



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

# Ngar-wu Wanyarra

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
Health Conference 2021

Wednesday 13th October 2021

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

Department of  
Rural Health



# WELCOME to the Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Conference 2021 brought to you by The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health.

**Our aim for the conference is to facilitate the exchange of information on key 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 title of the conference 'Ngar-wu Wanyarra' translates to listen and act in the language of the Yorta Yorta.**

## CONFERENCE MC

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**Ms Gwenda Freeman**

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

Gwenda is of Yorta Yorta descent, and has worked in Rural Health, Aboriginal Health and Education for most of her career, mainly in the management area, with organisations and service providers in Victoria, Queensland and Northern Territory. She is passionate about rural and Aboriginal health and education, and about improving the wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Philosophy, a Master of Business Administration, a Diploma of Community Services, and Cert IVs in Training, Volunteers, and Mental Health. Her memberships include: Fellow of the ACHSM (Australasian College of Health Service Managers), member NRHA Friends, and Associate/Affiliate memberships of NAATSIHWP and CATSINAM. She is a past member of the NRHA Friends' Committee, and NT Mental Health Alliance/Council; also, an Instructor for both standard and Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid. She is current chair of ASA – Aboriginal Staff Alliance – a network of Aboriginal staff employed by (UDRH) University Departments of Rural Health.

She and her husband live in a small rural town and have a large garden with some bush foods and bush medicines growing along with the usual exotic fruits and vegies. They have five children and four grandchildren and adore spending time with them all.

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**Dr Raylene Nixon**

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

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

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**Professor Lisa Bourke**

*Director of the University Department of Rural Health, Department of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne*

Professor Lisa Bourke is Director of the University Department of Rural Health programme at The University of Melbourne, based in Shepparton. Her current role supports nursing and allied health students to 'go rural' for clinical placements as well as support to Aboriginal Health education, workforce development and research. Lisa holds a PhD in Rural Sociology from The Pennsylvania State University and has received ARC and NHMRC funding to understand rural health, cultural inclusion and population health in rural communities. Lisa is also a board member and past Chair of the Australian Rural Health Education Network.

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

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# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Mr Stan Grant

*Indigenous Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, a multi-award-winning current affairs host, an author and an adventurer.*

Stan was born in Griffith in south-west New South Wales, in 1963, Stan's mother is from the Kamilaroi people and his father is of the Wiradjuri. Stan spent most of his childhood on the road living in small towns and Aboriginal communities across outback NSW. His father was an itinerant saw-miller who worked when and where he could.

Stan has hosted major news and current affairs programs on Australian commercial and public TV. He has been a political correspondent for the ABC, a Europe correspondent for the Seven Network based in London and a senior international correspondent for the international broadcaster CNN based in Hong Kong and Beijing.

Returning to Australia in 2013, Stan continued to cover international events for Sky News Australia and reignited his passion for telling the stories of his own indigenous people. He has worked as the Indigenous editor for the Guardian Australia, managing editor for National Indigenous Television and international editor for Sky News. In 2016 Stan Grant was appointed as the special advisor to the then Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Indigenous constitutional recognition.

Stan Grant is passionate about justice and humanity. His years of international reporting has given him a deep understanding of how the world works. He is deeply immersed in the politics and history of Asia and the Middle East.

Stan lives in Sydney and is married to ABC Sports Broadcaster Tracey Holmes they have four children.

# CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT



## Miss Lillie Walker

Lillie Walker is a 16-year-old vocalist and proud Yorta Yorta lady, she is also a descendant of Kuku Yalanji and Girramay tribes of Far North Queensland, growing up in Shepparton, Victoria.

Since the age of 7, Lillie has been singing at local events and festivals throughout Victoria and interstate. She is a current member of Dhungala Children's Choir (DCC), with her DCC highlight performing with DCC and Short Black Opera, with Deborah Cheetham's AO Opera Production - Pecan Summer, at the Sydney Opera House in 2016. Lillie is a former member of Victorian State School Spectacular, including singing performances in Aboriginal Language at various Department of Premier and Cabinet events. Lillie was humbled to perform at the 2019 NRL All Stars Indigenous v Maori game at AAMI Park

# CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

**\$20.00 ONLINE CRAFT CLASSES (EITHER A CERAMIC TURTLE OR GRASS WEAVING COIL)**



Kaiela Arts are providing online craft classes during the conference. You have the option of either the grass coil weaving classes or a ceramic turtle class. Registration closes COB Thursday 23rd September to allow us to send your craft pack in the mail.

# CONFERENCE DINNER ENTERTAINMENT

**\$50.00 CONFERENCE DINNER, 6:00PM AT THE CONNECTION, MIDLAND HWY, SHEPPARTON ON WEDNESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2021**



## Ms Madi Colville-Walker

Madi Colville-Walker is a proud Yorta Yorta Woman and an inspiring musician who has had many opportunities after her very first performance at the CMAA Junior Academy.

Madi has since performed at events throughout Victoria and NSW including Echuca/Moama Winter Blues Festival, 3 Rivers Festival, Land of Plenty Festival, National Firesticks conference, National Climate Change conference, Tamworth Country Music Festival, Nelson Mandela Day Australia and Isol-aid.

2021 plans to be a big year for Madi Colville-Walker, already an established singer and songwriter in her own right.

# PROGRAM WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2021

9:30am	<b>Opening Ceremony</b>		
9:30am	<b>Acknowledgement to Country</b>		
9:35am	<b>Welcome from Greater Shepparton City Council</b>		
9:40am	<b>Welcome from The University of Melbourne</b>	<b>Professor Lisa Bourke</b> Director - University Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne	
9:45am	<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>Mr Stan Grant</b> Australian Political Journalist and Television Presenter	
10:45am	<b>Morning Tea</b>		
11:05am	<b>Kaiela Arts video</b>		
	<b>Concurrent morning session 1</b> <b>Community initiatives to improve health and wellbeing</b>	<b>Concurrent morning session 2</b> <b>Cardiovascular Health</b>	<b>Concurrent morning session 3</b> <b>Evidence based approaches to health care</b>
11:10am	<b>COVID-19 prevention challenges in remote indigenous communities</b> <b>Sergeant Matt Griffiths</b> Previous Community Development Advisor Warakurna and Police Sergeant Victoria Police <b>Brevet Sgt Kylie Stack</b> Brevet Sergeant Warakurna Multifunction Police Facility Western Australia Police	<b>Health map for HealthGap: Defining a geographical catchment to examine cardiovascular risk in Victoria</b> <b>Associate Professor Luke Burchill</b> Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health The University of Melbourne <b>Dr Karen Lamb</b> Biostatistician The University of Melbourne	<b>The ASQ-STEPS for measuring Aboriginal child development (ASQ-STEPS) - A developmental outcome measure for Aboriginal children</b> <b>Ms Isabel Brookes</b> Research & Development Coordinator Department of Paediatrics The University of Melbourne <b>Ms Leah Lindrea-Morrison</b> Aboriginal Research Assistant Department of Paediatrics The University of Melbourne
11:25am	<b>Creating a future</b> <b>Ms Rebecca Welsh</b> Aboriginal Project Officer Taungurung Land and Water Council	<b>Understanding the characteristics of Victorian Aboriginal cardiovascular disease hospitalisations and care using linked health service data</b> <b>Associate Professor Luke Burchill</b> Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health The University of Melbourne <b>Ms Eloise Price</b> Honours Student The University of Melbourne	<b>National best practice unit tackling Indigenous smoking: Improving health outcomes through population health promotion</b> <b>Ms Eileen Van Iersel</b> Program Manager Ninti One <b>Dr Penney Upton</b> Associate Professor University of Canberra
11:40am	<b>Sisters for change</b> <b>Ms Rachel Montgomery</b> Team Leader – Justice and Partnerships Australian Red Cross <b>Ms Glenda Duffy</b> Cultural and Community Engagement Advisor Australian Red Cross	<b>Understanding indigenous identification using linked health services data</b> <b>Associate Professor Luke Burchill</b> Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health The University of Melbourne <b>Ms Georgia Taylor</b> Honours Student The University of Melbourne	<b>Take Blaktion: Using comedy to engage Aboriginal young people with sexual health promotion</b> <b>Ms Heather McCormack</b> Senior Program Manager NSW STI Programs Unity NSW Ministry of Health
11:55am	<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth workers as Sleep Coaches: Co-designed training and upskilling program</b> <b>Dr Yaqoot Fatima</b> Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow University of Queensland and James Cook University <b>Ms Stephanie King</b> Research Officer James Cook University	<b>Guideline-based cardiovascular disease risk assessment among Indigenous Australians in a general practice setting</b> <b>Associate Professor Luke Burchill</b> Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health The University of Melbourne <b>Dr Digsu Koye</b> Postdoctoral Research Fellow The University of Melbourne	<b>Integrating testing for sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses into routine care for Aboriginal people in NSW: A secondary analysis of qualitative stakeholder interviews</b> <b>Ms Heather McCormack</b> Senior Program Manager NSW STI Programs Unity NSW Ministry of Health
12:10pm	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>
12:25pm	<b>Lunch</b>		

12:35pm	<b>Lunch Cont'd</b>	<b>Art activity</b> Ceramic Turtle *bookings are essential	<b>Art activity</b> Grass Weaving Coil *bookings are essential
1:05pm	<b>Ngurra Bura Fera</b> sung by Miss Lillie Walker		
	<b>Concurrent afternoon session 1</b> <b>Student education improving health in the community</b>	<b>Concurrent afternoon session 2</b> <b>New approaches to research</b>	<b>Concurrent afternoon session 3</b> <b>New services for our communities</b>
1:10pm	<b>A Rural Pathway to University Studies in Aboriginal Health</b> <b>Ms Gwenda Freeman</b> Lecturer in Aboriginal Health Education Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne	<b>Culturally adaptive governance – Building a new framework for equity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research</b> <b>Associate Professor Luke Burchill</b> Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health The University of Melbourne <b>Mr Daniel Duke</b> Research Assistant, Indigenous Health The University of Melbourne	<b>Trauma aware, healing Informed approaches</b> <b>Ms Fiona Cornforth</b> CEO The Healing Foundation
1:25pm	<b>ASHE - Student support services: A different approach to caring for students</b> <b>Ms Leonie Dwyer</b> Manager - Academy of Sports, Health and Education (ASHE) The University of Melbourne <b>Ms Helen Everist</b> Indigenous nursing students academic support - Academy of Sports, Health and Education (ASHE) The University of Melbourne	<b>From inter-personal trust, to trust in health services: Challenges to cultural brokerage for Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners in Northern Australia</b> <b>Dr Stephanie Topp</b> Associate Professor James Cook University <b>Dr Sean Taylor</b> Deputy Director – Indigenous Leadership and Engagement Menzies School of Health Research	<b>The WellMob website – A digital tool for our wellbeing</b> <b>Mr David Edwards</b> Co-Director - WellMob wellbeing website (eMHprac) The University of Sydney <b>Ms Sharnie Roberts</b> Training & Engagement Coordinator - WellMob Indigenous wellbeing website (eMHprac) The University of Sydney
1:40pm	<b>Specialist Certificate in empowering health in Aboriginal communities</b> <b>Mr Colin Mitchell</b> Aboriginal Liaison Officer Diabetes Victoria <b>Ms Chanoa Cooper</b> Project Worker Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative	<b>Repositioning the Value of Aboriginal people of the Goulburn Murray region of Victoria</b> <b>Dr Raylene Nixon</b> Lecturer in Rural Aboriginal Health The Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne	<b>The power of partnership - A new model of rural and regional denture service provision in Aboriginal communities in New South Wales</b> <b>Mr Boe Rambaldini</b> Director - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health The University of Sydney <b>Dr John Skinner</b> Research Director - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health The University of Sydney
1:55pm	<b>Advancing Indigenous-led initiatives in the academy: Evaluating the activities of the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health</b> <b>Ms Shawana Andrews</b> Associate Director Melbourne POCHE Centre for Indigenous Health The University of Melbourne <b>Ms Odette Mazel</b> Senior Research Fellow Melbourne POCHE Centre for Indigenous Health The University of Melbourne	<b>Can a digital, geospatially enhanced data ecosystem incorporate Indigenous defined protocols, principles and approaches to achieve data democracy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's?</b> <b>Mr Darren Clinch</b> Senior Data Analytics Coordinator Indigenous Data Network The University of Melbourne	<b>Transforming research stories through Indigenous storywork: A methodological approach</b> <b>Miss Reakeeta Smallwood</b> Registered Nurse, PhD Candidate University of Technology of Sydney
2:10pm	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>	<b>Q &amp; A Opportunity</b>
2:25pm	<b>Yil Lull</b> sung by Miss Lillie Walker		
2:30pm	<b>Closing comments</b>	<b>Professor Lisa Bourke</b> Director - University Department of Rural Health The University of Melbourne	
2:35pm	<b>Conference Close</b>		
6:00 – 9:00	<b>Conference Dinner The Connection, Midland Hwy, Shepparton, entertainment by Ms Madi Colville-Walker</b>		

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Mr Matt Griffiths**

*Previous Community Development Advisor Warakurna and Police Sergeant Victoria Police*

### **COVID-19 prevention challenges in remote indigenous communities**

Matt Griffiths is a serving Police Sergeant with Victoria Police for over 32 years. He recently took 2 years leave and with his partner worked as Community Development Advisor (Town Manager) at Warakurna. Matt's interests are in health and community and instigated the Police, Ambulance, Crisis Assessment Team Emergency Response (PACER) model. This is now a police/health partnership throughout Victoria. This research was published in the Australian Psychiatry Journal. Matt has worked across Victoria in various police roles but found his time in Warakurna the most challenging yet most rewarding.

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## **Brevet Sgt Kylie Stack**

*Brevet Sergeant Warakurna Multifunction Police Facility, Western Australia Police*

### **COVID-19 prevention challenges in remote indigenous communities**

Brevet Sergeant Kylie Stack first joined WA police as an Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer. Her community connections were strengthened working at the PCYC at both Armadale and Gosnells. In 2007 she transitioned across to WA police as a constable working at Gosnells, Cannington and later at Meekatharra. In 2019 She moved to Ngaanyatjarra Lands to a multi-function Police facility which provided service to Warakurna, Wanarn, Tjukurla and assisting NT Police across the border at Docker River.

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## **Ms Rebecca Welsh**

*Aboriginal Project Officer, Taungurung Land and Water Council*

### **Creating a future**

Rebecca is a proud Wamba Wamba woman and lives in Seymour. She is passionate about her culture and the health of her community and aspires to be a positive role model for her children, extended family and community. Rebecca has 20 years' experience working in the health sector, completed the Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program in 2018, and certificate IV in Community Services. She has been the sole worker of the Lower Hume Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Program for the past 11 years.

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## **Ms Rachel Montgomery**

*Team Leader – Justice and Partnerships, Australian Red Cross*

### **Sisters of change**

Rachel is the Team Leader Community, Justice and Partnerships at Australian Red Cross, facilitator of Community Based Health and First Aid in Action Program at Townsville Women's Correctional Centre. Born in the Pilbarra, Western Australia, to English Dad and Pakeha Mum, Rachel grew up in Townsville where she is now raising her own kids. She is passionate about community development and has seen first-hand the transformational impact this model can make in the prison context. Strong partnerships enable prisoner-led health promotion, hygiene and cultural safety projects to emerge. Participants go from being seen and treated as 'criminals' to being valued for their voluntary actions.

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**Ms Glenda Duffy**

*Cultural and Community Engagement Advisor, Australian Red Cross*

**Sisters of change**

Glenda is a proud Kalkadoon /Waayni woman from North West Queensland and the Gulf of Carpentaria Regions. She grew up in Mount Isa and Cloncurry and have been living in Townsville for the last 15 years and has worked in remote and rural Aboriginal communities, such as Doomadgee Mornington Island and Palm Island for 25 years. Her work in communities has been in community development, childcare, homelessness and community engagement protocols. Glenda has worked extensively in Federal and State Governments agencies and NGOs and is the Manager/Owner of Dawn Aboriginal Consultancy which provides Cultural Competency and Capacity training workshops to organisations and individuals who would like to be competent and capable of working and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities. Glenda is employed by the Australian Red Cross to provide cultural advice and to ensure programs and engagement processes are culturally appropriate. She is passionate about equality and equity for all in particular the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples the First Australians.



**Dr Yaqoot Fatima**

*Research Fellow/ Senior Research Fellow, University of Queensland and James Cook University*

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth workers as Sleep Coaches: Co-designed training and upskilling program**

Dr Yaqoot Fatima (Fatima) is a Pharmacist, Sleep Scientist and Epidemiologist, currently working as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR), University of Queensland and as a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University, Mount Isa.

Fatima's research involves identifying approaches to enhance health outcomes for vulnerable and disadvantaged population groups, specifically focusing on sleep health promotion in rural, remote and Indigenous Australian populations. She is a member of the Indigenous working party of the Australasian Sleep Association.



**Ms Stephanie King**

*Research Officer, James Cook University*

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth workers as Sleep Coaches: Co-designed training and upskilling program**

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



**Associate Professor Luke Burchill**

*Associate Professor in Aboriginal Health, The University of Melbourne*

**Health map for HealthGap: Defining a geographical catchment to examine cardiovascular risk in Victoria**

**Understanding the characteristics of Victorian Aboriginal cardiovascular disease hospitalisations and care using linked health service data**

**Understanding Indigenous identification using linked health services data**

**Guideline-based cardiovascular disease risk assessment among Indigenous Australians in a general practice setting**

**Culturally Adaptive Governance – Building a new framework for equity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research**

Luke Burchill - MBBS (University of Melbourne 1999) PhD (University of Melbourne 2010) FRACP (2007). Luke Burchill is an Associate Professor (A/Prof) at the University of Melbourne where he leads the Aboriginal cardiovascular health disparities program. Clinically he works as an Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Specialist at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Associate Professor Burchill is the first Aboriginal cardiologist in Australia.



**Dr Karen Lamb**

*Biostatistician, The University of Melbourne*

**Health map for HealthGap: Defining a geographical catchment to examine cardiovascular risk in Victoria**

Karen Lamb, BSc Hons (University of Glasgow, 2006) PhD (University of Strathclyde, 2010) CStat (2014), is a consultant biostatistician and Senior Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne. She leads the biostatistical team conducting research involving cohort and linked administrative data studies in the Methods and Implementation Support for Clinical and Health research Hub (MISCH) at the University.



**Ms Eloise Price**

*Honours Student, The University of Melbourne*

**Understanding the characteristics of Victorian Aboriginal cardiovascular disease hospitalisations and care using linked health service data**

Eloise Price, B-BMED (University of Melbourne 2020), is a current honours student at the University of Melbourne undertaking her research on 'closing the gap on Aboriginal cardiovascular health disparities'. As a non-Indigenous person who is supportive of Indigenous self-determination, she believes that her own values of respect, integrity and compassion for Aboriginal people and their shared values, rights and culture will guide her through her research grounded in Victorian Aboriginal country and community.



**Ms Georgia Taylor**

*Honours Student, The University of Melbourne*

**Understanding Indigenous Identification using Linked Health Services Data**

Georgia Taylor is currently undertaking an Honours year with the University of Melbourne as part of the Bachelor of Biomedicine degree. Welcomed into the Aboriginal cardiovascular health disparities program, under the guidance of A/Prof Luke Burchill, Georgia has been introduced to the importance of health services research that is critical of its underlying perspectives and its purpose. She recognises the privilege that arises from engaging with data and in authentic conversations within this research space. Georgia seeks to address fundamental questions in research methodology, in order to return outcomes to Victorian Aboriginal community and contribute to achieving health equity.



**Dr Digsu Koye**

*Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The University of Melbourne*

**Guideline-based cardiovascular disease risk assessment among Indigenous Australians in a general practice setting**

Digsu Koye, BSc (University of Gondar 2008), MPH (University of Gondar 2011) PhD (Monash University 2018) is a postdoctoral research fellow in clinical epidemiology and a consultant biostatistician at the University of Melbourne. He is an experienced clinical epidemiologist with a strong biostatistical background in the design and analysis of clinical and epidemiological studies in the fields of metabolic and chronic diseases.



**Ms Isabel Brookes**

*Research & Development Coordinator, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne*

**The ASQ-STEPS for measuring Aboriginal child development (ASQ-STEPS) - A developmental outcome measure for Aboriginal children**

Isabel Brookes is the Project Coordinator of the ASQ-STEPS Research Program. She has worked in both research and professional roles on Aboriginal research projects, most recently on the cultural adaptation of ASQ-3 items for the development of the ASQ-STEPS. Isabel's previous work was centred on the implementation of evidence-based approaches in Aboriginal early learning settings and building the professional capacity of early childhood practitioners working with Aboriginal children.

Isabel believes that the effective integration of health and education in early childhood environments is essential to achieving learning and development equity between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children; and that to achieve this authentic and respectful partnerships must be established and maintained with families, organisations and communities.



**Ms Leah Lindrea-Morrison**

*Aboriginal Research Assistant, Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne*

**The ASQ-STEPS for measuring Aboriginal child development (ASQ-STEPS) - A developmental outcome measure for Aboriginal children**

Leah Lindrea-Morrison is a Yorta Yorta woman and is the Aboriginal Research Assistant for the ASQ-STEPS research program. She has worked with the local Aboriginal community in local services – Education, Health and Employment. Before joining the Unit, Leah was the Aboriginal, Partnerships and Community Engagement Officer at the University of Melbourne’s, Department of Rural Health. In this role Leah successfully engaged with both the community and organised the Shepparton and Ballarat Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conferences.

A key component of this work was focusing on Aboriginal perspectives and contributions to health, and showcasing community led solutions, underpinned by cultural theories to Aboriginal Health and wellbeing. As an Aboriginal woman, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunty, she understands and knows the importance of Early Childhood Development and education to give our next generation a more equitable life. Leah is a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reference group for the Breast Cancer Network Australia and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.



**Ms Eileen Van Iersel**

*Program Manager, Ninti One*

**National best practice unit tackling Indigenous smoking: Improving health outcomes through population health promotion**

Eileen Van Iersel is a descendant of the Arrernte/Luritja and Anmatjere language groups of Central Australia. Eileen has held senior leadership positions in both government and non-government sectors including child protection, Aboriginal justice, education, public housing, Aboriginal health, Aboriginal community services, the Fred Hollows Foundation and research. In 2008, Eileen won a Churchill Fellowship, and travelled to Auckland, New Zealand; Boston, USA and Edmonton, Canada to compare cultural and communication barriers in health settings. Eileen used this knowledge to work with researchers and medical professionals to improve Aboriginal people’s access to hospital through the establishment of a Cultural Safety Committee.



**Dr Penney Upton**

*Associate Professor, University of Canberra*

**National best practice unit tackling Indigenous smoking: Improving health outcomes through population health promotion**

Penney is an experienced research psychologist whose work focuses on the improvement of health and healthcare services. She has led projects related to quality of life and wellbeing in chronic illness and long-term conditions, family weight management and children’s eating behaviours, alcohol and tobacco use in adulthood, and the training and support of healthcare professionals to apply evidence-based practice. Study findings have resulted in changes to policy and strategy both nationally and internationally. She has been a part of the NBPU TIS since its beginning, where her role is the Research and Evidence lead.



**Ms Heather McCormack**

*Senior Program Manager, NSW STI Programs Unity, NSW Ministry of Health*

**Take Blaktion: Using comedy to engage Aboriginal young people with sexual health promotion**

**Integrating testing for sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses into routine care for Aboriginal people in NSW: A secondary analysis of qualitative stakeholder interviews**

Heather has worked in communications, health promotion, and program management roles across the sexual health and blood-borne virus sector for over ten years. Heather’s research interests include social aspects of sexual health, digital health promotion, accessibility and acceptability of sexual health services to diverse populations and optimising public health interventions to improve service delivery.



**Ms Leonie Dwyer**

*Manager - Academy of Sports, Health and Education (ASHE), The University of Melbourne*

**ASHE - Student support services: A different approach to caring for students**

Leonie is a proud woman of the Yorta Yorta and currently the Manager of The Academy of Sport, Health and Education (ASHE). Leonie commenced employment at ASHE in 2005. ASHE is a very unique, powerful place of education embedded with Yorta Yorta people teaching, mentoring, advocating, and supporting the community needs with great belief in values of our elders and ancestors. ASHE has been operating since 2004 created by The Rumbalara Football Netball Club in partnerships with The University of Melbourne. Leonie has over 30 years' experience in Youth Work, Education, Sport, Management and Leadership. Leonie also is a volunteer on various boards both locally and nationally.

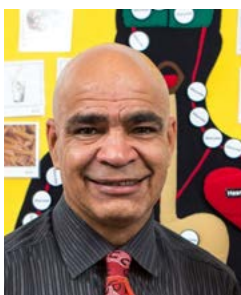


**Ms Helen Everist**

*Indigenous nursing students academic support - Academy of Sports, Health and Education (ASHE) The University of Melbourne*

**Specialist certificate in empowering health in Aboriginal communities**

Ms Helen Everist is a registered nurse with qualifications in community health, immunisation, diabetes education and trainer and assessor. Over 23 years' experience working with local community-controlled organisations. Helen has been employed to deliver study support alongside First Nation student support workers at ASHE. Helen is currently completing the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal communities.



**Mr Colin Mitchell**

*Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Diabetes Victoria*

**Specialist certificate in empowering health in Aboriginal communities**

Colin Mitchell has been the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at Diabetes Victoria since 2009. He is a former Aboriginal Health Worker with over 20 years' experience at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service where he discovered a passion for Diabetes. Colin is enrolled in the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities course provided by the Department of Rural Health, University of Melbourne.



**Ms Chanoa Cooper**

*Project Worker, Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative*

**Specialist certificate in empowering health in Aboriginal communities**

Chanoa Cooper is a proud Moiraban, Wiradjuri and Pilipina woman from Shepparton, Victoria – with strong interests in Aboriginal Health and Community Development. Chanoa comes from a working background in Business Support, Aboriginal Health and Income & Sustainability.

As a Project Officer for Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative, Chanoa works within the space of Aged & Disability to develop and restructure programmes.

Chanoa is undertaking a pathway into the Master's in Public Health at The University of Melbourne, studying a Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities.

With experience working in remote/rural Aboriginal communities across the nation, this has ignited her passion to expand her knowledge about Aboriginal Health and community development, with intent to improve the lives and health care for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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**Ms Shawana Andrews**

*Associate Director, Melbourne POCHE Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne*

**Advancing Indigenous-led initiatives in the academy: Evaluating the activities of the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health**

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



**Ms Odette Mazel**

*Senior Research Fellow, Melbourne POCHE Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne*

**Advancing Indigenous-led initiatives in the academy: Evaluating the activities of the Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous Health**

Odette is a non-Indigenous Senior Research Fellow at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and a PhD student at the Melbourne Law School. Her research focuses on the rights of Indigenous peoples and LGBTIQ people and the cultural, social and legal avenues through which to pursue those rights. Odette was the Senior Research Fellow and Senior Program Manager of the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network and prior to that worked as the Research Fellow and Manager of the Agreements, Treaties and Negotiated Settlements (ATNS) Project.



**Mr Daniel Duke**

*Research Assistant, Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne*

**Culturally Adaptive Governance – Building a new framework for equity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research**

Daniel Duke (BA, GDipIR, MA(DevSt/Gen)) is a research assistant in the Aboriginal Cardiovascular Health Equity Group at the University of Melbourne. His research interests are in applied ethics in Indigenous health contexts in Australia, with a particular focus on the complexities of culture and emerging health technologies on ethical conventions for research



**Dr Stephanie Topp**

*Associate Professor, James Cook University*

**From inter-personal trust, to trust in health services: Challenges to cultural brokerage for Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners in Northern Australia**

Dr. Stephanie Topp is an A/Prof. in Global Health and Development in the College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences and an Associate Research Fellow at the Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne. She has 15 years' experience working as a health systems practitioner and researcher in low-income settings, including PNG, India, South Africa and Zambia. Her work sits at the intersection of health systems governance and community engagement with a particular focus on the way trust and accountability influence access to and quality of health services.



### **Dr Sean Taylor**

*Deputy Director – Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Menzies School of Health Research*

#### **From inter-personal trust, to trust in health services: Challenges to cultural brokerage for Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners in Northern Australia**

Dr. Sean Taylor is descendent of the Dauareb Tribe, one of the eight tribes of Mer Island in the Eastern Torres Strait region. Sean has over twenty years of clinical experience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health working at different levels across Australia in range of academic and research interest, as well as clinical practice. He started his career as an Indigenous Health Worker in his home community of Mer (Murray) Island in the mid-1990's and then became a registered nurse. Sean has completed a Graduate Certificate in Health: Diabetes Management & Education, Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) and a Doctor of Public Health (Research) focusing on Diabetes Care and Management in remote communities. The Overall aim of his doctorate was to provide epidemiological evidence to support the development of community level interventions to address some of the most important risk factors associated with the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the remote regions with Type 2 diabetes.

Sean is currently a member of National Health and Medical Research Council Principal Committee Indigenous Caucus and Department of Health, National Aboriginal Health Plan Implementation Working Group. Sean is the current Chair of Top End Health Service Partnering with Consumers Committee, Communicating for Safety Committee, Aboriginal Health Committee, Aboriginal Health Partnership Sub-Committee and Aboriginal Health Practitioners Committee.

Sean currently holds joint appointments as the Executive Director Aboriginal Health for Top End Health Service, Darwin, Northern Territory Government, Deputy Director Indigenous Leadership and Engagement, Menzies School of Health Research and an Adjunct Associate Professor, Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University.



### **Mr Darren Clinch**

*Senior Data Analytics Coordinator, Indigenous Data Network, The University of Melbourne*

#### **Can a digital, geospatially enhanced data ecosystem incorporate Indigenous defined protocols, principles and approaches to achieve data democracy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's?**

Darren is employed as the Data Analytics Coordinator with the Indigenous Data Network, Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne. His role involves providing digital and geospatial solutions for research work being conducted by the Indigenous Data Network, creation of digital infrastructure for storage, transformation, and translation of datasets that relate to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Prior to this he was employed in several positions in the Department of Health and Human Services, firstly in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing and lastly in System Intelligence and Analytics providing Business Intelligence and Geospatial Support to the SIA branch.



### **Ms Fiona Cornforth**

*CEO, The Healing Foundation*

#### **Trauma aware, healing informed approaches**

Fiona Cornforth is a Wuthathi (Shelburne Bay) descendant with family roots in the Torres Straits. She has an extensive background working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. Fiona is a Master Graduate of ANU's College of Business and Economics, and an Associate Fellow of the Higher Education Academy of the UK. Holding past senior roles in community and government organisations, she utilised her global experience in education, leadership and business development to raise awareness around the impacts of intergenerational trauma.



### **Mr David Edwards**

*Co-Director - WellMob wellbeing website (eMHprac), The University of Sydney*

#### **The WellMob website – A digital tool for our wellbeing**

David Edwards is a Worimi man raised in Turrbal and Yuggera country. David has science and health promotion qualifications and works from University of Sydney's University Center for Rural Health in Lismore NSW, as Co-Director of the WellMob First Nation's SEWB website under the national e-Mental Health in Practice project. David also works on a national Indigenous fathering project SMS4dads with University of Newcastle, and his 'Eco-Connections' consultancy business delivering ecological and cultural heritage management services.



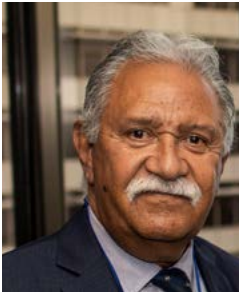
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**Ms Sharnie Roberts**

*Training & Engagement Coordinator - WellMob Indigenous wellbeing website (eMHprac), The University of Sydney*

**The WellMob website – A digital tool for our wellbeing**

Sharnie Roberts is a Widjabul Wyabal woman from the Bundjalung nation. Sharnie has social work qualifications and works from University of Sydney's University for Rural Health in Lismore NSW as Training & Engagement Coordinator on the WellMob project.



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**Mr Boe Rambaldini**

*Director - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Sydney*

**The power of partnership – A new model of rural and regional denture service provision in Aboriginal communities in New South Wales**

Boe Rambaldini, is a proud first nation's, Bundjalung man from the north coast of NSW, Boe's connection to his country is through his mother, a proud Bundjalung woman with strong bonds to her country through her mother. Boe has worked in a range of positions in local, state and federal governments, and non-government organisations sector for over 40 years with the majority being in Aboriginal affairs.

Boe is the Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, at the University of Sydney, he is passionate about improving health outcomes for his people in a holistic manner.



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**Dr John Skinner**

*Research Director - Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Sydney*

**The power of partnership - A new model of rural and regional denture service provision in Aboriginal communities in New South Wales**

For a decade John worked in a variety of research, policy and management roles in the NSW Ministry of Health. In 2014 John was appointed as the Director of the Centre for Oral Health Strategy NSW where he led the development of the Oral Health 2020 and the Aboriginal Oral Health strategic plans for NSW. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney in 2017. In March 2018 he commenced at The University of Sydney as a Senior Research Fellow. John is currently the Acting Research Director at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.



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**Miss Reakeeta Smallwood**

*Registered Nurse, PhD Candidate, University of Technology of Sydney*

**Transforming research stories through Indigenous Storywork: A methodological approach**

As a proud Calala murri yinarr within the Gamilaroi nation, I have worked in nursing since 2011 across various clinical spaces and project roles. Across the many spaces, I became interested in understanding how Aboriginal people lead, create, and produce knowledge through research into policy and practice. Currently, I am PhD Candidate and recipient of the Jumbunna Postgraduate Research Scholarship investigating historical trauma and resilience stories from Aboriginal young people, this project is a sub-part of an Australian Research Council, Discovery Grant, aimed at understanding Aboriginal young peoples' resilience and wellbeing (#IN170100008 -Murdoch University).



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### Connect with us

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Mr Norman Stewart  
Community / Language Group: Yorta Yorta  
*Kidneys of the Dungala*, 2014  
Acrylic on canvas