Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal Health Conference
Shepparton

11-12 October 2017
Department of Rural Health
49 Graham Street
Shepparton VIC 3630

RSVP: Please register
www.trybooking.com/299159
# Program Day 1

**Wednesday 11th October, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker/Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15- 8:45am</td>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Conference Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Professor Julian Wright - Head of Department, Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:25am</td>
<td>Welcome to The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Professor Gracelyn Smallwood - Professor of Nursing and Midwifery and Professor of Indigenous Matters, Central Queensland University</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Evaluating Feltman: A diabetes education tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities</td>
<td>Mr Colin Mitchell - Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Diabetes Victoria Ms Jennifer Browne - Public Health Nutritionist, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>The Journey of the Academy of Sport, Health and Education 2004 – 2017 (ASHE)</td>
<td>Mr Corey Walker - Senior Student Services Co-ordinator Mr Jamie Atkinson - Cultural &amp; Family Liaison Officer Academy of Sport, Health and Education, The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Central Hume Aboriginal Health Model</td>
<td>Mr Chris Thorne - Aboriginal Community Support Worker Ms Jenny Ashby - Executive Officer, Central Hume Primary Care Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Mr Jason Mifsud - Executive Director of Aboriginal Victoria Department for Premier and Cabinet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Regional implementation in ‘Closing the Gap for Vision’</td>
<td>Mr Nick Schubert - Senior Research Fellow, Indigenous Eye Health Ms Shannon Drake - Director of Clinical Services, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Mr Levi Lovett - Statewide Eye Health Project Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm</td>
<td>Yarning Session</td>
<td>Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and Mr Jason Mifsud - A discussion session regarding the recent Treaty proposal and its effect on Aboriginal Health. Followed by question time from the audience.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Associate Professor Terry Dunbar - Director, Yaitya Purruna Indigenous Health Unit, Faculty Health and Medical Sciences, The University of Adelaide</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15pm</td>
<td>Conclude Day 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30pm</td>
<td>Conference Dinner</td>
<td>The Connections (Shepparton/Mooroopna Causeway)</td>
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## Program Day 2

**Thursday 12th October, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker/Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Keynote Address</td>
<td>Professor Megan Davis&lt;br&gt;Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous&lt;br&gt;University of NSW (UNSW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Empowering our Women, Children and Families - Holistic and Integrated</td>
<td>Ms Jessie Barnes&lt;br&gt;Director: Empowered Women, Children and Families&lt;br&gt;Ms Deb Walsh&lt;br&gt;Director of Community Services&lt;br&gt;Ms Cindy McGee&lt;br&gt;Director: Health and Wellbeing Services&lt;br&gt;Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>ASHE, Goulburn Murray Indigenous Nursing Program</td>
<td>Ms Leonie Dwyer&lt;br&gt;Manager, Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE)&lt;br&gt;The University of Melbourne&lt;br&gt;Ms Kelly D’Angelo&lt;br&gt;Student of Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30am</td>
<td>Mainstream Health meets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Melbourne’s Western Suburbs</td>
<td>Ms Lexine Solomon&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access Worker&lt;br&gt;Ms Louise McKenzie&lt;br&gt;Manager, Health Promotion and Community Strengthening Improving and Promoting Community Health (IPC Health)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>Novel Interventions to Address Methamphetamine Use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities</td>
<td>Ms Janice Muir&lt;br&gt;Site Co-ordinator for the NIMAC project&lt;br&gt;Kaiela Institute&lt;br&gt;Ms Rachel Reilly&lt;br&gt;Study Co-ordinator&lt;br&gt;South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45pm</td>
<td>Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the hospital environment</td>
<td>Ms Porsha Atkinson&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal Health Transition Officer&lt;br&gt;Ms Cynthia Scott&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer&lt;br&gt;Ms Carol Collie&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer&lt;br&gt;GV Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm</td>
<td>Reflections on formal studies for Aboriginal staff</td>
<td>Ms Gwenda Freeman&lt;br&gt;Associate Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education&lt;br&gt;The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm</td>
<td>Improving mental health treatment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with moderate to severe mental illness - reducing the impact of parental mental illness</td>
<td>Ms Mikaela Adams&lt;br&gt;Cultural Connections Support Worker&lt;br&gt;Mr Peter Treloar&lt;br&gt;Project Manager&lt;br&gt;Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm</td>
<td>Reflections on the Conference</td>
<td>Professor Lisa Bourke&lt;br&gt;Director, Department of Rural Health&lt;br&gt;The University of Melbourne</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>Conference close</td>
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*Thank you for your attendance*
Gracelyn Smallwood, **Professor of Nursing and Midwifery and Professor of Indigenous Matters**

**Closing the Gap??**

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood is Professor of Nursing and Midwifery at Central Queensland University and Adjunct Professor at the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine at James Cook University (JCU), Townsville, Queensland (QLD).

She is a Birrigubba, Kalkadoon and South-Sea Islander woman born in Townsville in 1951. She grew up in a condemned house with a dirt floor, 18 siblings (14 of us in one family, five more when my father re-married) of whom she is the third eldest. In 1972, she became a registered nurse and used her qualifications to work in communities such as Alice Springs, Palm Island, remote Western Australia and South Australia. She was a volunteer member of the Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health service in 1974, and worked as a volunteer Registered Nurse with two volunteer Doctors. Later she became a registered midwife.

She was awarded the Queensland Aboriginal of the Year in 1986 and an Order of Australia in 1992 for service to public health, particularly HIV-AIDS education.

In 1993, she was the first Indigenous Australian to receive a Masters of Science in Public Health (JCU) for her work on HIV education in North Queensland Indigenous communities. She has been employed as an advisor to the World Health Organisation on HIV/AIDS and Indigenous communities, and by the Queensland Health Minister Ken McElligot and Queensland Minister for Family Services Ann Warner because of her expertise on health and domestic violence inequalities.

In 2007 she had one of her greatest achievements, the Deadly Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in Indigenous Health. She was especially delighted with this award, as it is peer- and community judged.

In 2011, she completed her PhD thesis Human Rights and First Australians Well-being.

In October 2013 she was awarded the United Nations Association of Australia Queensland Community Award - Individual, in recognition of service to public health, in particular HIV AIDS; contribution to Australian Universities, and consultation to the World Health Organisation. In 2014, she received the prestigious award of NAIDOC Person of the Year.

In 2015 she was appointed Member, The Harvard FXB Health and Human Rights Consortium.

Mr Colin Mitchell, **Aboriginal Liaison Officer**

Diabetes Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

**Evaluating Feltman: A diabetes education tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**

Colin Mitchell has been the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Diabetes Victoria since 2009. He is a former Aboriginal Health Worker with 21 years’ experience at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, where he discovered a passion for Diabetes. He has been working in Aboriginal Health for 31 years now.

Ms Jennifer Browne, **Public Health Nutritionist**

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

**Evaluating Feltman: A diabetes education tool for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**

Jennifer Browne is a dietitian and diabetes educator who has been working at VACCHO since 2006. Much of her work at VACCHO has been in partnership with Diabetes Victoria developing diabetes prevention and management initiatives for the Victorian Aboriginal Community.

Mr Corey Walker, **Senior Student Services Co-ordinator**

Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE), The University of Melbourne

**The Journey of the Academy of Sport, Health and Education 2004 - 2017**

Corey Walker is a local Yorta Yorta man from the Goulburn Murray region. He has worked in the local Aboriginal community through the Academy of Sport, Health and Education for the last 11 years as Senior Student Services Co-ordinator.
Mr Nick Schubert, Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne

Regional implementation in ‘Closing the Gap for Vision’

Nick Schubert started in the role of Senior Research Fellow with Indigenous Eye Health (IEH), University of Melbourne in January 2016. Nick has a background of rural health workforce policy and program delivery across Australia at community, state and national levels. He is also currently undertaking a part-time PhD with James Cook University in rural health sciences exploring global approaches to rural medical generalism. In his role with IEH, Nick is working with a number of regions and jurisdictions across Australia to support the implementation of the Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision (2012), as well as working on a number of key underpinning projects in support of this work.
Ms Shannon Drake, Director of Clinical Services, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

Regional implementation in ‘Closing the Gap for Vision’
Shannon Drake, a proud Wamba Wamba/Jaara woman is fully aware of the trauma, oppression and disparity faced by Aboriginal people. As a proud Aboriginal woman with a Bachelor of Nursing, working at Rumbalara for over 16 years and a Masters of Public Health student, she believes it’s imperative to instil values of an egalitarian health paradigm to create self-determination and empowerment.

Shannon’s greatest passion is inspiring Aboriginal people to emerge and embrace cultural practices whilst being autonomous. The fundamental principle to advance the social and health disparity faced by Aboriginal people is ensuring they are the key stakeholders in their own futures.

Mr Levi Lovett, Statewide Eye Health Project Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)

Regional implementation in ‘Closing the Gap for Vision’
Levi Lovett is the Statewide Eye Health Project Officer with VACCHO. Levi is working across Victoria to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and to build the coordination between organisations responsible for Aboriginal eye health services, advocacy, funding and policy.

Professor Gracelyn Smallwood and Mr Jason Mifsud

Yarning session
A Yarning session regarding the recent Treaty proposal and its effect on Aboriginal Health.

Followed by question time from the audience.

Associate Professor Terry Dunbar, Director Yalitja Purruwa Indigenous Health Unit, Faculty Health and Medical Sciences, Adelaide University

Preliminary key messages from Qualitative Field Research:
Rural/Remote Indigenous expressions about their health service delivery

Terry is an Iwaidja, Larrakia and Warumungu woman. Her areas of research expertise incorporate: research design; qualitative and quantitative research; research ethics; Indigenist research methodologies; Indigenous health service, program, policy evaluation; Indigenous community learning pathways (adult learning) and development; and Aboriginal health. Key research delivered includes: Aboriginal social determinants of health; Aboriginal birthing; Aboriginal early childhood learning programs; cultural security, research ethics; Indigenous methods; professional development; Aboriginal tertiary support programs; Indigenous domestic violence programs; women’s Indigenous knowledge and health systems and policies.

She has worked on Research Ethics Committees at the NHMRC level and organisation level since 1996. Member on the NHMRC AHEC Committee for two terms (6 years), Member on the writing group for the current two Indigenous Ethics documents and also involved with finalising of the new iteration of these National Indigenous Research Ethics documents.

31 Journal articles and conference papers published
15 Conference presentations
Editor 1 Social Determinants
7 Book Chapters
21 Research Reports
GRANTS: 5 NHMRC Research Grants, 1 CRCAH Grant, 3 ARC Grants, 1 Commonwealth Government Consultancy, AMSANT Consultancy, World Vision Australia, 2 AHURI Grants, 4 NT Government consultancies.
### Speaker Biographies

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<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Biography</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Professor Megan Davis</strong>, Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous, University of NSW</td>
<td><strong>TBC</strong></td>
<td>Megan Davis is a Cobble Cobble Aboriginal woman who grew up in the North Burnett, in Hervey Bay and Eagleby (Logan City). Megan is a Professor of Law, Faculty of Law, UNSW and a Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court. Professor Davis is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and a member of the NSW Sentencing Council. Megan is the current Chair and expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues which is the peak United Nations body coordinating indigenous issues across the UN system that includes over 200 UN agencies and 195 member states. Megan has recently been appointed as Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous at the University of NSW.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ms Jessie Barnes</strong>, Director: Empowered Women, Children and Families, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
<td><strong>Empowering our Women, Children and Families</strong></td>
<td>A Wiradjuri woman, whose family comes from Trangie in NSW. Lived in Shepparton region since she was 9 years of age. Majority of Jessie’s working history is within the Aged Care sector. Starting off as a personal care attendant, moving through a variety of roles from administration to Manager of Home Care Packages at Rumbalara. Jessie was afforded the opportunity to take up the role of Director of Empowered Women, Children &amp; Families at Rumbalara. “Our CEO asked us a question, if we were the last generation to experience intergenerational trauma, what would we need to do break it? That’s why I’m in the role I am today, to make a contribution to the health and happiness of our people and the generations to come.”</td>
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<td><strong>Ms Cindy McGee</strong>, Director: Health and Wellbeing Services, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
<td><strong>Empowering our Women, Children and Families</strong></td>
<td>Cindy McGee is a local Indigenous woman who was raised in Shepparton. She has a background in Education, Employment, Welfare and Health. She has been employed at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative for 3.5 years in various roles including Quality and Risk. Her passion is to ensure all community receive a quality of service either at RAC or via mainstream organisations. Closing the Gap in Health, Wellbeing, Education and Employment to ensure the longevity of this community and our organisation.</td>
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<td><strong>Ms Deb Walsh</strong>, Director of Community Services, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
<td><strong>Empowering our Women, Children and Families</strong></td>
<td>Deb is a Gungarri woman whose homeland is South West Queensland. A mother of two and grandmother of six. Deb has lived and worked in the Victorian Indigenous communities for over 35 years. Her experience has been working in the Government sector and in the local communities both rural and metropolitan. Deb has an Advanced Diploma in Business Management, is a qualified Family Therapist and has also undertaken various training in management and is a Justice of the Peace for Victoria. Deb has delivered training and advice to various sectors in the community and advocated strongly on social justice issues that affect our communities.</td>
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<td><strong>Ms Leonie Dwyer</strong>, Manager of the Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE), The University of Melbourne</td>
<td><strong>Goulburn Murray Indigenous Nursing Program</strong></td>
<td>Yorta Yorta woman, wife and mother who was born, raised and educated in Shepparton. Advocate for Indigenous Youth as the Manager of The Academy of Sport, Health &amp; Education (ASHE), she has been employed at ASHE for the past 10 years and strongly values the concept and innovation supporting, advocating, mentoring and educating Indigenous youth, particularly in an environment that makes them feel safe, supported and culturally alive. She has a strong belief in young people having access and knowledge to their land and language - it is vital to their own Health and Well-being.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ms Kelly D’Angelo</strong>, Student of Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE), The University of Melbourne</td>
<td><strong>Goulburn Murray Indigenous Nursing Program</strong></td>
<td>Kelly is a descendant of Dolly Dalrymple and comes from the Briggs Genealogy Family in Tasmania. Kelly belongs to the Palawa Mob and also has many connections to the Yorta Yorta around this area, which has been quite a journey for her to find out the close relationship to the people of this area, who are also related to her family. Kelly D’Angelo is a mother of 5 and lives in Shepparton. Kelly commenced full time study in 2016 with the ASHE Goulburn Murray Indigenous Nursing Program. Kelly recently graduated with her Diploma of Nursing and has now commenced her Bachelor of Nursing with Latrobe University, Shepparton. Kelly will study full time for 18 months and looking forward to working as a Division 1 Registered Nurse once she is qualified. Kelly wants to encourage and inspire other Indigenous students to gain their qualification in Nursing.</td>
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Speaker Biographies

Thursday 12th October, 2017

Ms Lexine Solomon, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access Worker, Improving and Promoting Community Health

Mainstream Health meets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Melbourne’s Western Suburbs
Lexine is a member of staff at IPC Health. She is from North Queensland; her father is from Badu Island in the Torres Straits. She is now living and working in Melbourne’s Western Suburbs and enjoying collaborating with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community across Brimbank, Wyndham and Hobsons Bay. She has received a BA from UTS, and a BA Honours from Deakin University. She is now a PhD Candidate with Batchelor Institute.

She is passionate about raising the concern and profile for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who connect to this organisation (IPC Health) and seek out ways to build stronger relationships and support them through their health journey to better health outcomes.

Ms Louise McKenzie, Manager, Health Promotion and Community Strengthening

Mainstream Health meets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Melbourne’s Western Suburbs
Louise is a Health Manager and mother of three beautiful young children, living and working in Melbourne’s West. She is passionate about enabling better health outcomes for the community, motivated to help close health inequalities that currently exist, particularly for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Elders Community Lounge initiative at IPC Health is the tree that can help connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to navigate the mainstream health system in a supportive and culturally safe way, along with building stronger relationships, connections to support, to promote better health outcomes.

Ms Janice Muir, Site Co-ordinator for the NIMAC project, Kaiela Institute

Novel Interventions to Address Methamphetamine Use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
Jan respectfully acknowledges her Yorta Yorta father, Bevan Nicholls and Ngurrindjeri mother, Lettie Nicholls nee Karpany.

Jan recently moved back to Shepparton to work at Kaiela Institute to assist with the development of a new framework for the Algabonyah Community Cabinet, as well as being Research assistant to Rachel Reilly from SA Health and Medical Research Institute. The research will gather information looking at novel interventions to address methamphetamine use in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

Jan has worked and volunteered in various Aboriginal community controlled organisations over the years as well as working in government to deliver specific Aboriginal strategies.

Ms Rachel Reilly, Study Co-ordinator, South Australia Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)

Novel Interventions to Address Methamphetamine Use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
Rachel Reilly is a health psychologist with experience working in community-based health promotion and psychological practice in a range of settings. She is study coordinator for this national project, based in the Infection and Immunity-Aboriginal Health theme at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute in Adelaide.

Ms Porsha Atkinson, Aboriginal Health Transition Officer, GV Health

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the hospital environment
Porsha is a Bangerang woman from Shepparton she has been working for GV Health for five years now. Her role gives her great pride and satisfaction by helping members of her community. She has experienced the frustration in having to wait in the Emergency Department, to the point where she has left without being seen. She understands the dissatisfaction that people feel while waiting in the waiting room at Emergency. Her lived experience helps her to work better with and assist the community members when they present to GV Health. She started her Diploma of Nursing this year to further her qualifications and to have a career in health long term.
Ms Cynthia Scott, Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer, GV Health

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the hospital environment

Cynthia is a Yorta Yorta woman from the Goulburn Valley Region and is a proud mother of two sons and two grandchildren. Cynthia has been employed at GV Health for the past 10 years (2007-2017). She has worked in many roles and continues to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, for 30 plus years. She has volunteered her time for many years at Rumbalara Football Netball Club as Team Manager for both Juniors and Senior players and coached and played netball with the RNFC. Also, she has been Team Manager of the Tallygaroopna Football Netball Club under 18’s, to provide support to other Aboriginal young men and their families. Cynthia is passionate about improving the Health and well-being and outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the community accessing GV Health. She wants to support them with their journey at GV Health, ensuring they receive the right care at the right time.

Ms Carol Collie, Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer, GV Health

Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the hospital environment

Carol is a proud Yorta Yorta and Dja Dja Wurrung woman. Carol works as an Aboriginal Liaison Officer at GV Health, to provide social, emotional and cultural support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients. Carol is passionate about her work to help bridge the health gap between the Aboriginal community and government services, she is a strong advocate for patients and their families, and provides information about hospital services, and assists with referrals for patients to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations. Having an Aboriginal Liaison Officer available at GV Health is vitally important to help community members feel safe and comfortable to access hospital services, and someone who can explain a procedure more fully, in a way or in a language they can understand, makes a huge difference. Carol has worked in the health and welfare sector for many years in the Shepparton area, with the Department of Human Services, Child Protection and with Foster Care at Berry Street. Underpinning her working experience, Carol has an Associate Diploma in Social Science Aboriginal Welfare and Community Services. Carol’s extensive work experience and empathy is a great resource at GV Health.

Ms Gwenda Freeman, Associate Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education, The University of Melbourne

Reflections on formal studies for Aboriginal staff

Gwenda is of Yorta Yorta descent and grew up in Melbourne as one of seven children. After some bookkeeping jobs and some general nurse training (interrupted by her fourth pregnancy) she commenced a career in the Health Management area. Gwenda’s role with the University of Melbourne is a mix of teaching, research, projects, and support for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) and a Master of Business Administration, plus several Diploma and Certificate IV qualifications. She is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Managers. She has spent the past ten years working in Queensland and the Northern Territory, including several remote Aboriginal communities, in the provision of organisational and Government funded services, in areas such as mental health, families and children, youth, justice, and community development. She is committed to working to improve health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Ms Mikaela Adams, Cultural Connections Support Worker, Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative

Improving mental health treatment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with moderate to severe mental illness - reducing the impact of parental mental illness

Mikaela was born in Darwin and comes from the Yadhigana/Wuthuri people of Cape York Peninsula and the Gurindji people of Central Western Northern Territory. Her position at the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative is Cultural Connections Support Worker as part of the Keela Borron Project. Her role has two main components, the first is to provide cultural knowledge and support for participants and other services/agencies involved. The second is to implement a therapeutic model that is culturally designed and based on traditional practices and methodologies.

Mr Peter Treloar, Project Manager, Keela Borron, Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative

Improving mental health treatment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with moderate to severe mental illness - reducing the impact of parental mental illness

Peter is a credentialed Psychiatric Nurse with over 30 years’ experience in the mental health field as both a clinician and manager. Having worked in public mental health for 27 years. Peter completed his Master’s Degree in Mental Health/Psychiatric Nursing and moved into clinical management. Peter completed a Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies and now works as a Social and Emotional Wellbeing (Dual Diagnosis) Nurse and Project Manager at the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative. Peter’s particular interest is Aboriginal men’s health and wellbeing and health promotion.