



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Melbourne Medical School
Department of Rural Health

Yanikan-werritj Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2018

Ballarat

17 October 2018

The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural
Health & Western Victoria Primary Health Network

The Mercure Hotel & Convention Centre,
613 Main Rd, Ballarat

RSVP: Please register
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phn
WESTERN VICTORIA

An Australian Government Initiative



Yanikan-werritj

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2018

Welcome to the Yanikan-werritj Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2018 brought to you by The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health in partnership with Western Victoria Primary Health Network.

Our aim for the conference is to facilitate the exchange of information on key issues 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.

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 Yanikan-werritj Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2018.

Ms Leah Lindrea- Morrison

Aboriginal Partnerships & Community Engagement Officer – The University of Melbourne

Leah is a Yorta Yorta woman and will be MC for the Yanikan-werritj Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference. Leah has a background in Employment, Aged Care and Health, supporting and advocating for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Leah is a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference group, Breast Cancer Network Australia.

Ms Gwenda Freeman

Associate Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education – The University of Melbourne

Gwenda Freeman is a Yorta Yorta woman with university qualifications in psychology and management. She has worked in Aboriginal services and management in Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory. She is committed to truth-telling and the empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Gwenda is an instructor for Aboriginal and Standard Mental Health First Aid and is also a member of the National Rural Health Alliance - Friends committee, and a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Management.

Ms Trudie Newman

Research Assistant in Aboriginal Health – The University of Melbourne

Trudie is a proud Kurnu-Baakindji women, she has previously worked within the Aboriginal community in the Goulburn Murray region, before more recently moving into Aboriginal Health. Trudie is currently working on a research project focusing on Strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers in the Goulburn Murray Region. Trudie is passionate about creating a healthier future for Aboriginal Communities as well as the health and wellbeing of our local Aboriginal population.



L-R Ms Trudie Newman, Ms Leah Lindrea-Morrison and Ms Gwenda Freeman

Keynote Speakers

Wednesday 17th October, 2018



Professor Kerry Arabena

Chair for Indigenous Health and Director of the Indigenous Health Equity Unit and Executive Director, First 1000 Days Australia at The University of Melbourne.

First 1000 Days Australia

A descendent of the Meriam people from the Torres Strait, she has a Doctorate in Human Ecology and a degree in Social Work. Professor Arabena is the Executive Director and Lead Investigator on the First 1000 Days Australia, an intervention based pre-birth multigenerational cohort study designed with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The model aims to provide a coordinated, comprehensive strategy to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, so they can address their children's needs from pre-conception to two years of age, thereby laying the best foundation for their future health and wellbeing.

Professor Arabena is currently President of the International Association of Ecology and Health and has an extensive background in public health, administration, community development and research, her work has made significant contributions in areas such as sexual and reproductive health, family violence, gender issues, access and equity, service provision, and harm minimisation. Professor Arabena is currently a member of the Aboriginal Economic Board in Victoria, OzChild, Indigenous Community Volunteers, Kinnaway Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and the Victorian Aboriginal

Economic Board of Development. She is an author and business owner; a mother and a grandmother with interests in achieving equity for all Australians.

Links to Websites and Social Media:

www.first1000daysaustralia.org.au/

@First1000DaysOz

@ArabenaKerry

ecohealthinternational.org/



Ms Nova Peris OAM OLY

Former Athlete and Politician

'Because of her, we can'

Over the past three decades, barely a year has passed where Nova Peris has not displayed excellence in some area of her life. Certainly, she has seldom stood still, always determined to educate and re-educate, in order to give herself the best possible opportunity to not only develop her own prospects in life, but, equally as importantly, those of her people throughout Australia and the Torres Strait Islands.

Whether in sport, federal politics, or any number of former and current work environments, Nova has remained at the forefront of the conversation for the best part of 30 years. Indeed, she has led the conversation!

Nova was a trailblazer in her sporting pursuits, competing at Olympic level in two sports while juggling the demanding role of being a young mother. Then, post her sporting career, she smashed through another glass ceiling by becoming the first Aboriginal woman elected to Federal Parliament.

Since the mid-1990s, she has spoken regularly on the plights facing Aboriginal people and has visited hundreds of communities throughout Australia to gain as much of an insight as possible into the issues facing people from all walks of life.

Utilising the significant platform of Federal Parliament, in particular, Nova has given a voice to thousands of people who otherwise go unheard. She has undoubtedly made an enormously positive and life-changing impact on young Aboriginal people, not just through her words but also her actions.

Her ability to be able to speak equally with people from all socioeconomic backgrounds gives Nova a unique approachability and relatability that sets her apart from many with similar platforms and responsibilities. Nova is certainly an inspirational and brilliant role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Keynote Speakers

Wednesday 17th October, 2018



Professor Tom Calma AO

Chancellor, The University of Canberra

Close the Gap Campaign and the Governments Closing the Gap response

Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program

Professor Calma is an Aboriginal Elder from the Kungarakan (Koong ara kun) tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja (Ee wad ja) tribal group whose traditional lands are south west of Darwin and on the Cobourg Peninsula in the Northern Territory of Australia, respectively. He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and worked in the public sector for over 40 years and is currently on a number of boards and committees focussing on rural and remote Australia, health, education, justice reinvestment, research, leadership, reconciliation and economic development.

Professor Calma was the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission from 2004 to 2010. He also served as Race Discrimination Commissioner from 2004 until 2009.

Through his 2005 Social Justice Report, Professor Calma called for the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to be closed within a generation and advocated embedding a social determinants philosophy into public policy around health, education and employment in order to address Indigenous inequality gaps. This spearheaded the Close the Gap for Indigenous Health Equality Campaign resulting in COAG's Closing the Gap response in December 2007.

Professor Calma has since 2010 held the position of National Coordinator Tackling Indigenous Smoking (0.5) and he was appointed a Professor (0.5) at the University of Sydney Medical School from 1 January 2015 to perform the role of Chair and Patron of the Poche Indigenous Health Network.

He has many awards including being named by Australian Doctor Magazine (2010) as one of the 50 Most Influential People in medicine in Australia, Indigenous Allied Health Australia's Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 in recognition of his lifelong dedication to improving the lives of Indigenous Australians and the Public Health Association of Australia's pre-eminent Sidney Sax Public Health Medal (2015) for notable contribution to the protection and promotion of public health, advancing community awareness of public health measures and advancing the ideals and practice of equity in the provision of health care.

Professor Calma will deliver the Dinner Speech where he will discuss the Closing the Gap Campaign.

Welcome to Country

Ms Bonnie Chew



Ms Bonnie Chew

Welcome to Country and Evening MC

A proud Wadawurrung woman, an activist and advocate for her Australian Aboriginal heritage with many years' experience in Aboriginal cultural heritage management, education, Aboriginal incarceration and health. Bonnie is the director of Mirriyu Cultural Consulting a business she established in 2016 after seeing a gap in Cultural information and education. Bonnie is an accredited Mental Health First Aid instructor and more recently an Indigenous Health Consultant for PHN. Bonnie currently holds two state Ministerial appointments, Indigenous Independent Prison Visitor and Victoria's Indigenous heritage representative on the Public Records Advisory Council.

Program Day 1

Wednesday 17th October, 2018

8:15–8:45am	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FOYER	
8:50am	OPENING CEREMONY	
9:20am Room 1	WELCOME The University of Melbourne	Professor Lisa Bourke Director - University Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne
9:25am Room 1	WELCOME Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN)	Dr Leanne Beagley CEO - Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN)
9:35am Room 1	KEYNOTE ADDRESS First 1000 Days Australia	Professor Kerry Arabena Chair for Indigenous Health Director Indigenous Health Equity Unit Executive Director - First 1000 Days Australia The University of Melbourne
10.30am	MORNING TEA	
CONCURRENT SESSIONS – MORNING		
10:50am	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
30 min	‘Strong Mums, Strong Bubs’ Australian Nurse – Family Partnership Program Ms Jessie Barnes Executive Manager of Empowering Women, Children and Families Ms Rebecca Kelleher Nurse Supervisor Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative	Strong Proud Healthy and Safe: An Evidence Based Approach to Sexual Health and Relationships Education in Far North Queensland Schools Ms Helga Scott Head of Curriculum: Sexual Health and Relationships Education Far North Queensland Region Queensland Department of Education Mr Mario Assan Senior Public Health Officer: Indigenous Sexual Health Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Queensland Health
11:20am	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
40 min	One Village - collaboration in the Greater Shepparton Early Years Sector - Learnings and Reflections Ms Miranda Edwards Director of Lulla’s Children and Family Centre Ms Deb Walsh Executive Manager of Community Services Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ms Claire Tarelli Program Co-ordinator, Greater Shepparton Communities for Children Catholic Care Sandhurst	Improving Clinical Care and pathways in Ballarat Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients Ms Emma Leehane Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer Ballarat Health Services
12:00pm	LUNCH	
	Lunchtime Basket weaving class. Trina Dalton-Oogies in the Main Entrance Foyer. Limited 25 places.	

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – AFTERNOON

12:50pm	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
30 min	<p>Self-determination of eye care needs and priorities by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in the Grampians region, can “Close the Gap” for vision</p> <p>Ms Faye Clarke Care Co-ordinator/Credentialed Diabetes Educator Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</p> <p>John Walker Community member, Ballarat</p>	<p>The Guddi – A culturally safe methodology to understand experiences of health and disability (NOTE: 1 hour session)</p> <p>Mr Daryl Hobbs Senior Psychologist</p> <p>Ms Jessica Lovett-Murray Health Promotion Officer Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operation</p>
1:20pm 30 min	<p>‘A breast screening shawl to help Aboriginal women feel more comfortable and culturally safe’</p> <p>Ms Margaret Davidson Manager, Women and Children’s Unit Victorian Aboriginal Health Service</p> <p>Ms Andrea Casey Aboriginal Liaison Officer Cancer Council Victoria</p>	<p>Dr Clare Townsend National Manager-Research, Evaluation and Development at Synapse and an Adjunct A/Professor at Griffith and James Cook Universities</p>
1:50pm	ROOM 1	ROOM 2
45 min	<p>Increasing Bowel Screening among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members</p> <p>Ms Andrea Casey Aboriginal Liaison Officer</p> <p>Ms Ayesha Ghosh Community Engagement Co-ordinator Cancer Council Victoria</p>	<p>Reflections of a Therapist working in Aboriginal Health within the constraints of Mental Health funding changes</p> <p>Mr Dermot Moynihan Psychotherapist Clear Minds</p> <p>Ms April Burgoyne Administration Support Officer Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</p>
2:35pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
2:55pm 30 min Room 1	<p>Exploring potentially - avoidable morbidity among WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first five years of life (the Defying the Odds Study)</p>	<p>Dr Bridgette McNamara Senior Research Fellow, Indigenous Epidemiology and Health</p> <p>Professor Sandra Eades Associate Dean (Indigenous) for the Faculty Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health The University of Melbourne</p>
3:25pm 30 min Room 1	<p>‘Keela Borrion Program – Reducing the impact of parental mental illness. 12 month program review’</p>	<p>Mr Peter Treloar Project Manager</p> <p>Ms Renee Bosworth Cultural Support Worker Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</p>
3:55pm Room 1	<p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS ‘Because of her, we can’</p>	<p>Ms Nova Peris OAM OLY Former Athlete and Politician</p>
5:00pm Room 1	<p>Closing comments</p>	<p>Professor Lisa Bourke Director - University Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne</p>
5:15pm	CONFERENCE CLOSE	
6:00 – 9:00	DINNER	
6:30pm	<p>CONFERENCE DINNER KEYNOTE ADDRESS Close the Gap Campaign and the Governments Closing the Gap response Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program</p>	<p>Professor Tom Calma AO Chancellor The University of Canberra</p>

Speaker Biographies

Wednesday 17th October, 2018



Ms Jessie Barnes

Executive Manager of Empowering Women, Children and Families, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

‘Strong Mums, Strong Bubs’ Australian Nurse – Family Partnership Program

Jessie is a Wiradjuri woman, whose family come from Trangie in NSW. She has strong ties to the local Yorta Yorta/Bangerang community in the Goulburn Valley region, with her partner being from the local area. Together they have a daughter.

Jessie’s career has seen many changes. It started within the Aged Care sector, moving to different towns and cities, roles in the sector varied. From PCA, workforce coordination and management of Home Care Packages.

At the start of 2017, Jessie became the Executive Manager of the newly established service area at Rumbalara – Empowering Women, Children & Families, which is focused on pro-active support options and programs targeted at women, children & families. It aims to support women to make strong, safe, responsible decisions for themselves and their families.



Ms Rebecca Kelleher

Nurse Supervisor, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

‘Strong Mums, Strong Bubs’ Australian Nurse – Family Partnership Program

Rebecca is a proud Barada / Kapalbara Woman from Central Queensland and is a mother of one beautiful girl. Rebecca has worked at Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative for the past 8 years, working in multiple roles including Health Promotion, Chronic Disease, Nurse Home Visitor and then finally the Nurse Supervisor within the Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program.

Rebecca started working as an Enrolled Nurse in 2003, working in various hospitals in Melbourne as an Agency Nurse. Rebecca then knew she wanted to further her career as a Nurse and completed her Bachelor of Nursing in 2013. Then studied a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education in 2014.

Whilst working in the Rumbalara Medical Unit as the Chronic Disease Nurse, an opportunity came up to work in a new program being rolled out at Rumbalara. Rebecca is now the Nurse Supervisor and manages the Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program that supports pregnant women in the local area carrying an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Baby. Rebecca would like to see positive outcomes for the clients and their babies enrolled in the program, and believe there is a great opportunity to make a difference in the Community.



Ms Helga Scott

*Head of Curriculum: Sexual Health and Relationships Education, Far North Queensland Region
Queensland Department of Education*

Strong Proud and Healthy and Safe: An Evidence Based Approach to Sexual Health and Relationships Education in Far North Queensland Schools

Helga Scott is a teacher with 13 years’ experience across a range of rural and remote settings. Her current responsibilities include teacher capability development and school curriculum program development. Helga has been the key Queensland Government Department of Education representative in the Strong Proud Healthy and Safe project.



Mr Mario Assan

Senior Public Health Officer: Indigenous Sexual Health, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health

Strong Proud and Healthy and Safe: An Evidence Based Approach to Sexual Health and Relationships Education in Far North Queensland Schools

My name is Mario Assan, I am a Torres Strait Islander of Badu Island descent.

I have been employed with Queensland Health in various roles for the last 22 years. I am currently working as a Senior Public Health Officer - Indigenous Sexual Health throughout the Torres Strait & Cape York region.



Ms Miranda Edwards

Director of Lulla’s Children and Family Centre

One Village - collaboration in the Greater Shepparton Early Years Sector - Learnings and Reflections

Miranda Edwards is a proud Noongar woman from Western Australia, who has lived in the Goulburn Valley area for the past 10 years. She is married to a local Bangerang man and has 3 children. As Director of Lulla’s Children and Family Centre, she sees health, education and culture as the most important aspects of family wellbeing, and early intervention as the key to making generational change. Miranda is a founding member and leader of the Greater Shepparton One Village Collaboration



Ms Deb Walsh

Executive Manager of Community Services, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative

One Village - collaboration in the Greater Shepparton Early Years Sector - Learnings and Reflections

Deb Walsh is a proud Gunggari woman. As Director of Community Services at Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative, she is a strong believer in education and self-determination as the keys to a healthy future for Aboriginal communities. This needs to start early and have culturally appropriate wrap around support for parents and children to be successful. Deb is a founding member and leader of the Greater Shepparton One Village Collaboration.



Ms Claire Tarelli

Program Co-ordinator, Greater Shepparton Communities for Children, Catholic Care Sandhurst

One Village - collaboration in the Greater Shepparton Early Years Sector - Learnings and Reflections

Claire Tarelli is the Program Coordinator for the Greater Shepparton Communities for Children initiative, who for the past 5 years has endeavoured, with support from the local community, to maximise the impact of the program by identifying key health and wellbeing issues, and rallying mainstream and universal services around these issues, using the Collective Impact model to create positive, sustainable change. The Communities for Children program is the vehicle for the Greater Shepparton One Village Collaboration to operate, which is founded on Aboriginal and community guidance and leadership.



Ms Emma Leehane

Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer, Ballarat Health Services

Improving Clinical Care and pathways in Ballarat Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients

Emma Leehane is a Yorta Yorta woman of mixed descent.

Emma's field of expertise is education and has been teaching in various capacities for the past 20 years. She has taught around Australia as a classroom teacher and in two roles as an Indigenous Education Officer in a museum setting. Currently she works at Ballarat Health Services in the role of Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer, looking to improve the pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the health system and improve culturally safe and effective clinical care. Emma is passionate about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and strongly advocates the need to unite and stand strong to support each other across the nation to Close the Gap.



Ms Faye Clarke

Care Co-ordinator/Credentialed Diabetes Educator, Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)

Self-determination of eye care needs and priorities by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in the Grampians region, can "Close the Gap" for vision

Faye Clarke is a proud Aboriginal woman from the Gunditjmarra, Wotjobaluk and Ngarrindjeri peoples of Victoria and South Australia. Faye works as a Diabetes Educator and Care Coordinator at Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC). Faye has worked in the education sector as a tutor/lecturer teaching Aboriginal health, history and culture for nurses, and is a member of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) and the Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA). Faye is a Registered Nurse Division 1, and holds a Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education, and a Graduate Certificate in Tertiary Education. Community controlled Aboriginal health is her passion.



Mr John Walker

Community Member, Ballarat

Self-determination of eye care needs and priorities by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in the Grampians region, can "Close the Gap" for vision

John Walker, who likes to be called Jack, is a Yorta Yorta man living in Ballarat. He has experienced visual impairment due to diabetes retinopathy and sees an Ophthalmologist every 6 weeks for ongoing treatment. He has had laser therapy and continues to receive injections regularly. He has been an active community member working in conjunction with the Indigenous Eye Health Unit at Melbourne University and Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative on the Grampians Region Eye health project.

He features prominently in the Check Today See Tomorrow resource materials and DVD. He is happy to share his story of eye health with other communities to help people access services and to ensure they get timely treatment.



Ms Margaret Davidson

Manager, Women and Children's Unit, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service

'A breast screening shawl to help Aboriginal women feel more comfortable and culturally safe'

Margaret's mother originates from NSW from the lands of the Wiradjuri people. Margaret has worked at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service for 17 years in various roles, her current role is Manager in the Women & Children's Program.

She is currently doing my Certificate 4 Practitioner Course in Aboriginal Health, and hopes to successfully complete in March 2019.

She loves working at VAHS and working for her community, so that she can do her best in making a change and building better health outcomes and improving Aboriginal life expectancy.



Ms Andrea Casey

Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Cancer Council Victoria

‘A breast screening shawl to help Aboriginal women feel more comfortable and culturally safe’

Andrea is a Palawa/Dja Dja Wurrung woman and the Aboriginal Liaison Officer in the Prevention Division at Cancer Council Victoria. Andrea is passionate about raising awareness about cancer screening in our mobs. She attends Sister’s Days Out, Aboriginal health days/activities, runs Aboriginal Health Worker training and sits on several committees.



Mr Daryl Hobbs

Senior Psychologist, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operation

The Guddi – A culturally safe methodology to understand experiences of health and disability

Daryl is a Senior Psychologist who works at a regional level in SW Victoria with Winda-Mara, Gunditjmarra, and Dhauwurd Wurrung Health Services. He also works collaboratively with Synapse in Neurocognitive Training and Assessment.

He has Degrees in Human Biology & Psychology (Hons) with a Masters in Counselling Psychology - maintaining membership with APS, ASTSS & ISTSS.

Daryl maintains a special interest in trauma, Indigenous health, and bio-psycho-social interactions.



Ms Jessica Lovett-Murray

Health Promotion Officer, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operation

The Guddi – A culturally safe methodology to understand experiences of health and disability

Jessica is a Health Promotion Officer at Winda-Mara who completed studies in Fitness. Jess is an ambassador for VIC Health’s “This Girl Can” campaign and completed successfully in the Indigenous Marathon Project. She has a passion for Indigenous Health and contributes to neurocognitive training and cultural awareness.



Dr Clare Townsend

National Manager - Research, Evaluation and Development at Synapse and an Adjunct A/Professor at Griffith and James Cook Universities

The Guddi – A culturally safe methodology to understand experiences of health and disability

Clare is the National Manager-Research, Evaluation and Development at Synapse and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Griffith and James Cook Universities. She manages a portfolio of strategic research which address the rights and needs of marginalized people with neurocognitive and other complex disabilities. She is Chief Investigator of The Guddi Project which aims to identify the level and nature of neurocognitive disabilities amongst disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other marginalised groups and to increase their access to the NDIS. From 2009-2013 Clare was Director Systems Research, Centre of Excellence for Behaviour Support, University of Queensland. From 2000 -2009 she undertook a lead role in the development of state, national and international mental health policies. She has published in industry relevant journals and presents Synapse research in academic and other fora.



Ms Ayesha Ghosh

Community Engagement Co-ordinator, Cancer Council Victoria

Increasing Bowel Screening among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members

Ayesha Ghosh is the Community Engagement Coordinator at Cancer Council Victoria. She has over 7 years’ experience in engaging with underserved communities on cancer prevention in the United States and Australia. Ayesha has a Master’s degree in Public Health with a concentration in health promotion.



Mr Dermot Moynihan

Psychotherapist, Clear Minds

Reflections of a Therapist working in Aboriginal Health within the constraints of Mental Health funding changes

Dermot Moynihan is a psychotherapist working in private practise specialising in clients who have experienced long term trauma. He has worked in various roles in the health sector as a Clinician, administrator and educator.



Ms April Burgoyne

Administration Support Officer, Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)

Reflections of a Therapist working in Aboriginal Health within the constraints of Mental Health funding changes

April is a proud Noongar woman from the Bibbulman tribe, South West of Western Australia.

April is the Administration Support Officer for the Keela Borron team and The Social Emotional Wellbeing Service at BADAC.

For the past 7 years April has worked in Medical Reception at BADAC. Her current role is to provide Administrative support to the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team, supporting and assisting with intake, arranging meetings, booking appointments and populating paperwork for client services. April understands the barriers faced by Aboriginal people when seeking mental health care, and ensures a culturally safe environment is maintained at all times.



Dr Bridgette McNamara

Senior Research Fellow, Indigenous Epidemiology and Health, The University of Melbourne

Exploring potentially - avoidable morbidity among WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first five years of life (the Defying the Odds Study)

Dr Bridgette McNamara is a Senior Research Fellow in the Indigenous Epidemiology and Health Unit, led by Professor Sandra Eades, at the University of Melbourne. Her current research on the Defying the Odds study uses total population linked health and administrative data and health services survey data to examine the determinants of health outcomes among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from Western Australia and their families.



Professor Sandra Eades

Associate Dean (Indigenous) for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at The University of Melbourne

Exploring potentially - avoidable morbidity among WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first five years of life (the Defying the Odds Study)

Sandra, whose family are Noongar from the Minang, Goreng and Kaniyang clans in south-west Western Australia, has been recognised for her outstanding contributions to the epidemiology of Indigenous child health in Australia.

Sandra leads a new NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence focused on Aboriginal child and adolescent health, and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science.



Mr Peter Treloar

Project Manager, Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)

‘Keela Borron Program – Reducing the impact of parental mental illness. 12 month program review’

Peter is a Credentialed Psychiatric Nurse and Alcohol and Other Drug worker, with over 30 years’ experience in the mental health field as both a clinician and manager. Having worked for 23 years in public mental health, Peter completed his Master’s Degree in Mental Health/Psychiatric Nursing and moved into clinical management at various services in mental health. Returning to Ballarat, Peter completed a Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies and now works as a Social and Emotional Wellbeing (Dual Diagnosis) nurse at the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative. Peter’s particular interest is Aboriginal men’s health and wellbeing and health promotion.



Ms Renee Bosworth

Cultural Support Worker, Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)

‘Keela Borron Program – Reducing the impact of parental mental illness. 12 month program review’

Renee is a proud Gunditjmara woman and she is the Cultural Support Worker for the Keela Borron project at BADAC.

Her role is to provide cultural support to participants as well as to implement and provide culturally based programs and assist those undertaking this program. She is currently studying Diploma of Community Services. She is hoping to continue working in mental health once she has completed her diploma.



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