

*Research to Empower,  
Inform and Transform*

**CENTRE FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN  
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012**

*From Marginalised to Empowered:  
Transformative methods for Aboriginal health and wellbeing*

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# VISION

OUR CONTRACT IS TO LEAD AND CRITICALLY TRANSLATE RESEARCH TO ENSURE THAT IT ADVOCATES, HOLDS AND PRIVILEGES ABORIGINAL VOICES AND KNOWLEDGE, CENTRAL TO TRANSFORMING AND LIBERATING PROGRESS TOWARD ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

# AIMS

## GENERATE KNOWLEDGE

- GENERATE NEW KNOWLEDGE THAT LEADS TO IMPROVED HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

## RESEARCH TRANSLATION & IMPLEMENTATION

- ENSURE EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF RESEARCH OUTCOMES INTO HEALTH POLICY AND/OR PRACTICE

## COLLABORATION

- FACILITATE COLLABORATION BETWEEN CHIEF INVESTIGATORS, THEIR INSTITUTIONS AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS

## TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP

- ADVANCE THE TRAINING OF RESEARCHERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH A CAPACITY FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND FUTURE LEADERSHIP ROLES

# REPORT FROM THE CIA

## PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY

In 2010, the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and six external partners (Murdoch University, Curtin University, University of Western Australia, Pindi Pindi, Baker IDI, Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health), won a National Health and Medical Research Council Centre for Research Excellence grant titled “From Marginalised to Empowered: Transformative methods for Aboriginal health and wellbeing”. Since this time, the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CREAHW) has developed and grown both in size and scope.

Over this period, the CREAHW Chief Investigators have continued to conduct highly innovative research, secure research grants, publish important findings, present at national and international conferences, host visitors from around the world, form and nurture

collaborations and facilitate workshops on Aboriginal Health.

2012 has been yet another successful year for the CREAHW with the continuation of our valuable research programs. The generation and two way exchange of knowledge, to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal people, has remained a critical focus of the CREAHW. I am also delighted to note that our efforts to achieve our aim of building research capacity in 2012 have been highly effective. The CREAHW is now providing supervisory support to five PhD students, three Masters students and one Post-Doctoral Fellow, all of whom are working in the area of Aboriginal health.

This annual report presents an overview of all research conducted by the CREAHW, and includes highlights and summaries of the CREAHW’s core activities of research training, policy advocacy and translation and establishing collaborative links and networks. In addition, the CREAHW’s publications, conference presentations and workshops for 2012 are listed. Both our Chief Investigators and our students have been successful in winning awards and grants that recognise their hard work and dedication to their research.

I would like to express my gratitude to each one of the Chief Investigators, researcher support staff and students for their hard work and strong spirit of collaboration in 2012. Interactions and collaborations amongst CREAHW staff and students have brought further recognition of our work by the research community, but more importantly, have achieved improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Let us continue these positive outcomes as we move into 2013.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Stanley'.

## ABOUT THE CREAHW

The CREAHW is a collaborative research venture between seven research institutions, and is funded with a grant of \$2.5m over five years.

The CREAHW brings the research strengths of each CI together in a cohesive program of community-based intervention research, well known both nationally and internationally, but with local relevance to Western Australia. Supported by the outstanding track record of the Institute working with government to inform policy and practice and build on past achievements by developing the next generation of Aboriginal health researchers and leadership among the CI team.

The collaborating institutions are:

- The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (TICHR)
- The University of Western Australia (UWA)
- Curtin University
- Murdoch University
- The Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
- Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health (CUCRH)
- Pindi Pindi National Research Centre for Aboriginal Children, Families and Community

## CREAHW AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS

We aim to have:

- Generated new knowledge about the underlying causes that limit the effectiveness of services provided to Aboriginal people
- Identified, evaluated and documented robust best practice initiatives for dissemination and effective translation
- Engaged effectively with Aboriginal families and communities to improve access to uptake of programs and services
- Demonstrated capacity of Aboriginal women and men to advocate for improved services and programs for children, families and communities
- Developed, evaluated and widely disseminated transformative research methods and methodologies to improve Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes
- Developed, implemented and evaluated tools for organisational and practitioner cultural competence across relevant services, systems and training sectors to address racism
- Developed and maintained collaborative partnerships with key stakeholders to undertake effective research translation in policy and practice
- Trained Several Aboriginal PhD and postdoctoral students
- Supported career advancement, leadership and independent research of all CREAHW researchers.

# OVERVIEW OF THE CREAHW'S SECOND YEAR

In its second year, the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CREAHW) made considerable progress towards realising its overarching vision of improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. The CREAHW hosted two international and four national visiting scholars, most of whom either presented seminars, led round table forums and/or participated in workshop sessions held during the year. A number of connections with international institutions were also established by CREAHW Chief Investigators and the Research Coordinator.



The CREAHW was represented at eight international and 14 national conferences, seminars, roundtables and/or workshops. Presentations given were focused on Aboriginal health and well-being, community participatory action research and other research topics relevant to the aims of the CREAHW. Combined Governance and Research Meetings are held every six weeks. These meetings provide an opportunity for Chief Investigators to come together to discuss their research and the future directions of the CREAHW. These meetings are essential to maintaining a collaborative leadership of the CREAHW.

The CREAHW has continued to promote its research activities to all relevant stakeholders and the wider community via a number of strategies, including website updates, active involvement in Twitter, regular newsletters, workshops and the hosting of several seminars and round table events. Further details regarding these activities are contained in subsequent sections of this report.

# HOW WE HAVE BEEN MEETING OUR AIMS

## **Generate Knowledge**

The CEAHW continues in its aim to generate new knowledge through its many research programs and student projects focused on mental health and wellbeing, cultural competence and cultural security, and maternal and child health. Details of these research programs are outlined later in this report.

## **Research Translation & Implementation**

Translation and implementation of research is ongoing and continually developing across the life of the grant. The first example is “Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives” workshop building on previous research undertaken in the Western Desert in 2006, which brought together researchers, clinicians, service providers and caregivers, to collaboratively examine strategies to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people affected by skin infections.

The second example is the roll out of the Kimberley Empowerment, Healing and Leadership Program and the National Empowerment Project, which follows on from the collaborative research initiative led by Professor Pat Dudgeon and Associate Professor Roz Walker. Publications resulting from this initiative have included a policy brief and community feedback brief in 2011 and a Final Research Report, Hear Our Voices, in March 2012. Since the Report was published the Community Empowerment, Healing and Leadership workshops have been developed and piloted in the Kimberley. Consultations are currently underway for the further development and implementation of these workshops throughout Australia.

## **Collaboration**

Collaborative efforts of the Chief Investigators (CIs) are evidenced through national Australian Research Council and NHMRC grant and publication successes with shared development and dissemination of new and existing research projects. These collaborations extend outside of state and national boundaries to include linkages across the globe. Further the increasing number of requests for CIs to participate on other NHMRC and ARC Linkage grants confirms that the CEAHW and its CIs are nationally recognised. Importantly, one of the key strengths of the CEAHW is the number of research projects undertaken through the collaborative endeavours of the Chief Investigators.

## **Training and leadership**

Our aim to advance the training of researchers has been evidenced by the completion of one PhD, the provision of supervisory support for eight students of which five are Aboriginal, and the continuing employment of both Indigenous and non Indigenous research staff. Our inaugural key student collaborative event, The Annual Student Project Review, was held in August 2012. Students were given the opportunity to present their research proposal and obtain support and advice from CIs and supervisors on their methodologies. Student feedback was very positive confirming the value of this annual event.

Combined Governance and Research Meetings are held every six weeks. These meetings provide an opportunity for Chief Investigators to come together to discuss their research and the future directions of the CEAHW. These meetings are essential to maintaining a collaborative leadership of the CEAHW.

# CHIEF INVESTIGATORS

The CEAHW's research projects and programs are led by the chief investigators. All CI's have made outstanding contributions to Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing research during their careers and will continue to provide invaluable guidance to the centres students and early career researchers.



## **The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research (Perth, WA)**

**PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY** (Patron) – Fiona brings extensive expertise in leadership, mentoring and advocacy to the CEAHW. Her central role is to promote the public translation of research and communication of the research findings and outputs of the CEAHW to key stakeholders and the general public. Fiona also supervises the quantitative analysis of the linked data sets used in other research projects.

**MR GLENN PEARSON** - Glenn has 15 years of working within senior levels of the State and Australian Government in the areas of health, education and child protection, and brings the experience of policy development to the CEAHW. He is the Manager Aboriginal Health Research at the Institute and is currently completing his doctoral research which explores, from an Aboriginal knowledge perspective, the delivery of education, child health and child protection services to Aboriginal families by the WA State Government. The purpose of this research is to provide a greater understanding, from an Aboriginal knowledge perspective, of ways to improve service delivery within the community services sector.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROZ WALKER** - Roz brings qualitative research expertise to the CEAHW, particularly in community participatory action research methods (CPAR) and research into policy, and over 25 years of experience working with Aboriginal communities, building local capacity within both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations. Her research involves working with the Martu communities and collaborating with key stakeholders to improve maternal and child health outcomes in the Western Desert through a range of identified research initiatives (ie. healthy skin and healthy lives, and promoting positive parenting), and further developing and implementing cultural competence assessments across the health sector to support culturally responsive services.

**DR MICHAEL WRIGHT** - Michael brings extensive experience in the area of Aboriginal mental health and skills in adapting the methodologies of critical ethnography and CPAR to increase the flexibility of research and service provision in Aboriginal settings. His current project aims to improve the access and responsiveness of mental health services provided to Aboriginal people living in the south east metropolitan region of Perth. In partnership with Elders and other community members from this region, Michael and his project team have developed a framework for decolonising the mental health system from a Nyoongar Aboriginal perspective. The implementation and evaluation of this framework in a range of south-east metropolitan mental health services will inform policy and practice at both organisational and governmental levels. **The University of Western Australia**



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## **The University of Western Australia (Perth, WA)**

**PROFESSOR PAT DUDGEON** (School of Indigenous Studies, UWA) - Pat brings a range of skills and psychological expertise to the CEAHW. Her project seeks to develop and sustain culturally appropriate Indigenous women leadership skills, working with Aboriginal women leaders to investigate their roles in contemporary society and to look at ways to develop leadership in a transformative process. A psychological empowerment model to sustain Aboriginal women in leadership positions will be developed. How Aboriginal men support Aboriginal women's leadership will be an outcome.



#### **Curtin University (Perth, WA)**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DAWN BESSARAB** - Dawn brings experience in Community Participatory Action Research (CPAR) and Aboriginal research methodologies to the CREAHW. Her research program entails partnering with a grass roots Aboriginal drug and alcohol organisation in the development of an assessment tool to assist families of clients addressing their substance abuse, applying a gendered analysis to exploring Aboriginal concepts of parenting, the connection of cultural justifications to excuse family violence against women and children, and understanding the context to preventable deaths of Aboriginal children from factors such as infection and traffic accidents.



#### **Murdoch University (Perth, WA)**

**EMERITA PROFESSOR RHONDA MARRIOTT** – Rhonda brings to the CREAHW more than four decades of experience in the nursing and midwifery professions, in addition to her leading work in tertiary education as the inaugural Head of School of Nursing at Murdoch University and the first Australian Aboriginal head of a tertiary School of Nursing. Her research program will develop a conceptual framework that reflects the meaning of Birthing on Country for Aboriginal women in an urban context in metropolitan Perth. The research project will particularly address the cultural security considerations required to meet the diversity of Aboriginal women’s needs when they choose, or are relocated, to give birth in an urban maternity facility. The study outcomes are expected to add to the important work being undertaken by the Department of Health and Ageing to meet the actions scheduled for the middle years of the National Maternity Services Plan; and importantly, will add to current national and state considerations around maternity service and workforce development. Recommendations will also inform professional preparation and development of midwives regarding the provision of culturally appropriate perinatal care. E/ Professor Marriott will supervise a PhD student to develop a conceptual framework exploring Aboriginal spirit and spirituality and the relationship of these to birthing on country. This is important and original work and will add to the paucity of knowledge in this area.



#### **Combined University Centre for Rural Health (Geraldton, WA)**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JULI COFFIN** - Juli brings with her research expertise in cultural security and education, along with research experience across a diverse range of topics such as sexual health, nutrition, contextualising bullying, health promotion and stroke services. Her specific research interest is to test the effectiveness of her previously developed cultural security model across different health sectors i.e. State, Aboriginal medical and private health services.



#### **Murdoch University & Pindi Pindi, The National Research Centre for Aboriginal Children, Families and Community (Midland, WA) Midland, WA**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHERYL KICKETT-TUCKER** - Cheryl is continuing her valuable research on the development of racial identity and related self-esteem of Aboriginal children, youth and adults (using her IRISE measures across the life span). When complete her research will describe the mediating factors of racial identity and related self-esteem in relation to Aboriginal people’s mental wellbeing and identify effective ways to strengthen the social, cultural and emotional wellbeing and identity of Aboriginal children, youth and young adults. This research encompasses the development of new instrumentation, complemented by in depth personal interviews using CPAR methods.



#### **Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute (Melbourne, VIC)**

**PROFESSOR SANDRA EADES** – In conjunction with Professor Fiona Stanley, Sandra co-supervises several analyses of linked data sets extracted from Western Australian health databases, to explore pathways from pregnancy to adult disease. Sandra is also mentoring PhD and post-doctoral scientists in grant writing and designing the most appropriate interventions for Aboriginal communities i.e. action research methods.

# SUPPORT STAFF AND STUDENTS

One of the aims of the CEAHW is to build the capacity of Aboriginal researchers alongside a group of outstanding, independent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal research leaders. In 2012 the CEAHW has led the way in creating opportunities for research assistants and students.

## Research Coordinator

### **Tamika Heiden – PhD, Telethon Institute, Perth WA**

Tamika has been the research coordinator for the CEAHW since May 2011. Tamika's involvement in the Knowledge Translational Professional Program at the University of Toronto in Canada will assist CIs to further enhance community and government buy in, in their research programs to help create real change at the service level.

## Senior Research Officer

### **Clair Scrine – PhD, CEAHW/Telethon Institute, Perth WA**

Clair was involved in the Kimberley Empowerment, Healing and Leadership Program led by Professor Pat Dudgeon and Associate Professor Roz Walker. Clair provides research support to A/Professor Walker in her maternal and child health projects.

## Project Officer

### **Amina Currimbhoy – Telethon Institute, Perth WA**

Amina was engaged in mid-2012 as a Project Officer to assist Glenn Pearson, Manager of Aboriginal Health Research, with his research projects under the CEAHW.

## Research Assistants

### **Tanya Jones – Telethon Institute, Perth WA**

Tanya has assisted Dr Michael Wright since April 2011, as part of the Looking Forward Aboriginal Mental Health Project team. In 2012 Tanya helped plan two CEAHW events, namely the 'Strong Cultural Identity Creates Strong Aboriginal Minds' Panel Session and the 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' Workshop in 2012.

### **Charmaine Green – Combined University Centre for Rural Health, Geraldton WA**

Charmaine has lived and worked in the Midwest-Murchison-Gascoyne and Pilbara for the past 26 years. She is an Aboriginal Health researcher and educator assisting A/Professor Juli Coffin in Geraldton.

### **Stuart Crowe – Curtin University, Perth WA**

Stuart has a background in Aboriginal service delivery, cultural development, education and research. He is currently at the Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute (CHIRI) and recently assisted Professor Dawn Bessarab in the design of a family assessment tool for Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Centre in Broome.

### **Joy Neri – University of Western Australia, Perth WA**

Joy is an administrative officer in the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. Joy works part time for Professor Pat Dudgeon on the healing and empowerment research work in the Kimberley.

### **Sophia Harryba – Pindi Pindi, Midland WA**

Sophia was employed as the research officer for the "Strengthening social and emotional well-being of Australian Aboriginal people: How does racial identity and related self-esteem mediate the mental well-being of Aboriginal people?" project working with Asst Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker.

### **Sue Renshaw – Pindi Pindi, Midland WA**

Sue is assisting Associate Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker with the project on a part time basis. Sue's role is to assist with administration of the project and to complete survey data entry using SPSS v19.

### **Jay Tucker – Pindi Pindi, Midland WA**

Jay has commenced as a Junior Research Assistant. His role has been focused on the auditing of the research process including cross-checking consent forms with surveys and interviews, and updating the participant database.

## Post Graduate Students

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow:**

### **Lina Gubhaju – Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Melbourne, VIC**

Lina has worked with Professor Sandra Eades as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Indigenous Maternal and Child Health Research group at Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute since 2010. The main focus of her research is to investigate the determinants and consequences of adverse fetal growth among Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They are currently undertaking a large transgenerational data linkage study examining fetal growth among three generations of Western Australian Aboriginal people.

### **Denise Groves – PhD Student, Murdoch University**

Denise receives funding for her studies through the CEAHW. Denise's PhD is entitled "The importance of culture and connection to country for Nyiাপali people" and is divided into three sections; the spiritual implications of birthing on country, the spiritual, social, and cultural consequences that

## SUPPORT STAFF AND STUDENTS

result when these spiritual connections are broken, and how these connections are being restored and strengthened. She is in the first year of her studies. Emeritus Professor Rhonda Marriott and Dr Jan Karapetis are supervising Denise's PhD.

### **David Hendrickx – PhD student, University of Western Australia**

David started his PhD with the CEAHW in July 2012 and successfully submitted his proposal to the University of Western Australia in December 2012. The impetus for his research project came about through the research work being led by Associate Professor Roz Walker, whom identified skin infections among Aboriginal children in the Western Desert communities as a issue. David will be using mainly qualitative and participatory research methods to work towards improving skin health in WA's remote Aboriginal communities, with a particular focus on scabies. David is being supervised by A/Professor Roz Walker Professor Jonathan Carapetis and Professor Marleen Boelaert (Institute of Tropical Medicine, Belgium). He was awarded a Scholarship for International Research Fees and a University International Scholarship at the University of Western Australia in support of his PhD studies.

### **Robyn Williams – PhD student, Curtin University**

Robyn started her PhD at Curtin University this year. Her PhD is titled "Understanding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) through the stories of Noongar Families in the South West and how this can inform Policy and Service Delivery". Robin aims to explore and gain knowledge of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) with a small group of parents and carers of children with FASD, to explore the FASD spectrum and the impact of "minor" FASD on Aboriginal families, and to identify and explore the impact of FASD on the health of Aboriginal people with FASD.

### **Ailsa Munns – PhD student, Curtin University**

Ailsa Munns works at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Curtin University as the Course Coordinator of the Postgraduate Child and Adolescent Health Programs and Coordinator of the Community Mothers Program (WA). The title of Ailsa's PhD research project is "Investigation of a culturally secure home visiting model for Aboriginal family and child health support in the Midland community in Western Australia". This project will examine the development, implementation and evaluation of peer led home visiting parenting support for Aboriginal families with young children in the Midland community within the Swan, East Metropolitan region of Western Australia. The age range for children is from birth to four years, after which it is

anticipated that they will have more sustained contact in the preschool environment.

### **Clinton Schultz – PhD student, Griffith University Qld**

Clinton Schultz is a Kamilaroi man and a registered psychologist. Clinton is currently undertaking PhD research on "The risk and protective factors of social emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health professionals: A grounded theory investigation." Over the past twelve months Clinton has made significant progress into the investigation of risk and protective factors of social emotional wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals. A presentation of the research aims and methodology was held with CEAHW members in September 2012 and positive feedback was received from all who attended. Over the next twelve months it is intended that confirmation of the research themes will occur and all data collection will be completed.

### **Yolanda Andrews – Masters Student, University of Western Australia**

Yolanda has a background in health promotion and addiction studies. She is currently pursuing her interest in Aboriginal health as a Master of Science candidate at the School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health at the University of Western Australia. A/Professor Roz Walker is the field work supervisor for Yolanda in the Evaluation of the Martu Healthy Lifestyles Program in Jigalong.

### **Jocelyn Kickett – Masters Student, Murdoch University**

Jocelyn is a Noongar woman born and raised in Perth. Jocelyn is a Masters Student in her final year at Murdoch University. Associate Professor Juli Coffin is a co-supervisor. Jocelyn's research is titled "Aboriginal Girls in the High School: Is there something Missing?" Jocelyn aims to complete her thesis in mid-2013.

### **Cynthia Deeble - Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Practice**

Cynthia is currently employed as an Aboriginal Mental Health Clinician for the Department of Health (Peel and Rockingham, Kwinana Service (PaRKS)). One of the aims of her research is to explore possible correlations between stereotypes and bullying from teachers and education administration staff, and the possible lasting effects of these factors on the psychological and emotional development of Indigenous children. It is thought that these issues may be carried into adulthood as Mood Disorders or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A/Professor Roz Walker provides mentorship and support to Cynthia.

## OTHER CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

One of the aims of the CEAHW is to advance the training and skill development of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers to enable them to conduct research which delivers tangible health benefits for Aboriginal people. As well as supporting a number of post-graduate students and research assistants, the CEAHW has also continued to host students on short-term placements and present workshops focused on improving research and service delivery practices to better meet the needs of Aboriginal people.

### Facilitating Workshops

The Looking Forward Aboriginal Mental Health Project, led by Dr Michael Wright, is located in Wadjuk Nyoongar country hence, Nyoongar cultural leadership is an essential component of the research process. This leadership is visible in the research team through the involvement of Nyoongar lead researcher, Elder and consultant (Dr Michael Wright, Mrs Margaret Culbong and Mr Danny Ford, respectively). This process has facilitated the two-way exchange of knowledge between the researchers and the community, and ensured the project is strongly informed and guided by Nyoongar values and cultural protocols, whilst simultaneously advancing their own research knowledge and capabilities.

In September 2012, the team delivered workshops on community participatory action research at both the Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA) Australasian conference in Sydney and the National Empowerment Project.

At the ALARA conference participants were asked to consider ways of improving their response to the needs of Aboriginal clients. The Nyoongar six seasons were applied as a metaphor for undertaking this process of service change, with participants exploring their individual research practices. The response to both of these workshops was very positive.



*Participants from the National Empowerment Project discussing the Nyoongar six seasons with Michael Wright*

# OTHER CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

## Student Placements

This is the third year the CEAHW has encouraged student placements and summer internships to attract and recruit potential researchers in Aboriginal health. In 2012, three Aboriginal researchers worked with CIs in the CEAHW. Ms Tiana Culbong, a Nyoongar woman from Perth, was engaged on a summer internship at the Institute, to support Glenn's research projects. Tiana is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Indigenous Studies) at the University of Melbourne.

Student placements also provide opportunities for Aboriginal undergraduates to become exposed to the research space. Ms Patty Councillor spent two weeks of her four week student placement with Glenn assisting him with his CEAHW research projects by developing literacy tools for Aboriginal people who are involved in quantitative research (data linkage) projects. Patty also supported Michael Wright's research by assisting a workshop held with Nyoongar Elders and mental health service providers. Patty is a Yamaji Naaguja Nyarlu woman from Meekatharra and is currently completing a Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health) through Charles Sturt University. She is also a Mental Health Worker employed at Central West Mental Health Service, in Meekatharra.

## Training in Field Research

In 2012 Associate Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker provided training and capacity building for 20 individuals in a range of roles for the IRISE project including data collection and transcriptions. A total of 10 assistants were employed to collect data. Of these, six were Aboriginal. Another two Aboriginal individuals provided their guidance to the project and assisted in consulting and negotiating engagement and participation of their respective communities into the IRISE project. A local Aboriginal high school student completed her work placement and performed a research audit, electronic search for literature and assisted in general research administrative tasks.

In May 2012, Michael Wright also hosted a half-day session at the Institute with a group of Masters of Social Work students from The University of Western Australia, discussing social work in a research context.

Associate Professor Coffin employed two Aboriginal researchers Mrs Darlene Merritt assisted with community based research question and interview development tools and analysis. She has since gone on to a full time position in community health. Ms Glenda Taylor, moved into a more clinical role in community health on the basis of the skills she had developed around intervention and policy development whilst working with Associate Professor Coffin.

# STUDENT EVENTS

## Student Morning tea

On the 19th March 2012 the CREAHW held a morning tea at Pindi Pindi, The National Research Centre for Aboriginal Children and Families. This event provided an ideal opportunity for our students to meet both each other and the CREAHW Chief Investigators (CIs).

## CREAHW Student Project Review

This year saw an increase in the number of students undertaking research with and supported by the CREAHW. Students, four of whom are PhD students, attended a workshop with the CREAHW CIs. Each student gave a presentation on their research project, which was followed by a feedback session with the rest of the group. The CIs also facilitated a discussion on Ethics in Aboriginal Health Research. The workshop was a great success and its value was confirmed by the students' request that the Student Project Review continue as an ongoing annual event.



The following positive feedback was received:

*"The student day was very interesting and worthwhile..."I was also inspired by the depth of knowledge and experience shared by the lead investigators and supervisors. Rhonda, Dawn, Fiona, Roz - your generosity was evidenced so clearly by your feedback. I've come away with a much stronger capacity to be critical, in a constructive way, of what I am doing, and why." Helen Lynes*

*Cynthia Deeble, Roz Walker, Robyn Williams, Helen Lynes, Dawn Bessarab, David Hendrickx, Fiona Stanley, Rhonda Marriot*



*“As a student in the early phase of my PhD, I experienced the CEAHW student day as a very valuable opportunity to discuss my research proposal with the CEAHW CIs as well as with my fellow students. It is rare for students to be able to tap into such a wealth of knowledge and experience, and it is on occasions like these that the CEAHW’s added value becomes very apparent. I also very much appreciated the opportunity to interact and share experiences with other CEAHW students. The variety of topics covered by their proposals illustrates the breadth of the CEAHW’s research activities very well and highlights the many intricacies and challenges involved in the field of Aboriginal health and wellbeing. For me, being new to this research context, this was very valuable. I hope this was the first of many CEAHW student days to come!” David Hendrickx*

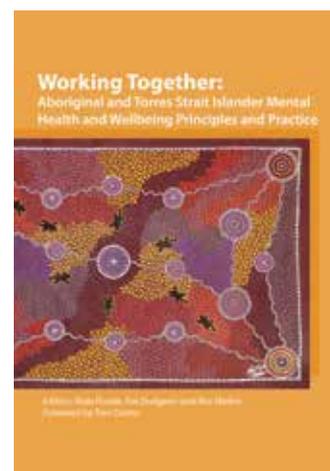
*“It was a great opportunity to meet both CIs and fellow students and spend quality time getting to know everyone. I found the day was invaluable, in hearing the other presentations/feedback, discussions around ethics and the level of support that will be made available to us as students... The chance to sit with other PhD students also helps to demystify some of the process, and the day certainly alleviated some of my anxiety of going into my own research.” Robyn Williams*

## CHIEF INVESTIGATOR COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES

In addition to CIs working across each others research projects the following are two examples of specific work undertaken to meet the outcomes of the CEAHW.

### *Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*

*Five of the CIs and one PhD student from the CEAHW are also contributing to the second edition of Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice, which is co edited by Professor Pat Dudgeon, Professor Helen Milroy and A/Professor Roz Walker. Over 47,000 copies of this seminal text have been distributed to mental health practitioners, educators, students and other key stakeholder groups who work with Aboriginal people. The book is also used as a core text for professional development and cultural awareness workshops across a range of health, mental health, allied health and social services disciplines. Working Together has 64 contributing authors, 38 of which are Aboriginal.*



### *Aboriginal Community Development*

*Several of the CEAHW CIs are producing an Aboriginal community development textbook. There is considerable expertise among the CIs and an editorial group has been formed to carry out initial planning for the text. A community development text offers an exciting opportunity for the CIs to contribute to the body of knowledge and build an evidence base to show how community development interventions can improve Aboriginal health and wellbeing outcomes.*

# WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

The CREAHW proudly participated in the Reconciliation Week 2012 street banner project run by the City of Perth. As a show of our support for Reconciliation Week 2012, the CREAHW banner was displayed in the Murray Street Mall in Perth City from 27th May to 3rd June 2012.



To acknowledge Mental Health Week, in October 2012 Michael Wright’s team hosted a Reconciliation Walk for service providers and Nyoongar community members. The Walk was held at the Canning River Regional Park, in the south-east metropolitan region of Perth, and was led by two local Nyoongar Elders; Mr Mort Hansen and Mrs Margaret Culbong. Both Elders shared their knowledge of culture, words and sign language, and personal stories with participants.

Local service providers and Nyoongar community members came together in a commitment to strengthen working relationships for Michael Wright’s Looking Forward Aboriginal Mental Health Project.

*Elder Mort Hansen guides participants on the Reconciliation Walk at the Canning River Regional Park. Photo by Anne Goodall.*



## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The CEAHW is a strategic program of research focused on achieving radical and sustainable change to improve the lives of Aboriginal people and communities. The program is a unique validation of Aboriginal knowledge and demonstration of Aboriginal methodology involving a multi-disciplinary team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers, who will contribute to the body of knowledge, work transparently with the Aboriginal community and embrace Aboriginal culture and ways of thinking.

Our research themes include Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing, cultural security and cultural competence, and maternal and child health.

These research themes are underpinned by our core goals to build capacity and connect researchers, service providers and the community in practical and empowering ways.

The research projects being undertaken by the CEAHW Chief Investigators are as follows:



## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### **The role of Gender in Contemporary Aboriginal Life**

Glenn Pearson

This research project “Being a Man”: The role of Gender in Contemporary Aboriginal Life, is exploring what it means to be a man within contemporary Aboriginal life. Engaging Aboriginal men as the researchers, this project builds on the work by Dr Michael Wright, Dr Brian McCoy and A/Professor Dawn Bessarab. It will see the establishment of an Aboriginal men’s steering group to lead in the design and implementation of the research.

### **Strengthening social and emotional wellbeing of Australian Aboriginal people**

Cheryl Kickett-Tucker

This is an extension of Cheryl Kickett-Tucker’s research on the development of racial identity and related self-esteem of Aboriginal children, youth and adults (using her IRISE measures across the life span). The study aims to explore the development of racial identity and related self-esteem of Aboriginal children, youth and adults across the life span. It will describe the mediating factors of racial identity and self-esteem that influence Aboriginal people’s mental wellbeing. This project proposes to strengthen the social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children aged 4-12 years, youth aged 13-17 and adults from 18 years onwards.

Over the last 12 months ten people have assisted with data collection across the regions. Data collection has been completed across the Peel, Swan and Goldfields regions. Over 500 children, youth and adults participated in the IRISE project. Quantitative analysis is currently underway with the assistance of Professor David Lawrence. The IRISE\_Y (youth inventory) was successfully trialled in two Goldfields high schools as an electronic survey using IPADs, with the assistance of

# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Professor Bonnie Barber from Murdoch University and the Youth Activity Participation Survey team. Findings from this project will be made available at the end of 2013.

## **Empowerment, Healing and Leadership program** Pat Dudgeon, Roz Walker, Clair Scrine, Cheryl Dunkley, Divinna D’Anna & Kathleen Cox

The project was conducted in collaboration with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) Social Emotional Wellbeing Unit in response to the high rates of suicide in the Kimberley in 2010. The aim of this project is to strengthen the capacity of community members to empower themselves and others to change their lives, their communities and the systems that are barriers to good social and emotional wellbeing. This project utilised participatory action research and worked with Aboriginal people from Broome,

Beagle Bay and Halls Creek in the Kimberley. Two local Aboriginal people were employed as researchers.

A comprehensive research report urges a need for major change in the way prevention programs are designed and delivered to empower and heal Aboriginal communities. The ‘Hear Our Voices’ Report found that Aboriginal communities had a clear desire to lead their own healing initiatives, based on the value of life, culture and community

As well as a literature and program review and analysis of findings, this report foregrounds the wisdom within the Aboriginal communities. It confirms that Kimberley communities want to take ownership of solutions. People spoke of the overwhelming need to heal at an individual, family and community level and the need to help young people reconnect with their culture, their



# MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

family and themselves. These outcomes confirm that sense of personal and cultural identity is a powerful protective factor against the threat of self-harm.

The report highlighted the impact of colonisation and a range of social and economic factors that contribute to community distress such as a lack of access to primary health care, overcrowding, drug and alcohol abuse and poverty. The report recommended: funding to support culturally responsive programs to combat youth suicide across the Kimberley; the development of culturally appropriate programs to train local people, support processes for community leaders and mentors to extend their positive influence and programs to improve young people's self-esteem; and, the establishment of a local advisory or action group to identify needs and develop support services

Professor Michael Chandler launched the report in Broome on Wednesday 15th August 2012. As a consequence of the Kimberley Hear Our Voices report, KAMSC received state government funding to deliver an empowerment program across the Kimberley. Also, UWA received funds to replicate the process across eight sites around the country.

## **Looking Forward Project: Improving mental health service outcomes for Aboriginal people**

**Michael Wright & Fiona Stanley**

The primary aim of the Looking Forward Project is to change the way mental health services are delivered to Aboriginal people living in the Perth south-east metropolitan region. Mental health services need to be delivered in a way that demonstrates a comprehensive understanding and respect for an Aboriginal (Nyoongar) cultural world-view. This requires services to change their practices and structures to reflect an understanding of an Aboriginal (Nyoongar) ways of knowing and ways of doing.

The project has been guided by participatory action research methodology, and a working relationship with the local Aboriginal (Nyoongar) community. Eleven community forums were held in 2011 to identify the needs of Aboriginal families living with mental health concerns. The community was experiencing a high number of suicides and that they were frustrated by the lack of support shown by mental health service providers.

Following the forums, the project team worked with the community for a further six months, to explore in more depth the specific Aboriginal cultural issues around mental health service delivery. From January to July 2012, an additional 10 community meetings were conducted with a smaller group of Aboriginal people living in the south-east metropolitan region (the Project Community Steering Group). The key outcome from the Community Steering Group process was the development of a Nyoongar framework for systems change. The Framework has been endorsed by the Nyoongar Elders living in the region with one of the Elders providing a Nyoongar name for the Framework; Minditj Kaart-Moorditj Kaart.

The Minditj Kaart-Moorditj Kaart framework is a systems change intervention tool that has been developed with the intention of decolonising mainstream spaces, so that they become more inclusive and empowering spaces for Nyoongar people. The framework will enable Nyoongar people and service providers to constructively work together as it will offer a lens through which service providers can begin to understand a Nyoongar world-view. It is based on the six Nyoongar seasons, which are central to Nyoongar people's ontological understanding of their world-view.

From June to October 2012, a series of intensive sessions were held with interested local mental

## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

health and drug and alcohol service providers to prepare them for the process of making change within their own organisation. Representatives from nine service provider organisations chose to participate in these sessions, which culminated in a joint workshop with Nyoongar Elders in November 2012 (Open Hearts, Open Hands Workshop). The purpose of the seven workshops/gatherings held with the service providers was to engage them in:

1. Personal reflections on their understanding of a Nyoongar world-view, their own positions of privilege in Australian society, and the overall directions and goals of the Looking Forward Project.
2. A more intensive process of working at deepening their understanding of the privilege they hold as service providers in their relationships with Nyoongar people.

The project team will evaluate the session's influence. The Minditj Kaart-Moorditj Kaart Framework will be used as the foundation for the Evaluation Plan. An individually tailored plan will be prepared for each service by linking the principles of the Framework with each agency's work and organisational structures.

### **Promoting positive perinatal mental health, parenting, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and resilience in Aboriginal parents in Western Australia.**

Rhonda Marriott, Fiona Stanley, Nicholas De Klerk, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Roz Walker & Denise Groves

Professor Rhonda Marriott is funded through an ARC Indigenous Discovery Grant and Associate Professor Roz Walker contributes her time to the project as part of her CREAM work. This holistic, mixed method study aims to promote positive perinatal mental health, parenting, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and resilience in young Aboriginal parents residing in two locations in

Western Australia (one urban and the other regional).

Existing and new data will be linked to answer a number of research questions to further understand the relationship between selected indicators, perinatal mental health and positive parenting. Two instruments and three interventions will be used in a pre and post intervention research design.

Recommendations are expected to be supported by strong community engagement that will significantly influence the practice of Aboriginal health workers and guide health policy for the provision of culturally appropriate perinatal, newborn and family health care that will support positive parenting and parents with perinatal anxiety and depression associated with pregnancy and/or the early parenting period (up to baby's age of six months).



**Family Assessment Tool, Milliya Rumurra, Broome**  
Dawn Bessarab

Milliya Rumurra (MR), located in Broome, is a residential centre providing treatment and rehabilitation to Aboriginal community members wishing to address their misuse of alcohol and other drugs (AOD). Currently as part of their formal program MR assess all individuals attending the centre to develop a specific treatment plan to assist each person in addressing their AOD use. The centre's outreach program works with families of clients to help them to understand what the centre is offering and to provide support while their family member is receiving treatment. The outreach program assists both the family and the client with their transition back into the family and community on completion of the program.

The aim of this project is to work with the management, clinical and outreach team, clients,

families, community members and service stakeholders to develop a family assessment tool. It is envisaged that this tool will become an integral part of the MR's service and will be used by clinical and outreach team workers to assess the needs of the client's family at the time of intake.

Over the last 12 months the draft tool was presented to Milliya Rumurra for feedback and refinement. The assessment tool has now been completed and was presented to the Management and staff in November this year. The tool has been very well received.

The next steps in the project involve the implementation of the tool, staff training and acceptance of the tool as an important process. Then evaluating the impact that the tool has had on the outcomes for the clients of Milliya Rumurra and their families.

## Milliya Rumurra Family Engagement Support Program



**'Creating New Tracks'**  
**Counsellor and Client Tool Box**



**Australian Government**



# CULTURAL SECURITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

## Cultural Security for Yamaji people within regional health services

Juli Coffin

This project aims to create a culturally secure health service for Yamaji (Aboriginal people) in the Midwest/Murchison region of Western Australia. This will be achieved through the mapping of current policies and practices when treating and engaging Aboriginal health consumers across all health sectors, implementation of the 'Cultural Security Framework' (Coffin 2007) within each health sector to show the strengths and weaknesses for priority, and working within each health sector to create strategies/policies and practice to improve areas of weakness. It is hoped that this project will provide evidence that changes can be culturally secure and sustainable.

This project will take into consideration the existing Department of Health Cultural Respect Implementation Framework (Framework) and other documentation/policies in regard to this issue.

This year has seen the engagement of community partners and stakeholders in the project. Mapping of policies and practices has been carried out at the General Practitioner Division Network and the Aboriginal Medical Service and mapping of the hospitals in the region is almost complete. Over 70 interviews have been completed, with another 30 planned for 2013. The analysis of the interviews has begun and a strategic feedback process will be completed by mid-year 2013, with intervention strategies planned for the remainder of 2013. 2014 will involve a revisit and remapping to see if any gains in cultural security have been made.

An arm of the Cultural Security project in the North Metropolitan region has also been established through the Pindi Pindi Centre as part of improving culturally secure health service delivery to Aboriginal people in the North Metropolitan Health Service Area. This will ensure greater translation of the proposed methodology and model across rural, remote and urban settings.



# CULTURAL SECURITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE

## Supporting the Cultural Learning through Cultural Competence Assessment Tools

Roz Walker & Nicole McCartney (Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health WA)

Discussions have been underway with the senior Aboriginal management team of the Aboriginal Health branch to work with the Action Learning Group to explore ways of supporting the implementation of the Cultural Learning Framework with staff working in the Western Australian Health Department.

## “Investigating Aboriginal women’s cultural needs for birthing; and evaluating the cultural competency, workforce and education needs of midwives.”

Rhonda Marriott, Tracy Martin (Office of Nursing and Midwifery), Terri Barrett (Statewide Obstetric Support Unit), Roz Walker, Dr Tracy Reibel (TICHR) & Fiona Stanley

This project will explore the meanings of ‘cultural security’ and Birthing on Country for Aboriginal women in the study location and will specifically investigate what:

- Aboriginal women want and expect from their health services in relation to a meaningful Aboriginal cultural birthing experience and/or a Birthing on Country maternity model;
- Aboriginal women would include in a culturally secure and/or Birthing on Country birth plan that would facilitate real cultural meaning;
- Aboriginal women feel are cultural risks to themselves and their children if their cultural requirements are not met;
- the key characteristics of culturally competent care and a culturally secure health care environment are; and
- the requirements for midwifery pre and post registration education programs are in order

to effectively prepare the midwifery workforce for the diversity of cultural birthing needs of Aboriginal women in the study location.

Ethics approval has been received from WAAHEC and Murdoch University and is currently being sought from health services ethics committees. As the Project Leader and CI, Professor Rhonda Marriott is coordinating the overall research program and research design. She will also assist Associate Professor Roz Walker in the evaluation of organisational cultural competence of the health services participating in the study and take the lead in the evaluation of the cultural competence of the workforce. Outcomes of the project are expected to strengthen culturally secure midwifery care for Aboriginal women birthing in an urban location.



# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

## Implementing the AEDI in the Western Desert

Roz Walker

The key objective of this research project, undertaken in partnership with BHP Billiton Iron Ore, is to support the Indigenous Community Investment Program (CIP) 2009-2014. The project aims to improve the social, educational, and health and wellbeing outcomes of Martu communities across the Western Desert in the Pilbara by providing the evidence base and conceptual underpinnings to inform and evaluate the new maternal and child health initiatives being developed by World Vision



Australia. Specifically the project involves implementing, communicating and disseminating the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) results across the Western Desert communities over the five years of the CIP. There is strong research evidence which confirms the benefits of using the Early Development Index to bring about community level change in Australia and in Canada.

The AEDI data collected for 2011 has now been compiled into a Community Report which will be reported back to key stakeholders at a Community Forum. The data is one of the key measures being used to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of some community based activities to enhance the knowledge of families about the importance of the early years and to strengthen their capacity to improve their wellbeing.

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

## **Western Australian Aboriginal Intergenerational Fetal growth Study (WAAIFS)**

Sandra Eades, Bridgette McNamara, Glenn Pearson, Amanda Langridge, Carrington Shepherd, Nicholas de Klerk & Fiona Stanley

During 2012 the Western Australian Aboriginal Intergenerational Fetal growth Study (WAAIFS) team has been investigating the health of Aboriginal mothers and babies using a large intergenerational dataset from Western Australia of Aboriginal births from 1980 to 2009, they have been exploring the trends in maternal pre-pregnancy and pregnancy health over the 30 year period. Furthermore, they have also examined trends in newborn characteristics including the rates of preterm and low birth weight births among Aboriginal infants from 1980 to 2009. Through the findings from these two longitudinal analyses, they hope to gain a better understanding of the health of Aboriginal mothers and babies, and more importantly identify the key priority areas for future research. This project is investigating the determinants of fetal growth across generations in all Aboriginal mothers and children born in Western Australia between 1980 and 2009, using a novel measure of fetal growth; the percentage of optimal birth weight (POBW). POBW measures the appropriateness of fetal growth for a given gestational age, fetal gender, maternal height and parity, and allows the prevalence and severity of both growth restriction and excessive growth to be assessed.

Using unique data from linked administrative health datasets spanning over 30 years and multilevel models, the study is mapping the differing contributions of fetal growth to chronic diseases in individuals, the links between maternal fetal growth and that of her offspring, and how the occurrence of medical conditions and pregnancy complications influences that relationship. The project team will explore the causal pathways involved in the perpetuation of sub-optimal

fetal growth across generations, as well as those that are protective. These investigations will be conducted to determine whether the most important pathways to chronic disease began in grand-maternal environments or in the next generation. The results are expected to provide evidence for when maternal and child health interventions are likely to be most effective for the prevention of lifelong adult diseases, including those influencing reproductive risks.

In 2013 the research program will investigate the determinants of maternal and neonatal health, in particular the intergenerational determinants of fetal growth.

## **Intergenerational determinants of fetal growth in Aboriginal Western Australians Life Study - Engagement of Story Makers**

Glenn Pearson

This project will seek to develop a community led engagement framework to establish a relationship between key stakeholders in the Aboriginal community and the Intergenerational determinants of fetal growth in Aboriginal Western Australians Life Study (the Study).

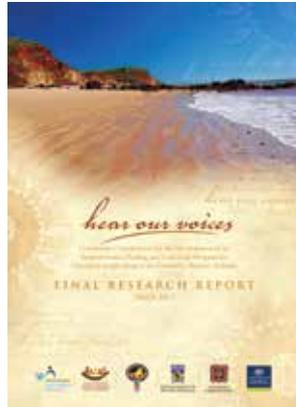
The Study will analyse birth and disease records over three generations of Aboriginal families to investigate how a mother's birth weight and her diseases in pregnancy influence both her reproductive health and her risk of chronic diseases (e.g. heart disease and diabetes) later in life. In addition to the scientific research papers that will result from this research, dissemination of the research findings to Aboriginal people and community health organisations will be in the form of presentations to these representative groups and reports written specifically for communities and organisations. Kulunga Research Network has been retained to undertake take the lead on the engagement of the Aboriginal community, particularly Aboriginal women, and will work in collaboration with the CREAHW on this project.

# CREAHW RESEARCH INFORMING POLICY

## Policy Briefs

### 'Hear Our Voices' Final Research Report

Following on from the publication of the CREAHW Research and Policy Brief titled "Developing an Innovative, Culturally Responsive Healing, Empowerment and Leadership Program for Aboriginal People Living in the Kimberley Region of Western Australia" in late 2011, the final research report for this project was launched on the 15th August 2012. The release of the Hear Our Voices Report gained considerable media attention. The following excerpts capture some of the media response:



## Media Response

### Suicide report delivers recommendations

*A suicide prevention expert says she is pleased with work being done in the Kimberley's remote Aboriginal communities to curb high rates of suicide.*

*Pat Dudgeon's report, 'Hear Our Voices', makes about 20 recommendations on how to break the cycle of suicide. Although the report will be officially released in Broome today, some of the strategies have already begun. Professor Dudgeon*

*says the difference this time is that money has been invested at a grassroots level.*

First posted August 15, 2012 13:35:40 at ABC Online Indigenous News <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-15/suicide-report-delivers-recommendations/4200272/?site=indigenous&topic=latest>

### Report: Locals key in suicide prevention, 15 August 2012

*A NEW report into high suicide rates in WA's Kimberley region has recommended greater Aboriginal community involvement in prevention programs. 'Hear Our Voices' report co-author Pat Dudgeon says the desire expressed by Kimberley communities to lead their own healing initiatives based on the value of life culture and community fits with evidence from Canada that a secure sense of personal and cultural identity can help guard against the threat of self-harm. The report highlighted the impact of colonisation and factors like access to primary health care, overcrowding, drug and alcohol abuse, and poverty on community distress. Amongst other things, it recommended culturally appropriate training of local people, support processes for community leaders and mentors to extend their positive influence, and programs to improve young people's self-esteem.*

Posted on Koori Mail – Breaking News at <http://www.koorimail.com/>

### Suicide report delivers recommendations

Updated August 15, 2012 13:35:40

Map: Broome

**Suicide report needs action**  
A Telethon Institute report showing the high number of Aboriginal suicides in the Kimberley over more than 10 years has worsened in the past year makes troubling reading. It is disturbing that the report notes that besides a lack of access to primary health care, overcrowding, disadvantage and poverty, governments may have contributed to community distress.  
The report points to constant change in ministers, senior personnel and policy-making as a national strategic framework attempt

**Poor policies blamed for Aboriginal suicide rate**  
The growing suicide toll in the Kimberley may have been more severely targeted...  
...ation of about 16,000...  
...suicide rates...  
...to identify needs and develop support services...  
...the impact of colonisation and a range of social...  
...distress, such as access to primary health care...

University News  
Empowering Aboriginal communities the key to suicide prevention  
The West Australian 16 August 2012  
...high rates of...  
...change in...  
...Australian...  
...Creek and Beagle Bay as...  
...over more than 10 years...  
...Professor Pat Dudgeon said...  
...in the Aboriginal communities...  
...olution.\* Professor Dudgeon said...  
...family and community level and...  
...family and themselves.\*  
...on Canada that fostering a secure...  
...a factor against the threat of self-harm.\*  
...combat youth suicide, starting within the...  
...cross the Kimberley...  
...in local people, support processes for...  
...positive influence, and programs to improve...  
...to identify needs and develop support services...  
...the impact of colonisation and a range of social...  
...distress, such as access to primary health care...

# CREAHW RESEARCH INFORMING POLICY

## Influencing Government

The Hear our Voices report also received mention in the Parliament of Western Australia, indicating this work is having a direct influence on policy makers:

**Extract from Hansard [COUNCIL —Wednesday, 19 September 2012] p6082c-6097a Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich; Hon Helen Morton; President; Hon Sue Ellery; Hon Alison Xamon**  
**STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY**

*I note that the minister quoted from the “Hear Our Voices” report on research by the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and I also will refer to that report. The research findings include, not surprisingly, that Aboriginal communities have a clear desire to lead their own healing initiatives, based on the value of life, culture and community, and that programs need to be designed and delivered based on this understanding.*

*I listen very carefully when the Minister for Mental Health talks in this place about suicide, and I know this particular provision is one the minister has very much taken to heart and taken on board—the idea of not going into a community and paternalistically telling the people what they need, but listening very carefully to what communities are saying they want. However, I think there is a disconnect between that very good and clear intention, and the fact that some communities need particular programs. We know that it is crucial to have local programs that engender a sense of control by communities of their own future and are locally developed.*

HON ALISON XAMON [13]

## Influencing Policy and Programs

**Extract from Hansard [COUNCIL —Wednesday, 24 October 2012] p7535b-7537a Hon Robin Chapple**  
**STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY**

*The standard government clinical health responses to Aboriginal suicides are failing. Aboriginal suicide is not primarily a mental health issue, but a matter of improving individual health and self-worth through encouraging a sense of belonging to something good, improving community wellness to the valuing of cultural practice and promoting hope in the future. The latest government funding to address Aboriginal suicides in the Kimberley will be through the Kimberley empowerment community action plan hosted by the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council, which has been for granted \$428 148 to run a series of empowerment, leadership and healing programs in Broome, Halls Creek and the Kimberley ranges until June 2013.*

*Some of these people want to work on the immediate development of convening a community-based committee, including young people, to help guide strategies and solutions. That is the very thing that has been outlined in the document entitled “Fixing the hole in Australia’s heartland: How Government needs to work in remote Australia” and indeed in “Hear our voices: community consultations for the development of an empowerment, healing and leadership program for Aboriginal people living in the Kimberley, Western Australia”, another research document. It is about empowering the community to take charge of the issues. It is not about funding outsiders to do the job; it is about funding the insiders to help lift the community.*

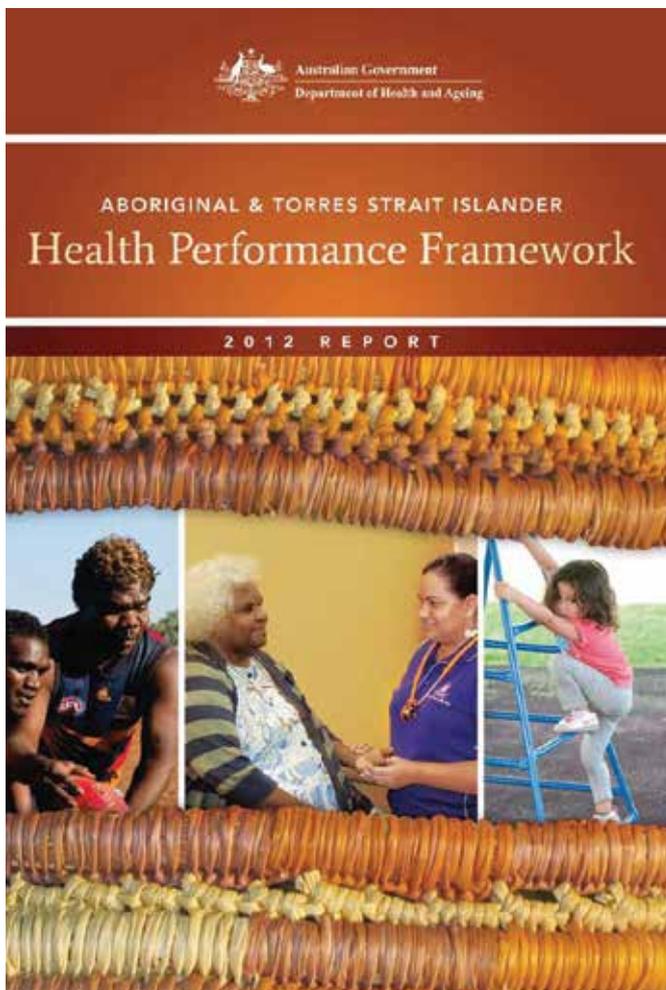
The ‘Hear our Voices’ final research report is available for download on the CREAHW website at [http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/centre-for-research-excellence-\(cre\)/publications/policy-and-research-briefs.aspx](http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/centre-for-research-excellence-(cre)/publications/policy-and-research-briefs.aspx).

# CREAHW RESEARCH INFORMING POLICY

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 Report

Six of the CREAHW Chief Investigators have also had their work drawn on in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 Report, as important referent points for informing the revised 2012 Framework (See references listed below).

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework monitors progress in closing the gap in Indigenous Australian health outcomes, health system performance and broader determinants of health. It was designed to measure the impact of the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (NSFATSIH) and will be an important tool for developing the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (NATSIHP).



**Dudgeon, P, Cox, K, D'Anna, D, Dunkley, C, Hams, K, Kelly, K, Scrine, C & Walker, R** 2012, 'Hear our voices: community consultations for the development of an empowerment, healing and leadership program for Aboriginal people living in the Kimberley, Western Australia: final research report', *Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin*, vol. 12, no. 3.

**Dudgeon, P, Wright, M & Coffin, J** 2010, 'Talking It and Walking It: Cultural Competence', *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues*, vol. 13, no. 3, pp. 29-44.

**Eades, S** 2004, *Maternal and Child Health Care Services: Actions in the Primary Health Care Setting to Improve the Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women of Childbearing age, Infants and Young Children, Casuarina, NT.*

**Eades, S, Read, AW, Stanley, FJ, Eades, FN, McCaullay, D & Williamson, A** 2008, 'Bibbulung Gnarnep ('solid kid'): causal pathways to poor birth outcomes in an urban Aboriginal birth cohort', *Journal of paediatrics and child health*, vol. 44, no. 6, pp. 342-6.

**Reibel, T & Walker, R** 2010, 'Antenatal services for Aboriginal women: the relevance of cultural competence', *Quality in Primary Care*, vol. 18, pp. 65-74.

**Walker, R & Shepherd, C** 2008, *Strengthening Aboriginal Family Functioning: What works and why?*, *Australian Family Relationships Clearinghouse.*

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 report can be downloaded from <http://www.health.gov.au/indigenous-hpf>

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

National and international linkages are important for sharing resources and expertise, facilitating collaborative research initiatives and publications, and building networks and relationships, all of which are essential for scientific excellence. During 2012 several opportunities to create national and international linkages with a diverse range of institutions have arisen for CEAHW members.

### National

Several CIs are on the successful Australia Research Council grant for the National Indigenous Research and Knowledge Network (NIRAKN) - a multidisciplinary hub and spokes model network comprising 49 leading Aboriginal CI's and from over 20 collaborating universities, and AIATSIS. The network is a platform creating a critical mass of researchers to meet the compelling research priorities and needs of Aboriginal communities. **Professor Pat Dudgeon** is a co-lead in Indigenous Health node along with Professors Bronwyn Fredericks and Kathleen Clapham. **Associate Professors Juli Coffin and Dawn Bessarab** facilitate links between the CEAHW and the NIRAKN in Australia and internationally. **Professor Fiona Stanley and Associate Professor Roz Walker** are mentors and will provide advice, input and on-going critical review of the different elements of the program and collaborative opportunities.

**Professor Sandra Eades** is a Chief Investigator on 'SEARCH: Better evidence, better health for urban Aboriginal children' a NHMRC Partnership Projects

grant (\$1,395,759 over 3 years) SEARCH : is the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) is a long-term study of urban Indigenous children attending four Aboriginal medical services in New South Wales and will provide important information to help close the outcome in Aboriginal health outcomes.

**Associate Professor Roz Walker** is a CI on an ARC - Indigenous Discovery grant led by Dr Roxanne Bainbridge at James Cook University in Queensland- 'Inspiring Indigenous youth to build resilience and sustain participation with education and employment: The role of targeted mentoring support.'

The CEAHW was represented at eight international and 14 national conferences, seminars, round tables and workshops focused on Aboriginal health and wellbeing, community participatory action research and other research topics.

### Canada & Alaska (USA)

In October 2012, Glenn Pearson travelled to Canada and Alaska (USA), as part of a delegation, to explore best practice Indigenous health research models to inform the establishment of the Western Australian Aboriginal Knowledge Network (the Network). The Network consists of three partners; the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA), the University of Western Australia's Rural Clinical School of Western Australia (RCSWA) and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research.



## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

The delegation, comprising members from AHCWA, Mawrankurra Aboriginal Medical Service (Roebourne) and Derby Aboriginal Health Service, was funded by Rio Tinto to meet with a range of First Nation organisations and people across Canada and Alaska to find; what works and the challenges for community controlled first nation health research and what models might influence the design of the Network. A series of thirty-three exchange meetings were held over ten working days in six cities and with one community in Alaska, USA and in three Canadian provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

Glenn will bring these newly established networks to his work within the CEAHW and hopes to invite a number of people to be visitors and researchers to the CEAHW in 2013.



*Glenn Pearson with the Chief of the Sagkeegn Nation*

### Canada – Ontario

Sick Kids Toronto

Dr Tamika Heiden, CEAHW coordinator, attended the Sick Kids Institute in Toronto for one week in October 2012 where she completed the Knowledge Translation Professional Certificate course. This was a very valuable experience and led to some strong connections and linkages with researchers working in Indigenous health in Canada to benefit the translational aspects of the CEAHW grant. Tamika also visited the York University Knowledge Mobilization unit and met with key leaders and researchers who are working in Indigenous health across Toronto and at Queens University.

She also met with the research director and the health policy analyst at the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC). They represent twenty nine friendship centres across Ontario with an aim “to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people living in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities which encourage equal access to and participation in Canadian society and which respects Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.” Their research is community driven with the community having full ownership and decision making power over all research that is completed and published.

The OFIFC has developed a new research framework will be of benefit to CEAHW researchers when looking at similarities and differences with NHMRC guidelines for conducting research in Aboriginal contexts.

### Belgium – Antwerp

Institute for Tropical Diseases

Associate Professor Roz Walker visited the Institute for Tropical Diseases in May 2012. Whilst there Roz was invited to present in teaching sessions in the Qualitative and Mixed Methods program and also presented a two hour Social Seminar on the CEAHW and Aboriginal Health in Australia. She met with several students and senior academic staff individually to discuss CPAR research methods and the work of the CEAHW.

A/Professor Roz Walker and David Hendrickx met with the Director of the Institute to discuss the



## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

potential for international collaborations in the future. David ran a course 'Introduction to Mixed Method Study Designs.'

### Mainz – Germany

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz

In June 2012, Associate Professor Dawn Bessarab, with colleagues Professor Kim Scott, Associate Professor Simon Forrest and Dr Marion Kickett from Curtin University, attended an international symposium - Bridging the Health Divide, Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Respect at the Centre for Comparative Native and Indigenous Studies, Mainz University, Germany.

The purpose of the symposium was to establish international links with Mainz and discuss opportunities for research and teaching and learning in the Indigenous field. Associate Professor Bessarab presented work on Indigenous Research collaborations and the different methodologies that inform effective engagement with the Indigenous people and communities. The symposium created a lot of interest in working with Indigenous peoples and stimulated a conversation around how to create a safe Indigenous space at Mainz to encourage Indigenous student attendance.

### Atlanta – United States of America

International Alliance for the Control of Scabies

David Hendrickx, a PhD student represented the Institute and the CREAHW at the inaugural meeting of the International Alliance for the Control of Scabies (IACS), in Atlanta (USA) on the 16th November 2012. This newly formed network brings together experts on scabies and skin health from around the world to determine the best modes of action to control this disease on a global scale.

The meeting discussed: (i) the need for more advocacy and general awareness around scabies and its implications; (ii) the need to better document the global epidemiology of scabies; and (iii) identifying ways of improving scabies disease control strategies. David will play an active role in the IACS group who will be working on improving the documentation of global scabies epidemiology. Amongst other things, he will contribute to the creation of an online geo-referenced compendium of literature on scabies epidemiology.

This data will be made available through an interactive online map, which will be on the soon-to-be-launched IACS website, providing a more comprehensive and detailed account of the global epidemiology of scabies. The next general meeting of the IACS will be held in Washington in November 2013.

*A/Prof Simon Forrest, A/Prof Dawn Bessarab, Prof Kim Scott and Dr Marion Kickett at the Bridging the Health Divide Symposium in Germany.*



## PUBLICATIONS

The following publications for the period January 2012 to December 2012 have arisen from projects with which CEAHW personnel are affiliated.

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9. **Hendrickx, D.,** Carapetis, J., & **Walker, R.** (2012). Swimming pools in remote Aboriginal communities: A report on the current evidence for the effectiveness of swimming pools on the reduction of skin and ear infections. Report to the Minister for Health. Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Centre for Child Health Research, UWA.
10. Jamieson, L. M., Paradies, Y. C., **Eades, S.,** Chong, A., Maple-Brown, L., Morris, P., et al. (2012). Ten principles relevant to health research among Indigenous Australian populations. *The Medical Journal of Australia*, 197(1), 16-18.
11. **Kickett-Tucker, C. S., Kickett, J., Coffin, J.,** & Hubbard, J. (2012). *Centre of Excellence Swan Region: Moorditj Koorlong [Our Solid and Strong Youth].* Perth, Australia: Koya Aboriginal Corporation.
12. Kowal, E., **Pearson, G.,** Peacock, C. S., Jamieson, S. E., & Blackwell, J. M. (2012). Genetic research and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 9, 419-432.

## PUBLICATIONS

13. Langridge, A. T., Nassar, N., Li, J. H., Jacoby, P., & **Stanley, F. J.** (2012). The impact of monetary incentives on general fertility rates in Western Australia. *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, 66(4), 296-301.
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## VISITING FELLOWS

### **Emeritus Professor Michael Chandler**

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

Emeritus Professor Chandler is an internationally renowned academic in the field of Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing and suicide prevention. Professor Chandler has researched, published and lectured for over 30 years on culture and mental health, particularly in Canada's First Nations communities. Professor Chandler's work has demonstrated that having a sense of identity and cultural continuity can help Aboriginal people, especially youth, to see they have a future. Self-government, land rights, community-controlled services, women in positions of leadership and facilities dedicated to cultural purposes, have all been identified as 'markers' of cultural continuity.

Having been long involved in the mental health issues of Aboriginal Australians, Professor Chandler's research has strong relevance for Australian Indigenous communities and public policy. In August 2012 he embarked on a short tour of Australia to share his knowledge with policy makers, academics and the broader community. His program included meetings in Canberra, Perth and the Kimberley, and as one of the sponsors of Professor Chandler's visit to Australia, the CEAHW was able to secure his participation in a panel discussion entitled "Strong Cultural Identity creates Strong Aboriginal Minds" (see 'Workshops hosted by the CEAHW' section for more details).

### **Professor Stuart Shanker**

York University, Ontario, Canada

Professor Shanker is one of Canada's foremost child development specialists. His research is focused on the importance of self-regulation and how it is linked to children's learning. He has been influential in the development and implementation of child development best practice strategies and has advised governments in Canada, the USA and Australia.

In June 2012, the CEAHW hosted a round table discussion on early childhood development. The discussion was very informative and Dr Shanker was also interested to hear about the CEAHW's experience in working with Aboriginal communities to improve health and early childhood development. Dr Shanker has had much success in developing policies and programs in early childhood education and shared some of these experiences with us. He also provided examples of how he has used knowledge mobilization to improve his message and create research impact at the grass roots level.



## VISITING FELLOWS

### **Professor Alan Rosen**

University of Wollongong and University of Sydney, NSW, Australia

In March 2012 Professor Rosen, an eminent clinical and research psychiatrist, gave a presentation entitled “The Case for an Apology by the Australian Mental Health Professions to Aboriginal and Islander peoples” at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research. This event was hosted by the CEAHW, in conjunction with the Kulunga Research Network, in recognition of National Close the Gap Day. Over fifty people attended the seminar including Telethon Institute staff, university academics, external stakeholders, and service providers from community agencies and Aboriginal mental health organisations. The seminar was followed by a round table discussion focusing on the need to: nurture future Aboriginal leaders and establish leadership groups; incorporate traditional healing methods in mental health care; translate effective models into services to ensure positive outcomes are sustained; focus on “good news stories”; and, provide enduring continuity of care and integrated services – a “one-stop shop” model.

### **Emeritus Professor Jim Ife**

Deakin University, Victoria, Australia

Jim Ife, inaugural Professor of Human Rights Education at Curtin University until 2006 and honorary professor at Deakin University and Victoria University, is actively engaged with community development through Borderlands Cooperative. He is currently working on the fifth edition of his classic text *Community Development*, and has also published books on human rights and social work. His most recent book is *Human Rights from Below: Achieving Rights through Community Development* (2010).

In November 2012 Professor Ife met with the CEAHW CI’s to discuss the potential of producing an Aboriginal community development textbook. The discussion generated great interest and has resulted in the establishment of an editorial group, lead by Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, to begin planning the text.

### **Dr Brian McCoy**

La Trobe University, Victoria, Australia

CEAHW Associate Investigator, Dr Brian McCoy, is a Senior Research Fellow in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health at La Trobe University, Victoria. He has worked in a number of communities over nearly four decades in the Kimberley, North Queensland and Northern Territory; promoting, sustaining and evaluating health programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. He visited Perth in May 2012 to provide support to Mr Glenn Pearson and Dr Michael Wright in their ongoing research projects. Dr McCoy and Dr Wright also gave a joint presentation on “Empowering Public Health Research” as part of the Telethon Institute Seminar Series.

### **Dr Sam Prince**

Dr Prince is a medical doctor, entrepreneur, and founder of the Emagine Foundation and the non-profit organisation, One Disease at a Time. In March 2012 he visited the Institute where he met with A/ Professors Roz Walker and Dawn Bessarab, and PhD student David Hendrickx, to discuss his vision to eliminate scabies in Australia and to explore the potential for possible collaborations in the future.

## WORKSHOPS HOSTED BY CREAHW

### **'Strong Cultural Identity Creates Strong Aboriginal Minds' panel session - August 2012**

In August 2012 the CREAHW held a panel session with Professor Michael Chandler, Associate Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Associate Professor Juli Coffin and Dr Michael Wright. The discussion was moderated by Professor Bonnie Barber from Murdoch University. The session was well attended with people present from the Aboriginal Health Improvement Unit – Western Australian Country Health Service, Mental Health Commission, Western



Australian Centre for Mental Health Policy Research, Specialist Aboriginal Mental Health Services (SAMHS), Health Networks Branch – Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Healing Foundation, and other academic institutions.

The two hour session sparked some lively discussion around the theme of strengthening Aboriginal mental health through community self-determination and traditional culture. A key message promoted by Professor Chandler was “Cultural wounds require cultural healing”.

### **'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' Workshop – December 2012**

Skin infections have been identified as a significant health issue in remote Aboriginal communities throughout Australia. Scabies is common in such settings, with prevalences of up to 50% having been recorded in some areas. Bacterial skin infections, often secondary to scabies, are also widespread and have been identified as a major precipitant of renal and heart complications among Aboriginal populations.

The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, through the CREAHW, held a two day expert meeting in Perth on 12 and 13 December 2012. Key researchers, policy makers, community leaders and civil society representatives were brought together in an effort to lay the foundations for a comprehensive 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' program, with the aim of significantly reducing skin infections and associated morbidities in Western Australia's Aboriginal communities, including the potential role for swimming pools.

During the workshop participants explored: the rationale for establishing a comprehensive 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' program in Western Australia; the type of interventions; mechanisms for measuring, monitoring and evaluation the impact of such a program.

The workshop made for stimulating discussions and highlighted the need for comprehensive inter-sectoral approaches for reducing skin infection rates in WA's remote Aboriginal communities. The outcomes of the workshop will be used to prepare a proposal for the improved control of scabies and associated skin infections, which will be submitted to the WA Department of Health for consideration.

The workshop further affirmed the community based participatory action research program of work being carried out in the Pilbara by A/Professor Roz Walker which first highlighted the extent of scabies among young children in the Western Desert and the potential negative impacts on education, health and wellbeing outcomes among young children. Several key stakeholders (PAMS, WACHS) involved in this work in the Western Desert attended the workshop and explored strategies to further develop baseline data and involve relevant health, community and maternal health staff and education people in the ongoing study.

One of the important outcomes was the rekindling of interest in the potential health and other benefits of swimming pools in remote communities. The CEAHW (Roz Walker and David Hendrickx) and other staff at the Telethon Institute including the Director, Professor Jonathan Carapetis and Associate Professor Deborah Lehmann and Dr Desiree Silva will remain directly involved in any follow-up activities around both evaluating the role of swimming pools and any possible 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' program.



# COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

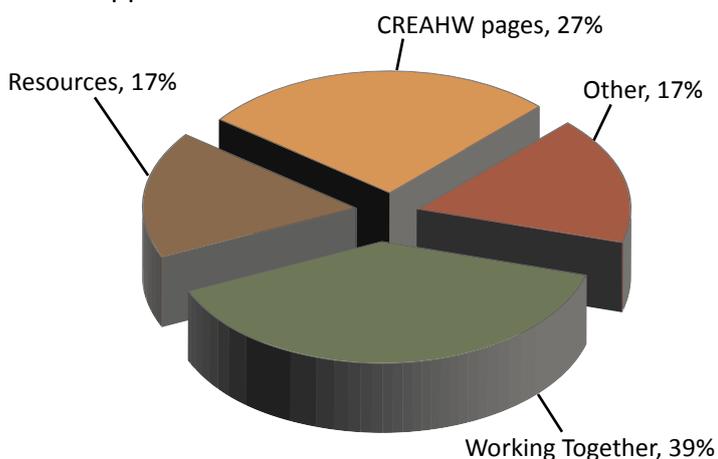
The CEAHW has a comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy to enhance the translation of information about the research being undertaken and the findings. Several CIs participated in media interviews around key topic including suicide prevention and intervention in the Kimberley and enhancing services to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

## Website

<http://aboriginal.childhealthresearch.org.au/>

The CEAHW is represented on the Aboriginal Health Section of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Website. Since January 2012 we have had 15,876 visitors to our website, 11,500 of which were new visitors. On average each visitor viewed 3 pages. 29% of visitors were from direct traffic, whilst 27% came from referring websites, and 44% found us through search engines such as Google.

We have continued to have strong interest from several countries other than Australia. These have included the Netherlands, Canada, France, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Norway, Romania, India, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand, Jordan, Japan, Luxembourg, Philippines and Qatar.



There have been 32,545 unique page views in 2012. The most highly accessed pages were the Working Together (39%) and the CEAHW pages (27%).

## Use of social media

CEAHW developed a twitter presence in



late 2011 and quickly gained 100 followers within several months. At present the CEAHW has 456 followers and is following 185 organisations in research, health and Aboriginal Health. Examples of institutions we follow include the Healing Foundation, Close the Gap, National Health and Medical Research Council, and the World Health Organisation.

## Newsletter

The newsletter continues to feature short news items, recent events, conferences and publications relevant to Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing. These newsletters provide links to the relevant websites for more information regarding the conferences and publications.

Since January 2012 we have developed and distributed five newsletters. The newsletters have been uploaded to our website and distributed to Aboriginal health and mental health and wellbeing stakeholders through The Aboriginal Collaborative Council Advising on Research and Evaluation (ACCARE).

## Public lectures, seminars and workshops

In 2012 there were a number of invitations to CEAHW Chief Investigators to present information from their research and deliver workshops. These many opportunities are outlined in the tables that follow.

# ROUND TABLES, SEMINARS AND YARNING CIRCLES HOSTED OR ATTENDED BY CREAMHW

PRESENTERS	TITLE	ORGANISATION	STATE	YEAR
<b>Round Tables</b>				
Professor Alan Rosen	In depth discussion on Australian Mental Health Professions and Aboriginal people.	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	March 2012
Professor Stuart Shanker	Early Child Development in Indigenous Populations	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	June 2012
Professor Jim Ife	Aboriginal community development book discussion	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	November 2012
<b>Seminars – invited speakers</b>				
Professor Alan Rosen	The Case for an Apology by the Australian Mental Health Professions to Aboriginal and Islander peoples	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	March 2012
Professor Michael Chandler with Associate Professor Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Associate Professor Juli Coffin & Dr Michael Wright	'Strong Cultural Identity Creates Strong Aboriginal Minds' panel discussion	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	August 2012
<b>Yarning Circles</b>				
Professor Jim Ife	Morning tea to discuss Aboriginal Community Development with Professor Jim Ife	Pindi Pindi, The National Research Centre for Aboriginal Children, Families and Community	Midland, WA	November 2012
<b>Round Tables attended by CREAMHW (invited presenters)</b>				
Associate Professor Roz Walker & Professor Rhonda Marriott	National Roundtable on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Maternal Health Research: Priorities for Interventions	The Lowitja Institute	Melbourne, Vic	March 2012

# SEMINAR/FORUM PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS (INVITED)

INVESTIGATORS	TITLE	SEMINAR/ORGANISATION	LOCATION	MONTH
Glenn Pearson	"Doing it for the Kulungas" - The TICHR Child Health Research	Child Health Research Seminar Series – Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	February 2012
Roz Walker & Clinton Schultz	Aboriginal Health Research Program 2012 – 2016	Workshop Presentation at Mount Austin High School	Wagga Wagga, NSW	April 2012
Glenn Pearson	A Social and Emotional Wellbeing framework of mental health – implications for practice	Child Health Research Seminar Series – Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	April 2012
Michael Wright & Brian McCoy	Is it all about relationships and living in a dominant culture? Empowering Public Health Research	Child Health Research Seminar Series – Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	May 2012
Roz Walker	Social Seminar on The Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing	Institute for Tropical Diseases	Antwerp, Belgium	May 2012
Roz Walker	Qualitative and Mixed Methods Workshop	Institute for Tropical Diseases	Antwerp, Belgium	May 2012
Tamika Heiden	Social Media in Research	Child Health Research Seminar Series – Telethon Institute for Child Health Research	Perth, WA	May 2012
Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	IRISE: Racial identity and self-esteem in koorloormitj for moorditj koorlongka.	2012 Middle Years Seminar Series - The Department for Communities and the Commissioner for Children and Young People, with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth	Perth, WA	May 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB)?</li> <li>How can an understanding of SEWB assist the Stolen Generations?</li> <li>How can we do our business better?</li> </ul>	2012 Unite Working Together Conference (Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program National Conference)	Adelaide, SA	June 2012

INVESTIGATORS	TITLE	SEMINAR/ORGANISATION	LOCATION	MONTH
Dawn Bessarab	Yarning: The art of communicating with Aboriginal people	Dementia Training Studies Centre	Perth, WA	July 2012
Rhonda Marriott	Birth on Country workshop	Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council Maternity Services Inter-Jurisdictional Committee	Alice Springs, NT	July 2012
Dawn Bessarab	Bridging the Health Divide: Aboriginal Communities and Cultural Respect	Centre for Comparative Native and Indigenous Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz	Mainz, Germany	July 2012
Tom Calma & Pat Dudgeon	What's needed to close the gap – an exposé of Indigenous public policy	Centre for Remote Health – Seminar Series 2012	Alice Springs, NT	August 2012
Pat Dudgeon & Roz Walker	Introduction to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in culturally competent ways	The 17th Australasian Conference on Traumatic and Stress (ACOTS)	Perth, WA	September 2012
Fiona Stanley	Workshop: 'Nurturing Children: A Whole of Government Approach to improving child wellbeing'	4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy	New Delhi, India	October 2012
Fiona Stanley	Research – Why it is such a rewarding career	WA Medical Students' Association Research Symposium	Perth, WA	October 2012
Fiona Stanley	Aboriginal Child Health – The TICHR Experience	Visit to the Institute for Tropical Medicine	Antwerp, Belgium	October 2012
Fiona Stanley	Closing the Gap: Research & policy to reduce social inequities in child health and wellbeing	Festschrift: Professor De Cock	Leuven, Belgium	October 2012
Fiona Stanley	Panel Discussion: Best of the Best Women in Science	RIAus Best of the Best Women in Science (with Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield and Marita Cheng)	Melbourne, Vic	November 2012

# INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

INVESTIGATORS	TITLE	HOST ORGANISATION/EVENT	LOCATION	MONTH
Michael Wright	Indigenous Research Methods lecture	School of Population Health - Social Work and Social Policy, The University of Western Australia	Perth, WA	May 2012
Michael Wright	'Working with Aboriginal people who are living with a mental illness' lecture	School of Population Health - Social Work and Social Policy, The University of Western Australia	Perth, WA	May 2012
Roz Walker	Integrating Cultural Competence with the Learning Framework	Aboriginal Health Branch, Department of Health Western Australia	Perth, WA	
Pat Dudgeon	Ngunnawal Lecture: 'Affecting our Wellbeing'	University of Canberra	Canberra, ACT	August 2012
Roz Walker	Hear Our Voices : Literature and Program Review	Launch of the Hear Our Voices: Community Empowerment and Leadership Research Report	Broome, WA	August 2012
Roz Walker	Overview of the 'Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice' book	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council meeting	Perth, WA	October 2012
Roz Walker	Healthy Skin Healthy Lives: Setting the Scene	'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives ' 2 day Expert Workshop	Perth, WA	December 2012
David Hendrickx	Current evidence for effectiveness of swimming pools for skin infections and ear disease'	Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives ' 2 day Expert Workshop	Perth, WA	December 2012

# KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

INVESTIGATORS	TITLE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	MONTH
Pat Dudgeon	There could be cathedrals of the spirit as well as stone: Psychology and racism.	New Zealand Psychological Society and New Zealand College of Clinical Psychologists Joint Conference	Wellington, New Zealand	April 2012
Fiona Stanley	From data to wisdom: Total population data linkage for health and wellbeing	2012 International Data Linkage Conference	Perth, WA	May 2012
Rhonda Marriott	Healthy, culturally strong Aboriginal families in the 21st Century	Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health Conference	Perth, WA	June 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing: What does it mean in practice and how can it assist the Stolen Generations	2012 Unite Working Together Conference (Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program National Conference)	Adelaide, SA	June 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Indigenous Knowledges: What is the difference?	30th International Congress of Psychology	Cape Town, South Africa	July 2012
Heather Gridley & Pat Dudgeon	Decolonising psychology: The Australian Psychological Society reconciliation action plan	30th International Congress of Psychology	Cape Town, South Africa	July 2012
Pat Dudgeon	There could be cathedrals of the spirit as well as stone: An overview of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and psychology	30th International Congress of Psychology	Cape Town, South Africa	July 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Hear Our Voices: Aboriginal Trauma and Resilience.	17th Australian Conference on Traumatic Stress: Trauma and disaster – Complexity, Diversity, Recovery	Perth, WA	September 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perceptions of Social and Emotional Well Being	Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity Conference	Melbourne, Vic	November 2012

# CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN BY CEAHW INVESTIGATORS

INVESTIGATORS	TITLE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	MONTH
Roz Walker & Clinton Schultz	Working Together: Successes and lessons learnt.	Rural Health West Aboriginal Health Conference	Perth, WA	July 2012
Dawn Bessarab	Yarning: The art of communicating with Aboriginal People	Dementia Networking Seminar	Perth, WA	July 2012
Lina Gubhaju, Fiona Stanley, Sandra Eades et al.	Western Australian Aboriginal Intergenerational Fetal Growth Study (WAAIFS)	Population Health Congress	Adelaide, SA	September 2012
H. Gridley, Y. Adams, Roz Walker, & C. Gillies	Ways forward for psychological assessment with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians (symposium)	47th Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference	Perth, WA	September 2012
Pat Dudgeon & Roz Walker	Social determinants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing - risk and protective factors (Professional Practice Forum)	47th Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference	Perth, WA	September 2012
Michael Wright, Margaret O'Connell, Danny Ford, Margaret Culbong & Tanya Jones	Making a difference: Engaging both hearts and minds in research practice	Action Learning Action Research Association (ALARA) Australasian Conference	Sydney, NSW	September 2012
Denise Groves	Indigenous Cosmology	Science and Non Duality Conference	California, USA	October 2012
Glenn Pearson	Do You See What I See? An Exploration of the Delivery of Child Protection, Child Health and Primary Educational Services to Aboriginal People in the Perth Metropolitan and Geraldton Regions	Canadian Research Data Centre Network 2012 National Conference: Evidence-Based Policy Formation and Evaluation	Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada	October 2012
Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	IRISE_A: Indigenous (I) Racial Identity (Ri) and Self-Esteem (SE) is koordoornitj of moorditj Aboriginal Adults (A)	The 21st Century Approach to Mental Health: The 7th world conference on the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental and behavioural disorders	Perth, WA	October 2012
Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	Indigenous racial identity and self-esteem of Australian Aboriginal children: Construction and validation of the IRISE_C inventory	The 21st Century Approach to Mental Health: The 7th world conference on the promotion of mental health and the prevention of mental and behavioural disorders	Perth, WA	October 2012
Fiona Stanley	Data Linkage Lessons from WA: You can do it and the sky won't fall	DHS/CSIRO Conference: Information and Innovation in Service Delivery	Canberra, ACT	November 2012
Dawn Bessarab	Application of Community Based Participatory Action Research in developing a Family Assessment Tool for a Community Based Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Organisation	Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute Conference - Bench Top to Bedside to Better Health: Translating Research into Policy and Practice	Perth, WA	November 2012

# OUR KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

## Research Findings

MEASURE	TARGET 2012	OUTCOME 2012
Number of publications	10	22
Invitations to provide keynote addresses at international/national conferences	5	9
Community feedback forums/events	4	1 – “Empowerment, Healing and Leadership program” 6 – “Looking Forward Project”
Media releases	1	1
Number and nature of commentaries about the CREAHW’s achievements	Newspaper articles - 1	Koori Mail and the West Australian (article and editorial) re the Hear our Voices Report
	Web online articles – 1	(ABC News and HealthInfoNet) re the Hear our Voices Report
	Radio interviews – 1	Professor Pat Dudgeon on ABC

## Awards, prizes or recognition

2012 has seen several CREAHW Chief Investigators and their students become the recipient of prestigious awards. These awards are shown in the table below. In addition, the CREAHW CI’s have been successful in winning competitive research grants from several research funding schemes and in partnerships with many different institutions.

AWARD RECIPIENT	AWARD TITLE	YEAR
Pat Dudgeon	Appointed as a Commissioner on the National Mental Health Commission	2012
Fiona Stanley	Reappointed to Australia’s peak science advisory body, the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC)	2012
Juli Coffin	Edith Cowan University Research Medal for outstanding thesis	2012
Sandra Eades	Awarded 6th Place on the ROAR (Roadmap Of Australian primary health care Research) top 10 for research in Indigenous health	2012
Robyn Williams	Randall McDonald Scholarship – Curtin University	2012
Robyn Williams	Healthway Scholarship commencing in 2015.	2012
Cynthia Deeble	Western Australian Mental Health Commission Grant	2012
David Hendrickx	UWA Scholarship for international researchers and University International stipend	2012

# GRANTS WON BY CI'S AND SUPPORT STAFF IN CREAHW

YEAR	INVESTIGATORS	GRANT TITLE	FUNDING BODY
2012	Rhonda Marriott, Roz Walker, Fiona Stanley & Denise Groves	A visual record of young Aboriginal families' positive parenting and their management of the impact of perinatal anxiety and depression.	Nurses Memorial Trust Grant
2012	Libby-Lee Hammond, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker & Libby Jackson-Barrett	Connecting culture, curriculum and community	Public Education Endowment Trust
2012	Dina LoGiudice, Leon Flicker, Kate Smith, Associate Professor Dawn Bessarab, David Atkinson, Melissa Lindeman	"Gotta be sit down and worked out together"- using participatory action research to test an empowerment intervention addressing the needs of unpaid carers of older Aboriginal people.	National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)
2012	Tamika Heiden	Travel funding grant to attend Knowledge Translation Professional Certificate	Friends of the Institute
2012	David Hendrickx	Travel funding grant to attend the International Alliance for the control of scabies meeting in Atlanta	Friends of the Institute
2012	Roxanne Bainbridge, Komla Tsey, Adrian Miller, Christopher Doran, Anthony Shakeshaft, Roz Walker	Inspiring Indigenous youth to build resilience and sustain participation with education and employment: The role of targeted mentoring support	Australian Research Council (ARC) Indigenous Discovery Grant
2012	Craig J, Banks E, Sandra Eades, et al.	SEARCH: Better evidence, better health for urban Aboriginal children	NHMRC Partnership Projects

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Table 1 provides a statement of operating income and expenditure for the period January 2012 to November 2012.

Table 1: Financial statement for year ended 30 November 2012.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>
NHMRC Grant	
Amount allocated since Oct 2010	528,573
Amount carried forward 2011	305,477
Funds from collaborating institution	
University of Western Australia	100,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>934,050</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Personnel	232,433
Research funds	266,514
Travel	32,151
Administration	64,722
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>595,820</b>
Funds carried forward to 2013	338,230



Telethon Institute for  
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*Research to empower, inform and transform*