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
www.trybooking.com/363980
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.first1000daysaus.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

C:

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 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**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15–8:45am</td>
<td>CONFERENCE REGISTRATION</td>
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<td>OPENING CEREMONY</td>
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| 9:20am        | WELCOME                                                   | Room 1    | **Professor Lisa Bourke**  
Director - University Department of Rural Health  
The University of Melbourne |
| 9:25am        | WELCOME                                                   | Room 1    | **Dr Leanne Beagley**  
CEO - Western Victoria Primary Health Network (PHN) |
| 9:35am        | KEYNOTE ADDRESS                                          | Room 1    | **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                                               |           |                                                                         |
| 10:50am       | Concurrent Sessions – Morning  
Room 1: ‘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  
Room 2: 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       | Concurrent Sessions – Morning  
Room 1: 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  
Room 2: 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

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<td><strong>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</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ms Faye Clarke&lt;br&gt;Care Co-ordinator/Credentialed Diabetes Educator&lt;br&gt;Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)&lt;br&gt;John Walker&lt;br&gt;Community member, Ballarat</td>
<td><strong>The Guddi – A culturally safe methodology to understand experiences of health and disability</strong>&lt;br&gt;(NOTE: 1 hour session)&lt;br&gt;Mr Daryl Hobbs&lt;br&gt;Senior Psychologist&lt;br&gt;Ms Jessica Lovett-Murray&lt;br&gt;Health Promotion Officer&lt;br&gt;Winda-Mara Aboriginal Co-operation</td>
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<td><strong>'A breast screening shawl to help Aboriginal women feel more comfortable and culturally safe’</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ms Margaret Davidson&lt;br&gt;Manager, Women and Children’s Unit&lt;br&gt;Victorian Aboriginal Health Service&lt;br&gt;Ms Andrea Casey&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal Liaison Officer&lt;br&gt;Cancer Council Victoria</td>
<td><strong>Reflections of a Therapist working in Aboriginal Health within the constraints of Mental Health funding changes</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mr Dermot Moynihan&lt;br&gt;Psychotherapist&lt;br&gt;Clear Minds&lt;br&gt;Ms April Burgoyne&lt;br&gt;Administration Support Officer&lt;br&gt;Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Increasing Bowel Screening among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ms Andrea Casey&lt;br&gt;Aboriginal Liaison Officer&lt;br&gt;Ms Ayesha Ghosh&lt;br&gt;Community Engagement Co-ordinator&lt;br&gt;Cancer Council Victoria</td>
<td><strong>Reflections of a Therapist working in Aboriginal Health within the constraints of Mental Health funding changes</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mr Dermot Moynihan&lt;br&gt;Psychotherapist&lt;br&gt;Clear Minds&lt;br&gt;Ms April Burgoyne&lt;br&gt;Administration Support Officer&lt;br&gt;Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</td>
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<td><strong>Exploring potentially - avoidable morbidity among WA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the first five years of life (the Defying the Odds Study)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Keela Borron Program – Reducing the impact of parental mental illness. 12 month program review’</strong>&lt;br&gt;Mr Peter Treloar&lt;br&gt;Project Manager&lt;br&gt;Ms Renee Bosworth&lt;br&gt;Cultural Support Worker&lt;br&gt;Ballarat District Aboriginal Co-operative (BADAC)</td>
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<td><strong>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</strong>&lt;br&gt;‘Because of her, we can’&lt;br&gt;Ms Nova Peris OAM OLY&lt;br&gt;Former Athlete and Politician</td>
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### 5:00pm

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<td><strong>Closing comments</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professor Lisa Bourke</strong>&lt;br&gt;Director - University Department of Rural Health&lt;br&gt;The University of Melbourne</td>
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### 5:15pm

- **CONFERENCE CLOSE**
- **6:00 – 9:00 DINNER**
- **6:30pm**
  - **CONFERENCE DINNER KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
  - **Close the Gap Campaign and the Governments**
  - **Closing the Gap response**
  - **Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program**
  - **Professor Tom Calma AO**<br>Chancellor<br>The University of Canberra
### Speaker Biographies

**Wednesday 17th October, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Role</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jessie Barnes</td>
<td>Executive Manager of Empowering Women, Children and Families, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
<td>'Strong Mums, Strong Bubs' Australian Nurse – Family Partnership Program</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>At the start of 2017, Jessie became the Executive Manager of the newly established service area at Rumbalara – Empowering Women, Children &amp; Families, which is focused on pro-active support options and programs targeted at women, children &amp; families. It aims to support women to make strong, safe, responsible decisions for themselves and their families.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Rebecca Kelleher</td>
<td>Nurse Supervisor, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative</td>
<td>'Strong Mums, Strong Bubs' Australian Nurse – Family Partnership Program</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Helga Scott</td>
<td>Head of Curriculum: Sexual Health and Relationships Education, Far North Queensland Region</td>
<td>Strong Proud and Healthy and Safe: An Evidence Based Approach to Sexual Health and Relationships Education in Far North Queensland Schools</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Mario Assan</td>
<td>Senior Public Health Officer: Indigenous Sexual Health, Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health</td>
<td>Strong Proud and Healthy and Safe: An Evidence Based Approach to Sexual Health and Relationships Education in Far North Queensland Schools</td>
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<td>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 &amp; Cape York region.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Miranda Edwards</td>
<td>Director of Lulla's Children and Family Centre</td>
<td>One Village - collaboration in the Greater Shepparton Early Years Sector - Learnings and Reflections</td>
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<td>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</td>
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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 decent.

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 Gunditjima, 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, Gunditjmara, 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, Gorenge 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.