of participants in sleep health yarning circles Stephanie King <i>Research Officer - Murtupuni Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University</i> A/Prof Fatima Yaqoot <i>Principal Research Fellow - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland</i>	Aboriginal craft activities Kaiela Arts – Painting Maximum 30 people You will be contributing to an art installation that will permanently be on display at the Department of Rural Health to celebrate the 8th Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference.
2:30pm	The Rumbalara wellbeing and resilience project Shani Crumpen <i>Dungala Kaiela Research Fellow - The Department of Rural Health and Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne</i> Carli Ellinghaus <i>Research Fellow, Centre for Youth Mental Health, University of Melbourne</i> Christina Ponting <i>Research Assistant - The Kaiela Institute</i>	Co-designing health promotion to address eye care needs Nick Wilson <i>Associate Director - Health Promotion & Community Engagement, Indigenous Eye Health Unit, The University of Melbourne</i> Carol Wynne <i>Translation Research Scholar - Indigenous Eye Health Unit, The University of Melbourne</i>	
2:50pm	Allyship accountability – What are the non-negotiables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? Jaki Adams <i>Director Social Justice and Regional Engagement – The Fred Hollows Foundation</i>	The importance of co-design and stakeholder engagement in achieving equity in genomic health (AEGH) for Indigenous Australians Tala Mitchell <i>Research Assistant - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne</i> Dr Prabhathi Basnayake Ralalage <i>Research Fellow - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne</i> Dr Angeline Ferdinand <i>Evaluation Scientist - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	
3:10pm	Design and delivery of cultural safety assessment in a First Nations context Ellie White <i>Associate Lecturer - First Nations Health Lead, The University of Melbourne</i> Sarah Large <i>First Nations Health Lead - Way of Knowing Program, The University of Melbourne</i>	Improving perinatal care for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families through a culturally responsive, trauma integrated, continuity of care/r: A scoping review and map of toolkits Storm Henry <i>Research Assistant - Indigenous Health Equity Unit, The University of Melbourne</i>	
Teaching & Learning room 3, 4 & 5			
3:30pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:50pm	Lecture theatre		
3:50pm	Education the way to go – Supporting our Aboriginal community with education at The University of Melbourne	Dr Raylene Nixon <i>Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow - The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	
4:00pm	Afternoon keynote address	Donnell Wallam <i>Professional Australian Netballer and NAIDOC Sportsperson of the Year</i>	
4:45pm	Closing comments	Professor Lisa Bourke <i>Director – University Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</i>	
5:00pm	Conference close		
6:00pm	Conference dinner (optional) The Connection		

Presenter Biographies



Indigenous innovation to project a voice

Dr Tui Crumpen

Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow – The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Dr Tui Crumpen is a Torres Strait Islander with expertise in program delivery, strategic planning and partnership facilitation. With 20 years of governance experience across mostly Indigenous organisations, along with a PhD focus on national Indigenous representative bodies, Tui draws on a deep connection and understanding of institutions and social organisation. Tui's expertise has also assisted organisations to navigate the cultural interface and develop structures that can help to bridge the gap. In addition, Tui is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of Rural Health, University of Melbourne, she and has also completed a BA Honours (Sociology) and a Master of Health Social Science. Tui with her family has lived and worked on Yorta Yorta country for over 25 years.

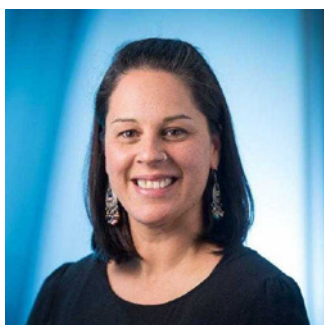


Restorative justice depends upon acknowledging institutional, structural, and systemic racism: My perspective of the Coronial Inquest process for Aboriginal deaths in custody

Dr Raylene Nixon

Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow - The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Raylene is a descendant of the Gungarri people of Southwest Queensland. Currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne's Department of Rural Health in Shepparton. She has extensive experience in Aboriginal Health, Project Management, Community Development and Education. She has Certificates in Community Services, Indigenous and Youth Mental Health and Indigenous Research, a Diploma in Aboriginal Family and Community Counselling, a Master of Health and Social Science (MHSS) and a Doctor of Philosophy with the University of Melbourne. She is skilled in Research, Ecological Evaluations, Strategic Planning, Leadership, Governance, Organizational Development, Community Development and Engagement. Her interests are in strength-based research, governance and leadership in Aboriginal communities. Raylene recently graduated the Atlantic Fellows program where she completed a leadership project.



Employing Indigenous knowledges to understand the intersection between health and justice

Dr Shawana Andrews

Director - Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Shawana is a Palawa Trawlwoolway woman and is Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and a Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Social Work at the University of Melbourne. Shawana has led university-wide Indigenous health teaching and learning initiatives with a focus on Indigenous doctoral advancement and health leadership. Shawana is a social work and public health researcher in areas of Aboriginal mothering, family violence and Aboriginal women's gendered cultural practice. Shawana has 20 years' experience working with the Victorian Aboriginal community throughout a clinical career in paediatric health and in academic roles across research, teaching and learning.



Breaking my cycle, my story

Tammy Chapman

Team Leader - National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS)

Tammy Chapman is from 3 different Aboriginal tribes, Kalkadoon, Ku Ku Yalanji and Nyamal. Tammy commenced working in Aboriginal health in Darwin and currently works for the NDIS as a team leader.

She enjoys many things in life and one of these passions is learning and educating others on Aboriginal histories. Tammy shares her personal story on how she was able to break the cycle and better herself for her family's future.



Self-determination in action: Lessons from the ACCHO sector on bushfires, floods, and a global pandemic

Abe Ropitini

Executive Director Population Health - VACCHO

Abe Ropitini is a Māori man of Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāti Maniapoto iwi, with ancestral links to Palawa Mob from Northeastern Tasmania. His background is in medical anthropology and global health, he has led projects across health, aged care, disability, and Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Abe takes a storytelling approach to centering the legitimacy and importance of culture, kinship, and country in narratives of health and wellbeing. He is the Executive Director of Population Health at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO).



Jessica Mitchell

Executive Manager Workforce Development - VACCHO

Jessica Mitchell is a proud Gunditjmara and Wemba Wemba woman living in Naarm (Melbourne). Jessica has worked in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector for the past 11 years predominately as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner. Working in clinical and leadership roles at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service and Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative has fuelled her passion for preventative health, and for empowering mob to exercise self-determination in their journeys of health.



Gambling experiences and supports for the Victorian Aboriginal community

Kye Bancroft-Gardiner

Aboriginal Research Officer - La Trobe University

Kye Bancroft-Gardiner is employed as Aboriginal Research Officer at La Trobe University. He is working on a project led by the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS). The project aims to provide an understanding of gambling experience and gambling service needs in the Victorian Aboriginal Community. Kye is a First Nation science student, majoring in psychology, who has a passion for research and analysis.



Curriculum design for a cultural immersion education program for health professionals - On Country 4 Health

Dr Ngaree Blow

Director - Wurru Wurru Health Unit (First Nations Health) The University of Melbourne

Dr Ngaree Blow (she/her) is a Quandamooka (Noonuccal Nation), Goreng-Goreng and Yorta-Yorta woman. Ngaree is a medical doctor with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians currently completing her advanced training as a Public Health Physician.

Her passion and speciality are in preventative medicine working as the Director of the Wurru Wurru Health Unit (First Nations Health) for medical education at the University of Melbourne as well as consulting on various public health projects for health services, government and grass roots First Nations led organisations.



A/Lecturer Todd Bennett

Associate Lecturer - Wurru Wurru Health Unit (First Nations Health) The University of Melbourne

Todd has a professional background in both Education and Health. They have worked in both Secondary and Tertiary education sectors. Through these community roles they were appointed as Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) serving within the Goulburn region.

Now working with the Wurru Wurru Health Team, Todd is concurrently studying their Master in Music Research (Interactive Composition). The recipient of the Wilin Scholarship and Melbourne Indigenous Merit Scholarship, their research agenda revolves around Indigenous Knowledges of a spiritual nature that one would normally need to be initiated into. Todd imbues compositions with this knowledge to create informed music.



Dr Uncle Wayne Atkinson

Senior Fellow - The University of Melbourne

Dr Uncle Wayne Atkinson is a Senior Elder (Dhamangalnya) of the Yorta Yorta-Dja Dja Wurrung First Nation Peoples of the Murray-Goulburn and Central Victoria region and Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne. Wayne has worked in Indigenous Affairs for most of his life specialising in research, writing, teaching Indigenous studies, and land-cultural heritage reform. His work in Human Rights Advocacy and Indigenous rights-based issues, including Land Justice and Self Determination is equally comprehensive. Wayne worked on the Yorta Yorta land and heritage struggle and was a Principal Claimant in the Yorta Yorta Native Title Claim (1994-2002). He was responsible for researching and preparing the previous claim for the Barmah Forest in 1984. This particular claim, which was made before the Mabo decision, 1992 formed the basis of the Yorta Yorta v State of Victoria and Ors (1994-2002). He established the On Country for Learning program at the University of Melbourne in the Faculty of Arts and now works alongside the Wurru Wurru Health Unit to adapt the program for medical students in the new On Country 4 Health subject run in August 2023.



David van der Heide

Medical student - The University of Melbourne

David van der Heide is a second-year medical student at the University of Melbourne's Rural Clinical School. He has a background in medical laboratory science with an honours focusing on immunology and infectious disease. While not Indigenous himself, he has become involved in First Nation's health services and community in his rural area through volunteer work. David aims to continue his involvement in First Nations healthcare throughout his career. He believes that supporting empowerment, self-governance, and truth-telling is the path forward for healing as a community.



Understanding how Indigenous students navigate tertiary education

Alice Pettit

Project Officer in Aboriginal Health – The Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne

Alice Pettit is a proud Wemba Wemba, Ngiyampaa and Wiradjuri woman currently working at the Department of Rural Health, University of Melbourne as the Project Officer in Aboriginal Health and Indigenous Primary Health Practitioner. Alice is currently in her final year of her degree, Bachelor of Human Services and Master of Social Work at La Trobe University and shares a natural passion and commitment towards Indigenous health and education.



An evaluation of cultural awareness/safety training offered by Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance (VCCCA) members

Brooke Conley

Aboriginal Programs Coordinator - Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance

Brooke Conley is a Ngiyampaa woman from Cobar, New South Wales. She has completed her Bachelor in Exercise Science and a Master of Physiotherapy Practice at La Trobe University. Brooke is a current PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne within the Department of Physiotherapy. Alongside her PhD, Brooke works as a Physiotherapist at City Baths Spinal and Sports Medicine Clinic and as an Aboriginal Programs Coordinator at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance.



The Rumbalara wellbeing and resilience project

Shani Crumpen

Dungala Kaiela Research Fellow - The Department of Rural Health and Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne

Shani Crumpen is a Torres Strait Islander and a Dungala Kaiela Research Fellow undertaking her PhD with the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science (MDHS) at the University of Melbourne. Shani has a BA Honours (Sociology) and an interest in Indigenous Data Governance, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and Indigenous health and wellbeing. As a Higher Degree Researcher, she aims to use her research and work experience to privilege Indigenous worldviews and advocate Indigenous community agendas and interests.

Her research explores the historical and social implications of archival frameworks on Indigenous health and wellbeing. She has a background as a Research Assistant working across several projects in the Goulburn Murray region including the novel intervention to address methamphetamine use in Aboriginal communities, the COVID-19 response in the Greater Shepparton Aboriginal community, wellbeing and resilience in Indigenous-led sports clubs and cultural inclusivity in mainstream health services.



Carli Ellinghaus

Research Fellow, Centre for Youth Mental Health, University of Melbourne

Carli is a research fellow working in virtual reality youth mental health research in Melbourne. Carli understands First Nations leadership and knowledge as a key driver for positive societal health outcomes.

Carli is a Master of Therapeutic Arts Practice student who is passionate about creative, expressive and digital therapeutic modalities.



Christina Ponting

Research Assistant - Kaiela Institute

Christina is a Gunditjmara women, who lives in Shepparton she is currently working as a Research Assistant in the Algabonyah Data Research Evaluation Unit at the Kaiela Institute. Christina completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 2014, followed by the Graduate Nurse program at GV Health in Shepparton in 2015, where she continued to work as a registered nurse until recently. During this time, Christina also worked as a community RN at the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Medical Clinic and spent a short time in the remote community of Katherine, NT working in Paediatrics.



Allyship accountability – What are the non-negotiables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples?

Jaki Adams

Director Social Justice and Regional Engagement – The Fred Hollows Foundation

Jaki was born and raised in Garramilla (Darwin) on Larrakia Nation Lands and is of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, with ancestral links to the Yadhagana and Wuthathi people of Cape York Peninsula and the Gurindji and Kungarakan peoples of the Northern Territory, and extended family ties across the Torres Straits and Warlpiri (Yuendumu).

In 2022 Jaki completed a Master of Social Change Leadership and is a Global Atlantic Fellow. Her social change project focuses on Allyship Accountability from an Indigenous perspective and is led by the work of Dr Summer May Finlay, a well renowned Yorta Yorta scholar.



Design and delivery of cultural safety assessment in a First Nations context

Ellie White

Associate Lecturer - First Nations Health Lead, The University of Melbourne

Ellie is a proud Kija Bardi woman and Associate Lecturer and First Nations health lead within the Doctor of Physiotherapy at the University of Melbourne. She also works clinically as a physiotherapist at St Vincent's Hospital.

Ellie is particularly passionate about creating positive change to make healthcare and education settings more accessible to and culturally safe for, First Nations Peoples.



Sarah Large

First Nations Health Lead - Way of Knowing Program, The University of Melbourne

Sarah is a proud Biripi Womiri woman. Sarah studied a Bachelor of Applied Science – Physiotherapy at the University of Sydney, graduating with First Class Honours in 2017. With over 5 years of working in the public health sector, Sarah now works as a physiotherapist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and is working towards completing her Master of Public Health, specialising in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (UNSW).



Yarning about the experiences of participants in sleep health yarning circles

Stephanie King

Research Officer - Murtupuni Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University Australia

Ms Stephanie King works at a Research Officer at the Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University, Mount Isa. Stephanie has an associate degree in Indigenous Community Development and Management and a Bachelor of Applied Sciences. As an Indigenous researcher she ensures that the research is culturally appropriate, ethical and takes Indigenous culture and practices into consideration. She is passionate about helping and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are victims of family violence and/or sexual assault in rural and remote communities.



A/Prof Fatima Yaqoot

Principal Research Fellow - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland

A/Prof Fatima leads the Let's Yarn About Sleep Program (LYAS) at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland. The LYAS program focuses on the sleep health of First Nations peoples and aims to leverage the untapped potential of sleep health to improve health and well-being outcomes for First Nations peoples. Fatima has extensive experience co-designing programs and service models and building First Nations health workforce for sleep equity in First Nations communities. Her work has received funding from the Medical Research Future Fund, NHMRC and several other industry partners.



Co-designing health promotion to address eye care needs

Nick Wilson

Associate Director - Health Promotion & Community Engagement, Indigenous Eye Health Unit, The University of Melbourne

Nick Wilson joined the IEHU in 2018 in the role of Marketing & Communications Officer. In 2021 he transitioned to the role of Trachoma Program Manager. Nick's current role involves engaging a broad range of stakeholders to advance activities and efforts to Close the Gap for Vision – with a particular focus on the elimination of trachoma in Australia by 2022.



Carol Wynne

Translation Research Scholar - Indigenous Eye Health Unit, The University of Melbourne

Carol Wynne commenced in the role of Translation Research Scholar with the Indigenous Eye Health Unit (IEHU) at the University of Melbourne in 2014. Carol has over 10 years' experience working in Aboriginal health in the Northern Territory and Victoria, with a particular focus on grassroots level community development and health promotion. She has also worked for local government, and various NGOs, in Ireland, South East Asia, Mongolia and Africa. Carol has a strong interest in public health and completed her Master of Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2005. In her role with IEHU, Carol is working with the IEHU team to support regional implementation of the Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision across Australia.

The importance of co-design and stakeholder engagement in achieving equity in genomic health (AEGH) for Indigenous Australians



Tala Mitchell

Research Assistant - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Tala Mitchell is a Wemba Wemba and Yorta Yorta woman. Tala has a nursing background and completed the Master of Public Health (MPH) through the University of Melbourne in 2019. Currently Tala is employed as a research assistant for the University of Melbourne within the Melbourne School of Population & Global Health. The project Tala is working on is improving access to clinical genetic services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Tala also coordinates an Indigenous led program, the Summer Internship for Indigenous Peoples in Genomics (SING). This initiative aims to strengthen Indigenous engagement and participation within genomic related disciplines.



The importance of co-design and stakeholder engagement in achieving equity in genomic health (AEGH) for Indigenous Australians

Dr Prabhathi Basnayake Ralalage

Research Fellow - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Dr Prabhathi Basnayake is a medical anthropologist specialising in global and public health. She has experience in conducting research in Australia, South Asia and SE Asia on projects related to breast cancer and screening research, health systems, migrant health, and community focused health care. She has also experience in qualitative methodologies and survey designing. Prabhathi has also a number of years in bi and multilateral project management.



Dr Angeline Ferdinand

Evaluation Scientist - Melbourne School of Population & Global Health, The University of Melbourne

Dr Angeline Ferdinand is an evaluation scientist with the Evaluation and Implementation Science Unit at Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. Angeline has 15 years of experience evaluating health policies and programs, particularly those that aim to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

Her work has a strong focus on health equity and participatory methods.

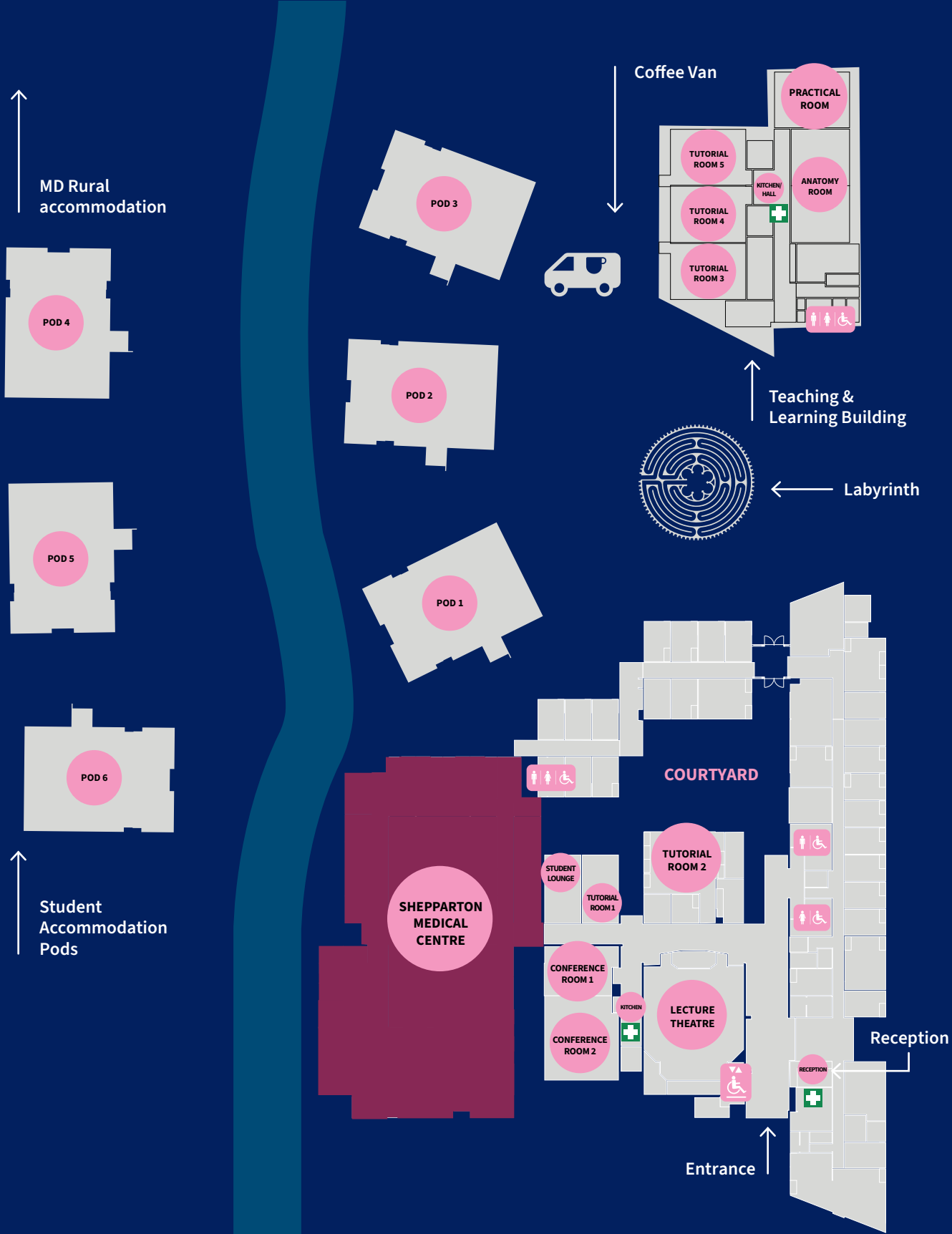


Storm Henry

Research Assistant - Indigenous Health Equity Unit, The University of Melbourne

Storm (Pitjantjatjara) is a Registered Midwife/Nurse working as a Research Assistant on the Indigenous Health Equity Unit at the University of Melbourne. She also works with First Nations families in the Baggarook caseload team at the Royal Women's Hospital and is undertaking a Masters in Primary Maternity Care through Griffith University. Storm is passionate about decolonising birth and views pregnancy, birth and parenthood through the lens of social and emotional wellbeing, rather than a biomedical event.


The Department of Rural Health Shepparton Campus






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