



Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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About Us

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This report provides a review of the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CEAHW) operations for the year 2014. The Annual Report was designed by Chrissie Easton. The artwork featured on the front cover is by Sonia Edney and the photo was taken by Juli Coffin.

Our logo represents a group of Aboriginal people of different sizes, ages, from different families, all gathered together to share information and work towards a better future. They sit above a coolamon dish; the coolamon represents the gathering of information, just as food was gathered for the benefit of our people. Also a symbol of protection, the coolamon cradled babies many years ago. The pattern inscribed beneath, represents a network of people passing on stories, information, data for the future. Logo design by Jilalga Murray-Ranui.



About the CREAHW

In 2010, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CREAHW) a grant of \$2.5m over five years. It is a collaborative research venture between seven research institutions and 10 Chief Investigators (CIs) headed by Professor Fiona Stanley.

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. It is being supported by the outstanding track record of the Telethon Kids 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.



Chief Investigators at Matilda Bay, WA

The collaborating institutions are:

- ◆ Telethon Kids Institute
- ◆ The University of Western Australia (UWA)
- ◆ Curtin University
- ◆ Murdoch University
- ◆ The Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute
- ◆ Pindi Pindi National Research Centre for Aboriginal Children, Families and Community

Overview of the 4th year

In its fourth year, the CREAHW made considerable progress towards realising its overarching vision of improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. Our CIs and their research teams (including PhD Students) gave a total of 63 presentations at national and international conferences, seminars and workshops, of which, six were keynote addresses.

The CREAHW held four Governance meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity for the CIs to come together to discuss their research and the future direction 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 engagement on social media and newsletters.

In 2014, we held three student days which were well attended by students, CIs, Associate Investigators and Telethon Kids staff. These meetings provided an opportunity for students to report on the progress of their studies. It also provided a forum for the students to network and receive feedback from their supervisors and peers. We also held one CI planning day and one roundtable seminar.



Report from the CIA - Professor Fiona Stanley

Over the past 4 years of the CEAHW the Chief Investigators have continued to conduct highly innovative research to continue to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Australians.

Through securing research grants, publishing important findings in both national and international journals, attending conferences/workshops and hosting visitors from the UK and Canada, the Chief Investigators have achieved many successful outcomes in their respective fields of work.

The 2014 annual report highlights the progress of each Chief Investigator's projects and its outcomes. It highlights the CEAHW's core activities of generating knowledge, translation and implementation, collaboration and translation leadership. It makes a special mention of the progress of our PhD students who have continued to excel in their studies with the support of the CEAHW.

I would like to express my gratitude to each of the Chief Investigators, research support staff and students for their hard work during 2014 and wish them well for the final year of the grant in 2015.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fiona Stanley', written over a vertical line.

Professor Fiona Stanley
September 2014

Vision of the CEAHW

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 and 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

Chief Investigators



Professor Fiona Stanley (Patron),
Telethon Kids Institute



Professor Dawn Bessarab, Director of
Centre for Aboriginal Medical and
Dental Health (CAMDH), UWA



Mr Glenn Pearson, Manager,
Aboriginal Health, Telethon Kids
Institute



Emerita Professor Rhonda Marriott*,
Murdoch University



Associate Professor Roz Walker,
Principal Investigator, Telethon Kids
Institute



Dr Juli Coffin, Telethon Kids Institute
and Geraldton Regional Aboriginal
Medical Service (GRAMS), Geraldton



Dr Michael Wright, Curtin University and
Telethon Kids Institute



Associate Professor, Cheryl Kickett-
Tucker, Pindi Pindi, The National
Research Centre for Aboriginal
Children, Families and Community
Midland, WA



Professor Pat Dudgeon, School of
Indigenous Studies, UWA



Professor Sandra Eades, Baker IDI
Heart and Diabetes Institute
Sydney, NSW



*Photo courtesy of Community Newspaper Group

Associate Investigators

Heather D'Antoine - Division Leader & Associate Director for Aboriginal Programs Menzies

Dr Rebecca Glauert - Manager, Developmental Pathways Project, Telethon Kids Institute

Associate Professor Christine Jeffries-Stokes - Western Desert Kidney Project

Jocelyn Jones - Curtin University, Perth WA

Professor David Lawrence - Research Professor, Telethon Kids Institute

Dr Brian McCoy - La Trobe University, Melbourne VIC

Clinical Associate Professor Deborah Lehmann - Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute

Associate Professor Peter Richmond - Head of Division, School of Paediatrics and Child Health, UWA

Ms Annette Stokes - Western Desert Kidney Project

Professor Neil Thomson - (formerly Executive Director, HealthInfoNet), Perth WA

Professor Ted Wilkes - National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth WA

Francine Eades - Aboriginal Health Management Advisor, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

Support Staff

Research Co-ordinator - Chrissie Easton - Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

Senior Research Officer - Dr Clair Scrine - Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

Research Assistants

Tanya Jones - Looking Forward Team, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

Margaret O'Connell - Looking Forward Team, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

Rose Walley - Looking Forward Team, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

Charmaine Green - Telethon Kids Institute, Geraldton WA. Assists Dr Juli Coffin.

Stuart Crowe - Curtin University, Perth WA. Assists Prof Dawn Bessarab.

Joy Neri - UWA, Perth WA. Assists Prof Pat Dudgeon.

Sue Renshaw - Pindi Pindi, Perth WA. Assists A/Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker.

Jay Tucker - Pindi Pindi, Midland WA. Assists A/Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker.

Students

Lina Gubhaju - Post-Doctoral Fellow, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, Melbourne VIC. Assists Prof Sandra Eades.

Denise Groves - PhD student, Murdoch University, Perth WA

David Hendrickx - PhD student, UWA, Perth WA

Robyn Williams - PhD student, Curtin University, Perth WA

Ailsa Munns - PhD student, Curtin University, Perth WA

Clinton Schultz - PhD student, Griffith University, Qld

Jocelyn Kickett - Masters student, Murdoch University, Perth WA

CREAHW Capacity Building Activities

One of the aims of the CREAHW 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. The CREAHW organises student days, workshops and seminars to assist our students to meet their educational requirements. In addition, the CREAHW hosts students on short-term placements to assist the CIs to achieve their research outcomes.

Student and CREAHW Review Days

In 2014 the CREAHW held three highly successful student/CREAHW review days. Our student days took place in February, June and December and were all held at the Institute. At each event we listened to talks by CIs, students and research staff. All students and staff were given a chance during the year to update the attendees on the progress of their work or their studies.

Student Stories

David Hendrickx

In 2014 David continued to collect data on the burden of skin infections in the Western Desert communities. Preliminary analysis of clinical presentation data shows that skin infections are the third most common reason for 0-5 year olds to present to the community clinic in this region, after respiratory tract and ear infections. David also started his in-depth interviews with community members and service providers in order to document attitudes and practices with regard to skin infections, exploring how issues such as normalisation and stigma may affect healthcare seeking behaviour.

By combining these two aspects of skin disease in the Western Desert - the burden of disease and the perceptions and practices - David's work will provide a comprehensive overview of skin infections and their social and public health implications in the Pilbara when he submits his PhD in the second half of 2015.

Jayne Kotz

Jayne's research project titled is '*Kalyakool, Moort-Always Family*'. It hypothesises that the current screening of Aboriginal mothers using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) is neither culturally safe nor appropriate for identifying early signs of depression in the perinatal period. To assist with Jayne's research she employed four Aboriginal research assistants (ARAs) who have undergone extensive inter-rater reliability training in the use of yarning as a validated research methodology and data gathering tool; gathering the story; dealing with disclosure; the research data gathering process in the context of perinatal mental health.

In late 2014, Jayne commenced yarning sessions with different language groups and nations, workshops with Aboriginal community members and interviews with health professionals. Data sources have been analysed and more analysis will take place in 2015.



Jayne Kotz, Dawn Bessarab and her team

Student Stories

Ailsa Munns

This research project examines the development, implementation and evaluation of peer led visiting parenting support for Aboriginal families with young children in the Midland community within the Swan, East Metropolitan region of Western Australia in partnership with Ngala. There are three study population cohorts: Peer Support Workers and Project Coordinators, Community Key Informants and Aboriginal clients. Thematic analysis is being used for the qualitative data analysis in 10 action learning sets conducted over a period of 12 months.

In 2014 the data collection was completed for the Peer Support Workers and Community Support agencies. In addition a systematic review was undertaken:

'Effectiveness and experiences of families participating in peer led parenting support programs delivered as home visiting programs and the meaning they attribute to these support programs'. The protocol was published in 2014 by the JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports.

Denise Groves

Denise Groves' research focuses on the Pilbara. In the past 18 months Denise has been working on a documentary with a remote community. The documentary is currently in postproduction. Her work in the Pilbara has given her a greater insight into what is at stake with the Government's recent decision to close a number of Indigenous communities. She hopes the documentary will bring greater community awareness and support to Indigenous communities living on country.

Robyn Williams

In 2014, the first part of the data collection was undertaken after developing a survey tool in consultation with Robyn's critical reference group. The survey explored knowledge and awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) within the Aboriginal communities. As part of this data collection, Robyn visited the towns of Northam, Albany, Katanning, and Tambellup, while also collecting data from Perth.

During the year Robyn completed an international study tour of North America and Canada on FASD. She presented at two international conferences and at the University of Calgary. She undertook training in FASD, including the Fetal Alcohol & other Neurobehavioural conditions; and Advanced Case Management of FASD training; and attended the Canada National FASD Network meeting. She also had the opportunity to meet with leading FASD experts such as Dr Don Fuchs, Diane Malbine, Dr Dorothy Badry and the Director of the FASD Diagnostic Centre in Manitoba. Robyn also met with members of the Native American community, and discussed the similar experiences of colonisation between our countries and its impact on FASD.



Jayne Kotz, Ailsa Munns and Robyn Williams enjoy a student day at Telethon Kids Institute

Student Placements

Roz Walker supervised Bachelor degree student Lana Hill from Notre Dame University. Lana commenced her internship with Telethon Kids in September. Her internship was part of her Bachelor's degree in Behavioural Science. Her work at the Institute mainly focused on ATSIPEP (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project).



Juli Coffin supervised two PhD students: Ivan Lin, who completed his PhD in 2014 and Annie Eades who will complete in 2016. Juli also supervises a Health Promotion Scholarship recipient who is looking at the Optifast project which Juli started in 2013 with 50 Aboriginal participants.

Facilitating Workshops/Seminars

In June over 50 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and other experts met in Perth to identify the key issues being faced by Aboriginal communities around suicide and the actions needed to address this critical problem. Professor Michael Chandler from the University of British Columbia, Canada was invited to Perth to be part of the continuing conversation about suicide prevention.



Participants attend the Suicide Prevention Roundtable

As part of the Institute's commitment to Aboriginal Children and Families 2013—2017, an Aboriginal Health Research Focus Area (RFA) group was formed. Glenn Pearson, A/Prof Roz Walker and A/Prof Peter Richmond are part of the 15 member RFA team.

In September, the RFA held its first open forum at Burswood on Swan. The topic of the day was **'How do we work together to do Aboriginal research that makes a difference?'** Approximately 50 people, including Aboriginal Elders, community members and Telethon Kids Institute research staff took part in this important discussion.



The Elders with Fiona Stanley at the first Aboriginal Forum

The 2nd forum was held in October. The topic of the forum was **'How can we strengthen relationships between Aboriginal people and the Institute to do research that benefits Aboriginal children and families?'** Over 70 people, including the Telethon Kids Institute Director Professor Jonathan Carapetis, attended the forum.

Chief Investigators' Retreat

In March the CIs gathered in the beautiful setting of Fremantle for a 2 day retreat. They reviewed the aims of the CEAHW and planned their activities for the next 2 years. Each CI gave a brief report on their projects.



Roz Walker, Dawn Bessarab, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Rhonda Marriott, Fiona Stanley and Glenn Pearson

Chief Investigator Collaborative Activities

In addition to CIs working across each others research projects, the following is an example of specific work undertaken to meet the outcomes of the CEAHW.

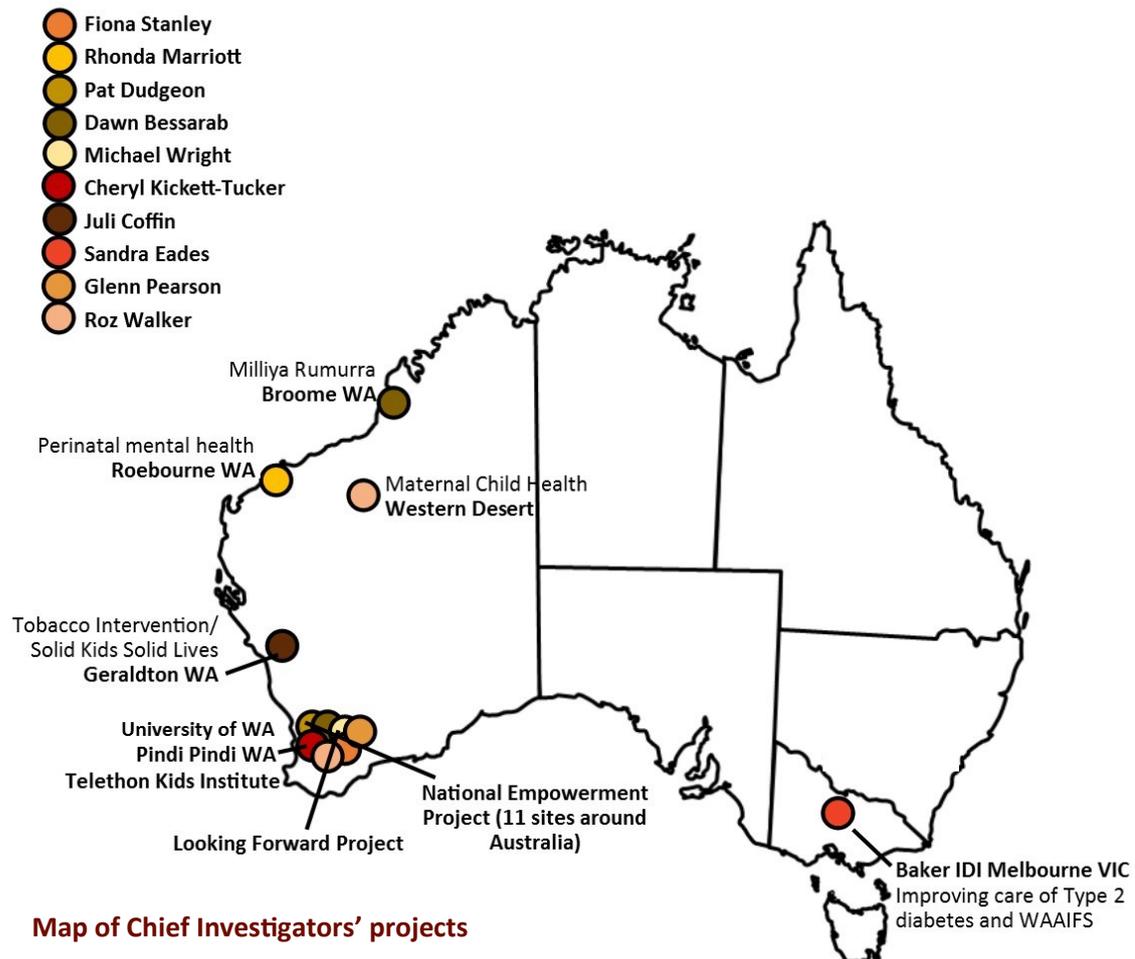
Launch of the Working Together Book

Several of the CIs and PhD students from the CEAHW were involved in contributing to the second edition of *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice 2014*. The book was co-edited by Prof Pat Dudgeon, Prof Helen Milroy and A/Prof Roz Walker.

The book was launched in June by Prof Michael Chandler. The second edition includes several new chapters, including 'Working with Children, Families and Communities' and 'Healing Models and Programs'. In 2014 there were over 20,000 hits for the book on the Institute's Aboriginal health website. On the Australian Policy Online (APO) website the book was their top pick for most page views with over 5000 views for 2014.

Research Programs

The research programs undertaken by the CIs are a unique validation of Aboriginal knowledge and a demonstration of Aboriginal methodology involving a multi-disciplinary team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers. They have contributed to the body of knowledge, worked transparently with the Aboriginal community and embraced Aboriginal culture and ways of thinking. This map of Australia indicates where the CIs' projects are based.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Strengthening social and emotional wellbeing of Australian Aboriginal people

Cheryl Kickett-Tucker

This project is an extension of A/Prof Kickett-Tucker's research on development of racial identity and related self-esteem of Aboriginal children, youths and adults using I-RISE (Indigenous Racial Identity and Social Esteem) measures across the lifespan.

In 2014, Daniel Christensen and Professor David Lawrence joined the team and worked in consultation with project lead, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker to validate the I-RISE C and I-RISE Y. Cheryl also completed the I-RISE YC (5-7 years old) and prepared a preliminary report for the Bush School Project (led by Libby Lee Hammond-Murdoch University).

In doing so, they have developed a series of papers which are due for publication in 2015.

I-RISE was awarded a highly commended for the Communities Award for service or project in the metropolitan area during Children's Week which is funded by the Department of Local Government and Communities. As a result of the work with children and young people, Cheryl was invited as a member of the Aboriginal Reference Group for the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

The next stage of the I-RISE project has been planned with the development of an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant titled *Cultural Learnings: Strengthening Aboriginal children's wellbeing and educational outcomes by connecting urban children to identity, culture, country and kin.*

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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

Michael Wright and Fiona Stanley

Since late 2013 and throughout 2014, the Project team has facilitated meetings and activities with Nyoongar Elders and service providers to shape a way forward for systems change. During this time, the Project team collected data that would identify and describe the conditions necessary for respectful and authentic engagement between Nyoongar Elders and service providers. After some data analysis, an engagement process titled *Debakarn Koorliny Wangkiny* ('Steady Walking and Talking') was developed and trialled.

Relationships are the foundation for this work, therefore the two stakeholder groups have spent much time and effort building and deepening their relationships in order to be prepared for the next phase, that is, to co-design a culturally safe systems change innovation, shaped by this relationships-based approach.



Nyoongar Elder, Cheryl Phillips adds to the mural created at the *Debakarn Koorliny Wangkiny* ('Steady Walking and Talking') Family and Community Day

A highlight for the year was a Family and Community Day held during Mental Health Week. Titled *Debakarn Koorliny Wangkiny* ('Steady, Walking and Talking'), the event saw the Project team work with the Elders' stakeholder group and some of the participating services

to develop a day where the community and services could come together to build greater awareness of the positive role of cultural identity and community and family support in the lives of those experiencing mental illness and drug and alcohol related issues. The event was organised in partnership with Richmond Fellowship WA, Champion Centre (City of Armadale), Ruah Community Services, Rotary Club and WAAMH.

An additional standout for the year was the Project's symposium, which was held as part of the Mental Health Services (TheMHS) conference in August. The symposium panel consisted of three mental health services sharing their learning experiences together with seven Nyoongar Elders with whom they are working. Delegates responded positively to the symposium saying it was a profoundly moving presentation for them, aptly captured in this quote from Kelly Briggs, writing for the Croakey Blog, about the symposium:

"They each spoke passionately and articulately and many times I found myself tearing up. These people cared, with every word and gesture they made. You could see their courage and determination to fight against the scourge that mental illness has borne." (2014, online, Croakey)



Over a period of eight months a series of seven live interviews with Elders talking about their work with mental health and drug and alcohol services was produced in collaboration with radio presenters from Nyoongar radio. After Michael kicked off the series with an overview of the project and its objectives, Elders' topics ranged from respecting Nyoongar culture, working together for decolonisation, the importance of including Nyoongar ways of healing in people's recovery journeys and using yarning and stories to connect people to culture.

In addition to the radio interviews, Michael and two Nyoongar Elders were interviewed by students from Curtin University's Screen Arts and Journalism course for their half-hour NITV segment, 'Noongar Dandjoo'. Michael and the Elders described the Looking Forward project and how it is changing the way services respond to the needs of families experiencing serious mental illness, grief and loss. The segment will be aired in 2015.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The National Empowerment Project (NEP)

Pat Dudgeon, Adele Cox, Roz Walker, Clair Scrine

The NEP project is an extension of the Empowerment, Healing and Leadership program which commenced in 2010. It was conducted in collaboration with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) social and emotional wellbeing unit in response to the high rates of suicide in the Kimberley in 2010.

The NEP project is a universal strategy to promote cultural, social and emotional wellbeing and reduce community distress and suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It is an innovative Aboriginal-led project directed by Prof Pat Dudgeon.

The NEP work with 11 site locations across Australia in a participatory action research approach.

These sites are:

- Cherbourg, QLD
- Kuranda, QLD
- Toomelah, NSW
- Redfern, NSW
- Mildura, VIC
- Perth, WA
- Northam/Toodyay, WA
- Narrogin, WA
- Darwin, NT (first site)
- Mt Gambier, SA
- Geraldton, WA



NEP community consultants—Komla Tsey, Glenn Pearson and Eric Cook

The Project has worked with 11 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia since 2012. Its purpose is to consult with communities to: identify their needs and the factors contributing to the high levels of psychological distress and suicide in these communities; and empower communities to take action to address these issues and promote positive social and emotional wellbeing.

In 2014, phase three of the Project began and the achievements of previous phases have been consolidated. The two Queensland sites delivering the program, Cherbourg and Kuranda have completed delivery of the first program to approximately 20 participants in each site. Furthermore, community consultations have taken place at three new sites: Geraldton, Mt Gambier and Darwin.



NEP workshop community consultants at Matilda Bay, WA

In November, NEP community consultants, co-researchers and partner organisations came together for a workshop in Perth to discuss the outcomes of the Project, the strengths and challenges and future steps. During the workshop, the team looked at the delivery of the Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing program delivery in Kuranda and Cherbourg, with presentations from community consultants. Participation was enthusiastic and engaging with very passionate expressions of empowerment.

NEP has recently received further funding to continue in 2015. It will consolidate the work begun and publish papers that will articulate the importance of social and emotional wellbeing driven programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

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, Roz Walker and Denise Groves

This project has made excellent progress in 2014 with conferences, publications and local capacity-building outcomes adding to the body of knowledge of Aboriginal research epistemology. This project has been given an extension by the ARC to February 2016.

The main study location for this project is Ieramagardu, located in Roebourne, Western Australia.

The collaborative qualitative methods used in this project have drawn on CPAR techniques to engage with Aboriginal people residing in the Pilbara region of WA. The use of this research method has achieved positive outcomes in working together to promote mental health, family strengths and to honour the place of culture. Parallel to this collaborative work is a sub-study applying a quantitative methodology (led by Fiona Stanley, Nick de Klerk and Roz Walker). The sub-study aims to address some important gaps in the evidence base in the area of Aboriginal health, with a focus on the perinatal period.

The work of the project has also enhanced the scholarly work and confidence of two CEAHW PhD students, Jayne Kotz and Ailsa Munns, whose work encompasses aspects of the project themes. Both students have presented their work at national conferences as well as submitting articles for publication and developing a strong profile in the field.

In 2014 a culturally significant film was made titled, *'Mothering: Valuing Ngarda ways and culture'* as part of the project activities in Ieramagardu. It will be launched in Perth in 2015.

Also in 2014, Rhonda and Jan Kapetas undertook to interview children and youth in Ieramagardu for the Commissioner for Children and Young People in WA. This will lead to further research questions on resilience in Aboriginal youth in 2015.

Family Assessment Tool, *Milliya Rumurra* (MR), Broome, WA

Dawn Bessarab

When looking at the health and social and mental wellbeing of MR clients the family assessment support tool (FAST) was developed to assist MR workers and clients to identify and engage with a family member/s or friend and invite them to participate in the client's treatment program.

The aim is to assist and enable the family member/friend to become a support person/mentor to help the client when they exit treatment. Including the family member/friend in the FAST program means they become familiar with what the client has learnt and are taught tools and strategies in partnership with the client that they can use to assist the client to stay Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) free.

The FAST tool was designed and developed in collaboration with the MR staff, service provider stakeholders, clients and community members and is a culturally appropriate tool that includes cultural meaning systems and signifiers relevant to the client.



Dawn and colleagues discuss the FAST tool in Broome

The tool has been developed and is currently undergoing a series of evaluations to assess its effectiveness and usability. Staff have undergone training on how to use and apply the tool and are now implementing their work with new clients.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Solid Kids Solid Schools (SKSS) – Social Marketing the parents’ response

Juli Coffin, Fiona Stanley, Lydia Hearn, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker and Roz Walker

In 2014 the SKSS website was updated with more current information about the project. Juli created seven Solid Kids Infomercials around bullying and the future of our kids. These aired on all rural and mainstream TV channels over a period of six months. The poster series, Infomercials, Facebook campaign and the revamped website were all evaluated with parents/carers within the Yamaji region. In the evaluation the recall of the Infomercials was ranked the highest. This was explained by the recall rate of the Infomercials which was exceptional due to using local identifiable talent. The preferred way for parents to receive information was through a Facebook campaign and TV with the least significant impact being from posters and booklets. Face-to-face was still the preferred way for communication around relationship issues. The link to these commercials and the Solid Kids page can all be found at www.solidkids.net.au.

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

Rhonda Marriott, Tracey Martin (Office of Nursing and Midwifery), Terri Barrett (Statewide Obstetric Support Unit), Roz Walker, Juli Coffin, Tracy Reibel (Telethon Kids Institute) & Fiona Stanley

The philosophy of *Birthing on Country* is central to this four year NHMRC funded study based at the Centre for Aboriginal Research at Murdoch University, led by Professor Rhonda Marriott. We understand: *Birthing on Country* as ensuring a spiritual connection to the land for an Aboriginal mother and her baby.

Our research is driven by the belief that maternity services must ensure a culturally secure environment with culturally competent staff safeguarding the birthing woman’s cultural rights, values and expectations and respecting her right to feel culturally safe. Much of our work in the past year has been about around intensively preparing a strong foundation before we enter into the data collection phases of the research.

Key activities for this year have included:

- Embedding our governance protocols and devising strategies to work more cohesively as a complex and diverse research team;
- Appointing Ms Janinne Gliddon, Senior Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer at King Edward Memorial Hospital as Chair of the Aboriginal Consultative Committee for the project;
- Focusing on promotion and community engagement activities (led by Alison Gibson, Coordinator, Moort Boodjari Mia) including developing a Facebook page, developing promotional posters and brochures and planning future community engagement activities with a diversity of health and community organisations; and
- Recruiting three Aboriginal research assistants to conduct the yarning/interviews with Aboriginal women, Elders and Senior Women. The research team members who will be involved in the interviewing have also completed a ‘Yarning’ methodology workshop with Dawn Bessarab.



Much of our preparatory work has also been around ensuring the Aboriginal cultural integrity of our approaches. This has included the organisation of a Nyoongar birthing workshop and two workshops about the meanings and interpretations of cultural security terminology. These activities have resulted in the forming of a cultural leadership group, which along with the Aboriginal Consultative Group will ensure that the conduct of the research is culturally secure.

Cultural Security and Cultural Competence

Cultural Security for Yamaji people within regional health services

Juli Coffin

Interviews were conducted and analysed in relation to the 'Coffin cultural security scale'. The health services interviewed were located in the Geraldton/Mid-west region. These included GRAMS (Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service), Medicare Local, WACHS (WA Country Health Service), St John Of God and the GP Division.

Each service was given feedback on the analysis and some have been able to incorporate it into their own reporting criteria. Feedback was provided to participants face-to-face, as well as in the form of a document they could use to record their findings. Since the audit, many health services have made significant changes. For example, the waiting room at the Accident and Emergency room in the regional hospital now has localised Aboriginal art featured on one of the main walls. (The artwork is on the front cover of this report).

Tobacco Intervention - Gazebo Project

Juli Coffin

Over the last year, 30 gazebos have been placed around the Geraldton and greater Midwest region across a multitude of public and privately owned homes and units.

At each gazebo location three canister samples were collected before gazebo erection, two weeks post gazebo erection and then six months later. The canisters were located in three positions in the household. The readings so far have been very positive and the project is awaiting final samples to be analysed. Juli has had positive feedback from people using their gazebos and appreciating that they now have a safe, comfortable and private space to smoke for themselves and visitors.

Participants of the gazebo project have also been given the Smokerlyser (an aid to assist people trying to stop smoking by monitoring their level of nicotine dependence) to use in the comfort of their own homes. This will measure if passive and direct smoking is reduced in the household. An article will be published with all results including methodology and methods of engaging the community in the process.



Gazebo project, Geraldton

Juli was approached by the West Australian newspaper to write a story about the tobacco project in Geraldton. Juli also created an Infomercial about the tobacco excise which was introduced in 2014. It was called 'What are you having for dinner?'

Maternal Child Health and Wellbeing in the Western Desert

Roz Walker

The goal of the community based work is to measurably improve the health of Aboriginal children in the Pilbara, in particular the Martu communities living in the Western Desert (including Jigalong, Parngurr, Punmu, Kunawarritji) and Newman.



School at Jigalong, WA

The work in this area is ongoing. During 2014 the team comprising Roz Walker, Clair Scrine and Carrington Shepherd worked in collaboration with a range of community partners to translate the results of the AEDI and other research data into tangible outcomes. A community based participatory action research process aims to foster genuine partnership and increase the resilience and empowerment of the families and service providers involved.

Maternal and Child Health

The team have worked extensively with the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service and other key stakeholders and service providers in the region including the Jigalong community, the Aboriginal Independent Schools, Royal Life Saving Australia, World Vision and YMCA.



Keep our Kids Safe at Jigalong

This work entails interconnected and mutually reinforcing place-based research focusing on child health issues of importance to the community. During that time there has been an increase in the coordination and integration of services, improved physical outcomes noted among young children at school, and increased understandings amongst mothers of the importance of good nutrition, hand hygiene and positive family attachments.

Clair Scrine has worked in collaboration with Roz Walker and Amanda Langridge in producing a report called *Factors Influencing Maternal and Early Child Development for Martu Communities in the East Pilbara*. The report has identified higher than average rates of low birth weight and premature babies who are at higher risk of poor health outcomes over the life course. Reasons include poor maternal nutrition and anaemia, low utilization and/or lack of access to antenatal and postnatal care, parenting capacity (particularly for teen mothers), alcohol, drug and tobacco consumption during pregnancy, FASD and maternal mental health.

David Hendrickx has almost finalised his data collection across all Western Desert community clinics, which is providing a snapshot of the burden of infectious diseases in children up to 5 years old. His work to date shows that between 2007 and 2010, ear (20%), skin (21%) and respiratory infections (19%) were the most common reasons children in this age group presented to community clinics. This is important data, as it also provides compelling evidence to show that ear and skin infections are already evident in children as young as one month old.

These infections contribute to low levels of readiness for school (i.e. hearing loss and language development delays), school engagement and achievement and are associated with chronic disease in adulthood.

Western Australian Aboriginal Intergenerational Fetal Growth Study (WAAIFS)

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

In 2014 Alison Gibberd joined the WAAIFS team. Alison is a biostatistics and Indigenous health PhD student at the University of Sydney and is supervised by Sandra Eades and Judy Simpson. Her initial focus was on looking at birth registrations and sorting methods for Aboriginal identification in intergenerational data. She is currently working on a method for identifying births to Aboriginal mothers and fathers, Aboriginal mothers and non-Aboriginal fathers and Aboriginal fathers and non-Aboriginal mothers to form the basis for next stage analyses.



Alison Gibberd

Improving care of Type 2 diabetes among Indigenous Australians

Sandra Eades

This major trial is in its final year with 18 participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) in five different States and Territories. The nine services allocated to the intervention arm of the study will complete the intervention period on 30 June 2015. In the second half of 2015 final comparisons of the evidence practice gap for type 2 diabetes will be made between the 9 intervention and 9 control groups.

Other related child health projects

Sandra Eades

Sandra is participating in an evaluation of the 'Quit for New Life' program in NSW which aims to assist pregnant Aboriginal women and new mothers in the postnatal period to quit smoking.

Sandra is also collaborating with partners on two current NHMRC project grants with co-investigators from NSW, QLD, VIC and WA. She is also a CI on a further 4 project grants, 2 partnership grants and 1 partnership centre.

National and 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. In 2014 several opportunities to create national and international linkages with a diverse range of institutions arose for CEAHW members.

National

Fiona Stanley is represented on many national committees including - Member of the Australian Broadcasting Board, Chair of the McCusker Alcohol Advertising Review Board and Director of the Australian National Development Index (ANDI).

Pat Dudgeon is chair of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILIMH) and a Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission. Pat is also leading project director of a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Project (ATSISPEP) which commenced in July 2014. Roz Walker is overseeing the development of the evaluation.



Roz Walker and Pat Dudgeon attend a suicide prevention meeting in Canberra

Dawn Bessarab was part of a team of experts from around Australia assembled to develop the 'Getting it Right Teaching and Learning Framework' (the Framework). This is an evidence-informed road map for the development and delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing in Australian social work curricula funded by the Australian Government.

International

In April and May the CEAHW welcomed A/Prof Angela Bowen, University of Saskatoon and Prof Sally Kendall, University of Hertfordshire to Perth for a 3 week visit. Both visiting fellows are on Prof Rhonda Marriott's ARC and NHMRC grants. Angela and Sally took part in a 'welcome to WA' cocktail party, roundtables, presentations and yarning circles and cultural visits to the north of WA, Piney Lakes and Kings Park.



Sally Kendall, Rhonda Marriott, Tracy Martin (Health Department), Angela Bowen and Roz Walker

In early December 2014, Dawn Bessarab together with Prof Len Collard (School of Indigenous Studies - SIS, UWA) accompanied a group of 12 Aboriginal students from SIS on a cultural study tour to Valparaiso in Chile. The tour was hosted by the Catholic University of Valparaiso which comprised a series of lectures about Mapuche culture and excursions to the Indigenous Mapuche urban and rural communities. The tour facilitated an intercultural knowledge exchange between the Indigenous Australian students and the Mapuche community.



The group visiting an urban Mapuche community at Pena Blanca, Chile

Publications, Books, Reports

The following publications for the period of January 2014 to December 2014 have arisen from projects with which CEAHW personnel are affiliated.

1. Colvin L, Slack-Smith, L, **Stanley FJ**, Bower, C. Outcomes of Pregnancies for Women Prescribed Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors or Angiotensin Receptor Antagonists in Semester 2 or 3. 2014 Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety 22 Special Issue: S1 Supplement:1 155-155
2. **Stanley FJ**, Bower C, Child Health – how is Australia doing and what more do we need to do for our kids? The Prevention Imperative. 2014 Medical Journal of Australia 201 (1): 26-26
3. Ball SJ, Pereira, G, Jacoby P, de Klerk N, **Stanley FJ**. Re-evaluation of link between interpregnancy interval and adverse birth outcomes: retrospective cohort study matching intervals per mother. 2014 British Medical Journal 249:g4333
4. Whitehouse AJO, Maybery MT, Hart R, Sloboda DM, Newnham JP, **Stanley FJ**, Hickey M, Keelan J. Re-analysis of the association between perinatal androgens and postnatal head circumference growth. 2014 Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology 56 (10): 1025-1025I
5. **Stanley FJ**, **Walker R**. Growing up with your country, Griffith Review Edition 47:Looking West –online edition <https://griffithreview.com/articles/grow-country/>
6. Jurgenson JR, Jones EK, Haynes R, **Green C**, Thompson SC. Exploring Australian Aboriginal Women’s experience of menopause: A descriptive study. BMC Women’s Health.
7. *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2014. 2nd edn, eds **Dudgeon, P**, Milroy, H & **Walker, R** Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra.
8. **Dudgeon, P**, **Wright, M**, Paradies, Y, Garvey, D, Walker, I. 2014, ‘Aboriginal Social, Cultural and Historical Contexts’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.3-24.
9. **Dudgeon, P**, Rickwood, D, Garvey, D & Gridley, H 2014. A History of Indigenous Psychology in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.39-54.
10. Gee, G, **Dudgeon, P**, Schultz, C, Hart, A and Kelly, K 2014 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.55-68.
11. Zubrick, SR, Holland, C, Kelly, K, Calma, T & **Walker, R** 2014, ‘The Evolving Policy Context in Mental Health and Wellbeing’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.69-90.
12. Zubrick, SR, **Shepherd, CCI**, **Dudgeon, P**, Gee, G, Paradies, Y, **Scrine, C** & **Walker, R** 2014, ‘Social Determinants of Social and Emotional Wellbeing’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and*
13. **Walker, R** 2014, ‘Introduction to National Standards for the Mental Health Workforce’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.181-195.
14. **Walker, R**, Schultz, C & Sonn, C 2014, ‘Cultural Competence – Transforming Policy, Services, Programs and Practice’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.195-220.
15. Schultz, C, **Walker, R**, **Bessarab, D**, McMillan, F, MacLeod, J & **Marriott, R** 2014, ‘Interdisciplinary Care to Enhance Mental Health and Social and Emotional Wellbeing’ in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.221-242.
16. **Wright, M**. Reframing Aboriginal Family Caregiving in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.243-256.

Publications, Books, Reports

17. Adams, Y, Drew, N & **Walker, R** 2014, 'Principles of Practice in Mental Health Assessment with Aboriginal Australians' in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.271-288.
18. **Marriott, R**, Ferguson-Hill, S. Perinatal and Infant Mental Health and Wellbeing in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.337-354.
19. **Walker, R**, Robinson, M, Adermann, J & Campbell, MA 2014, 'Working with Behavioural and Emotional Problems in Young People' in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.383-398.
20. Milroy, H, **Dudgeon, P** & **Walker, R** 2014. 'Community Life and Development Programs—Pathways to Healing' in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.419-436.
21. **Dudgeon, P**, **Walker, R**, **Scrine, C**, Cox, K, D'Anna, D, Dunkley, C, Kelly, K & Hams, K 2014, 'Enhancing Wellbeing, Empowerment, Healing and Leadership' in *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.437-448.
22. **Dudgeon, P** & **Walker R**. Suicide trends in WA—an urgent call to action. *Medicus Journal* September Issue, 2014.
23. Cox, A, **Dudgeon, P**, Holland, C, Kelly, K, **Scrine, C** & **Walker, R**. Using participatory action research to prevent suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities *Australian Journal of Primary Health*. October 2014.
24. Shepherd, S, Adams, Y, McEntyre, E & **Walker, R**. 'Violence risk assessment in Australian Aboriginal populations: A review of the literature' *Psychology, Public Policy and Law Journal*.
25. Van Dyke, N., Maddern, CM., **Walker, R** & Reibel, T 'Young People's Experiences with Health Services—Final Report'. Commissioner for Children and Young People.
26. **Walker, R** & Reibel, T - Young people's experiences with health services: A literature review'. Commissioner for Children and Young People.
27. Farrant, B, **Shepherd, CCJ** & **Walker, R** and **Pearson, G**. 'Early Vocabulary Development of Australian Indigenous Children: Identifying Strengths'.
28. **Walker R**, **Scrine C** & **Shepherd CCJ**. Conducting research with Aboriginal organisations and communities. New South Wales: Uniting Care Children, Young People and Families.
29. **Walker, R**, **Dudgeon, P**, **Scrine, C**, **Shepherd, CCJ**, Calma, T & Ring, I 2014, *Effective strategies to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing*. Issues paper no.12 Closing the Gap Clearinghouse Series. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Melbourne: Australian Institute of Family Studies.
30. **Dudgeon, P**, Cox, A., **Walker, R**, **Scrine, C**, Kelly, K, Taylor, N. 2014, *Voices of the Peoples: The National Empowerment Project, National Summary Report 2014: Promoting cultural, social and emotional wellbeing to strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*. Canberra: Commonwealth of Australia.
31. Sweet, M.A., **Dudgeon, P**, McCallum, K, Ricketson, M.D. 2014, 'Decolonising practices: Can journalism learn from health care to improve indigenous health outcomes?' *Medical Journal of Australia*, 200, 11, pp. 626-627
32. **Dudgeon, P**, Kelly, K. 2014, 'Contextual factors for research on psychological therapies for Aboriginal Australians', *Australian Psychologist*, 49, 1, pp. 8-13.
33. Haynes, E. Taylor, KP, Durey, AJ, **Bessarab, D**, Thompson, S. Examining the potential contribution of social theory to developing and supporting Australian Indigenous-mainstream health service partnerships. *International Journal for Equity in Health (Impact Factor:1.71)*
34. McNamara, BJ, Banks, E, **Gubhaju, L**, Williamson, A, Joshy, G, Raphael, B, **Eades, S**. Measuring psychological distress in older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander *Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice*, 2nd edn, eds P Dudgeon, H Milroy & R Walker, Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra, pp.243-256.
35. Stewart JM, Sanson-Fisher R, **Eades, S**, D'Este C 'Aboriginal health: agreement between general practitioners and patients on their health risk status and screening history'. *ANZ Journal of Public Health*, Vol 14, No. 4.
36. **Wright, M**, **Jones, T** & **O'Connell, M**. Looking Forward Project Annual Report 2013/2014.

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37. Fredericks, B., Clapham, K., Bainbridge, R., Collard, C., Adams, M., **Bessarab, D.**, Andersen, C., Duthie, D., Ball, R., Thompson (Longbottom), M. and Daniels, C. (2014) 'Ngulluck Katitj Wah Koorl Koorliny/ Us mob going along learning to research together': Drawing on action research to develop a literature review on Indigenous gendered health and wellbeing ALARj-Action Learning Action Research Journal, 20(2): 89-113
38. Haynes, E., Taylor, K.P., Durey, A.J., **Bessarab, D.**, Thompson, S.C. (2014) 'Examining the potential contribution of social theory to developing and supporting Australian Indigenous-mainstream health service partnerships', International Journal for Equity in Health, 13(1): 75.
39. **Bessarab, D.**, Durey, A, Christou, A, Katzenellenbogen, J, Taylor, K (2014) Evaluation of the South Metropolitan Health Service Community Engagement Process. Perth: Curtin University
40. Taylor, K, Brankovich, J, Katzenellenbogen, JM, Crowe, S, Durey, A, **Bessarab, D.** (2014) Evaluation of the South Metropolitan Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer Program. Aboriginal Health Education and Research Unit, Curtin University; Perth 2014.
41. Katzenellenbogen JM, Miller L, **Bessarab, D.** (2014) Aboriginal patient flows and short-term outcomes in selected South Metropolitan Perth Hospitals: a study using linked administrative health data to inform planning for an Aboriginal Health. Aboriginal Health Edu and Res Unit, Curtin University; Perth 2014.
42. Lin I, O'Sullivan P, **Coffin, J**, Mak D, Toussaint S, Straker L. I can sit and talk to her. Aboriginal people, chronic low back pain and health care practitioner communications. Australian Family Physician, 2014; 43 (5):320-4.
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44. Chamberlain, C, Joshy, G, Li, H, Oats, J, **Eades, S**, Banks, E. The prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Australia: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2014 Jun 9.
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46. Randall, DA, Jorm, LR, Lujic, S, **Eades, S**, Churches, TR, O'Loughlin, AJ & Leyland, AH. Exploring disparities in acute myocardial infarction events between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians: Health Place 2014 April.
47. Williamson, A, McElduff, P, Dadds, M, D'Este, C, Redman, S, Raphael, B, Daniels, J, **Eades, S.** The Construct Validity of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire for Aboriginal children living in urban New South Wales, Australia. Australian Psychologist; 49(3): 163-170
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49. **Kickett-Tucker, C** & Yavu-Kama, J. IRISE: YC Perceptions of Racial Identity and Self-Esteem for Aboriginal children aged 5-7 yrs. Preliminary Report. Pindi Pindi.
50. Lee-Hammond, L, **Kickett-Tucker, C**, Jackson-Barrett, E & Yavu-Kama, J. Connecting children, culture and community in the early years. A final report for the Pub Educ. End Trust, Perth. Murdoch University.
51. Silva, D., Colvin, L., Hagemann, E., **Stanley FJ.**, Bower, C. 2014. Children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder and their hospitalisations: population data in kage study' European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, online, pp.10.

Keynote Presentations

Investigators	Title	Conference	Location	Month
Fiona Stanley (invited speech)	Social inequalities in health and wellbeing: lessons from working with the Aboriginal population in Australia		Leuven, Belgium	4 February
Dawn Bessarab	World Social Work Day	Western Australian Social Work Organisation	UWA Club, Perth	18 March
Fiona Stanley	Science with a Soul: data to action for health child development-Clyde Hertzman Memorial Lecture	New Frontiers in Population Health toward Equity from the Start: Dialogue Series	Vancouver, Canada	28 April
Sandra Eades	Recent epidemiologic studies potential to contribute to improvements in the health of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	IEA World Congress of Epidemiology	Anchorage, Alaska	17-21 August
Rhonda Marriott		Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)	Perth	25 September
Dawn Bessarab	'Doing palliative care and being culturally safe and responsive in delivering services to Aboriginal people'	WA Palliative Care Conference	Perth	31 October
Pat Dudgeon	Back to the Future: Collective Reflexivities for Transformative Change	13th Trans-Tasman Community Psychology Conference	Perth	27-29 November

Conference Presentations given by Chief Investigators

Investigators	Title	Conference	Location	Month
Roz Walker	Embedding Cultural Competence as part of the CQI process in maternity services	2nd National Conference in CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care	Lowitja, Melbourne	17-18 March
Glenn Pearson	Chaired a session—'Working Together: A different way of doing business.'	Congress Lowitja—Many mobs. One Vision. Creating a Healthy Future	Melbourne	19-20 March
Fiona Stanley	Climate Change and Children's Health	Doctors for the Environment Australia iDEA	Melbourne	23 March
Roz Walker, Clair Scrine	50 years on: creating genuine partnerships to improve Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing	AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 2014	Canberra	26-28 March
Roz Walker, Dawn Bessarab, Juli Coffin, Rhonda Marriott	Breaking the Barriers: Transformative Research and Knowledge Translation to improve Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing	AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 2014	Canberra	26-28 March
Dawn Bessarab et al	Getting it Right, Creating partnership for change...	AIATSIS National Indigenous Studies Conference 2014	Canberra	26-28 March

Conference Presentations given by Chief Investigators

Investigators	Title	Conference	Location	Month
Rhonda Marriott	Networking the New Frontier	PSANZ 18th Annual Congress 2014	Perth	6-9 April
Rhonda Marriott	Effecting change—making a difference?	DOHaD—Together Towards Tomorrow	Perth	9-10 April
Roz Walker/Glenn Pearson (Panel Discussants)	Social, cultural and economic determinants	DOHaD	Perth	9-10 April
Sandra Eades (Session Chair)	'Sharing our Snapshots' session	DOHaD	Perth	9-10 April
Dawn Bessarab et al	Establishing governance and community engagement—Poster	World Cardiology Conference	Melbourne	May
Sandra Eades	Smoking in Pregnancy	RANZCOG Indigenous Women's Health conference	Adelaide	2-4 May
Pat Dudgeon	Social and Emotional Wellbeing	RANZCOG Indigenous Women's Health conference	Adelaide	2-4 May
Juli Coffin/Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	Learning about Identity: An Australian Aboriginal perspective	World Indigenous Peoples conference on Education (WIPc:E)	Honolulu, Oahu	19-24 May
Cheryl Kickett-Tucker et al	Where is the classroom?	World Indigenous Peoples conference on Education (WIPc:E)	Honolulu, Oahu	19-24 May
Pat Dudgeon	National Empowerment Project	Suicide Prevention Australia Conference	Perth	July
Sandra Eades	Baseline data from a trial	London Health Services Conference	London, UK	1 July
Cheryl Kickett-Tucker	Perinatal Mental Health in Aboriginal Communities	Aboriginal Health Conference	Perth	5-6 July
Fiona Stanley	Talk at presentation of mental health awards	The Mental Health Services Conference of Australia and New Zealand	Perth	13 August
Fiona Stanley	Population monitoring as a strategy for improved early child development: progress and new challenges	HELP (Human and Early Learning Partnership)	Vancouver, Canada	30 August
Pat Dudgeon	National Empowerment Project	Rural and Remote Allied Health Professionals	Kingscliff, NSW	17-20 September
Pat Dudgeon	National Empowerment Project	Australian Psychological Society Conference	Hobart, Tas	30 Sept - 3 October
Rhonda Marriott	Cultural Security for Aboriginal women in urban settings	Aboriginal Maternal Health Care Forum	Perth	6 October
Ailsa Munns, Desley Hegney, Rhonda Marriot, Roz Walker	Keeping Children Well : The role of the Aboriginal Peer Support Worker (Ailsa presented the paper)	Aust. College of Children and Young People's Nurses (ACCYPN)	Cairns	20-21 Oct
Pat Dudgeon	Where to from here	NATSIHWA Conference	Canberra, ACT	29 - 30 Oct
Pat Dudgeon	National Empowerment Project	Indigenous business, enterprise and corporations conference (IBECC)	UWA , Perth	1-2 December

Seminar/Forum Presentations, Lectures & Workshops (Invited)

Investigators	Title	Venue	Location	Month
Dawn Bessarab	Train the Trainer ‘Creating New Tracks’	Centre for Aboriginal Studies	Curtin Uni	January
Dawn Bessarab	State-wide Aboriginal Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Summit		Perth	20 February
Michael Wright	Curtin Indigenous Research Fellowship Presentation	Curtin Indigenous Research Network	Curtin Uni, Perth	27 February
Dawn Bessarab	Doing Indigenous Research,	School of Indigenous Studies	UWA	March
Dawn Bessarab	Social and Emotional Wellbeing—Aboriginal people and social work	School of Social Work	UWA	March
Fiona Stanley	ARACY Annual Fiona Stanley Forum	Australian children’s wellbeing in 2014:	Canberra	28 March
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	District Aboriginal Health Advisory Group (Health Dept)	Fremantle	2 April
Fiona Stanley	Climate Change and Children’s Health	Doctors for the Environment Australia (WA Branch)	Perth	15 April
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	National Drug Research Institute (NDRI)	Curtin Uni, Perth	8 May
Juli Coffin	Missing Voices Project	Speech and Brain Impairment Conference	Fremantle	9 May
Fiona Stanley	Meeting for Minds Forum	Mental Health: an epidemiologist’s perspective particularly as it relates to children and youth	Fremantle, WA	13 May
Fiona Stanley	Measuring Health Outcomes to Inform Policy Conference	From data to wisdom: using data for health	Melbourne	27 May
Pat Dudgeon	National Empowerment Project	Poche Centres Meeting CDU	Darwin	July
Juli Coffin	Relationships and good social health	NAIDOC Week—local school	Geraldton	July
Dawn Bessarab	Getting it right, creating partnership for change; integrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge in social work education and practice	RMIT School of Work Workshop	Melbourne	14 July
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	Ombudsman’s Office	Perth	22 July
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	Mental Health Commission Co-production Forum	Curtin Uni, Perth	29 July
Roz Walker	Working Together book and Closing the Gap paper	ATSIMHSPAG, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Canberra	July
Fiona Stanley	Louise Alessandri Memorial Fund Oration Evening	How population monitoring has improved child development outcomes	Perth	11 August
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	Indigenous Forum, TheMHS Conference	Perth	26 August

Seminar/Forum Presentations & Workshops (Invited)

Investigators	Title	Venue	Location	Month
Pat Dudgeon	Mental Health talk	Students	Perth	September
Michael Wright	Looking Forward Project	Christal Thomas (USA Eisenhower Fellow) Atlas Iron	Perth	9 September
Fiona Stanley	Guest Speaker	Health Consumers' Council AGM	Perth	17 September
Cheryl Kickett- Tucker	Attaining and maintaining a work-life balance	Women in Leadership, Department of Aboriginal Affairs	Perth	23 October
Fiona Stanley	After Dinner Speaker	Harvey Coates Festschrift	Perth	25 October
Dawn Bessarab	Facilitator—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework	Stakeholder Workshop	Melbourne	
Pat Dudgeon	Community Co-researchers Training Workshop—NEP		Perth	3-4 November
Michael Wright	Decolonisation Workshop	School of Social Work— Professional Development	Curtin Uni	10 November
Dawn Bessarab	More than Talk Investigators Workshop	WACHR	Geraldton	November

Round Tables, Seminars and Yarning Circles hosted or attended by the CEAHW

Investigators	Title	Venue	Location	Month
Pat Dudgeon	Roundtable Suicide Prevention - The Third Conversation: Has Anything Changed	Nedlands Yacht Club, Nedlands	Perth	23-24 June
Roz Walker	Roundtable Suicide Prevention - presented on Hear Our Voices	Nedlands Yacht Club, Nedlands	Perth	23-24 June
Michael Wright	Mental Health Services Conference - Symposium	Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre	Perth	26-29 August
Rhonda Marriott	Open Day—Launch of Roebourne 'Mothering' Film	Nyurin Cultural Centre	Roebourne, WA	5 November

Launches

Dawn Bessarab et al	Getting It Right: Creating Partnerships for Change, Teaching and Learning Framework
Dawn Bessarab et al	Information for Action: Improving the Heart Health Story for Aboriginal People in Western Australia (BAHHWA Report), Western Australian Centre for Rural Health, SPARHC, UWA,
Dawn Bessarab et al	Child Sexual Abuse, It's not Cultural, Resource DVD. Dept for Child Protection and Family Support, Dept of Education, Dept of Health Aboriginal Health, Catholic Education, WA
Pat Dudgeon, Helen Milroy and Roz Walker	Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice, Second Edition—June 2014

Grants won by Chief Investigators

Sandra Eades et al (Fiona Stanley is an AI)	'The Forgotten Generation: Understanding Health Trajectories in Aboriginal Adolescents and Youth' - NHMRC
Rhonda Marriott, Fiona Stanley, Juli Coffin, Roz Walker (Rhonda Marriott is lead)	'Cultural Security and Aboriginal Birthing Women'- Partnership Project - NHMRC
Rhonda Marriott et al (Karen Edmond, UWA is lead)	'Improving primary care for Aboriginal mothers and babies in the Kimberley region of WA: a population and region based cluster randomised trial driven by local health service providers' - NHMRC
Rhonda Marriott, Glenn Pearson et al (Karen Edmond, UWA is lead)	'Improving access to primary care for Aboriginal babies in WA. The 'Stork' population based cluster randomised trial' - NHMRC
Glenn Pearson et al (James Fitzpatrick, Telethon Kids Institute is lead)	'The Alert Program: An evidence based treatment program for Aboriginal children living with FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)' - NHMRC
Dawn Bessarab, Pat Dudgeon, Juli Coffin et al	National Indigenous Research and Knowledge's Network (NIRAKN) - WA Site Stage One and WA Stage Two
Dawn Bessarab et al (Jonathan Carapetis, Telethon Kids Institute is lead)	'The End Game RHD CRE: Developing an endgame for rheumatic heart disease in Australia' - NHMRC

Awards, Prizes or Recognition of Chief Investigators

- ◆ Fiona Stanley was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
 - ◆ Fiona Stanley joined the board of the Gurrumul Yunupingu Foundation
 - ◆ Rhonda Marriott was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for CATSINaM (Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives)
 - ◆ Michael Wright was awarded a Curtin Indigenous Research Fellowship, Curtin University
 - ◆ Sandra Eades was appointed to the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences
 - ◆ Juli Coffin was appointed the Chair of Strategic Leadership group on Aboriginal Tobacco Intervention WA and interim Chair of Midwest Aboriginal Organisations Alliance (MAOA)
 - ◆ Cheryl Kickett-Tucker was awarded a highly commended for the Communities Award for service or project in the metropolitan area during Children's Week for 'I-RISE: Racial Identity and Self-Esteem'
 - ◆ Cheryl Kickett-Tucker commenced at the Institute for Positive Psychology and Education, Australian Catholic University
 - ◆ Rhonda Marriott commenced at Murdoch University as Professor, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing
 - ◆ Dawn Bessarab commenced at UWA as Director/Professor of CAMDH
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Centre for Research
Excellence in Aboriginal
Health and Wellbeing
Research to empower, inform and transform

Communication and Dissemination

The CEAHW has a comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy to enhance the translation of information about the research it undertakes. We currently use the website, social media and newsletters as our major sources of communicating the CEAHW messages to our wider audience.

Website - <http://aboriginal.telethonkids.org.au>

The CEAHW webpage is hosted on the Aboriginal health section of the Telethon Kids Institute website. In 2014 the website attracted over 5000 hits. The website contains information about our Chief Investigators and their projects. It is regularly updated by the coordinator.

Twitter

The CEAHW Twitter account forms the basis of our social media presence. Since the CEAHW set up a Twitter account in late 2011, there has been a phenomenal amount of interest in our tweets. By the end of 2014, the CEAHW had 1189 followers. Our Twitter handle is @CEAHW.

Newsletters

The newsletters continue to be a great forum to inform our audiences of the activities being undertaken in the CEAHW. They provide links to relevant websites that provide more information regarding conferences, media events, awards and publications.

In 2014 we prepared seven newsletters that were distributed widely amongst our stakeholders, both online and in hard copy. We now have over 60 people on our newsletter distribution list.

Public Lectures, seminars and workshops

In 2014 there were a number of invitations for the CEAHW Chief Investigators and students to present the findings from their research and deliver workshops.

There was also the opportunity to attend such events as the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre - KALACC Festival Philanthropy tour at Jarlmandangah which was held in September. A/Prof Roz Walker, Clair Scrine and Chrissie Easton were invited to attend the four day festival to represent the Telethon Kids Institute Aboriginal Research Unit on behalf of ATSIPEP. There was a variety of meetings and presentations to attend including the AGM of KALACC, women's meetings, cultural tours and dances and a presentation by the Nulungu team from Notre Dame University in Broome.



Roz Walker and Clair Scrine at Mt Anderson

The festival was a great networking opportunity to connect with people from all over Australia who work in Aboriginal health.

Financial Statement

The chart below provides a statement of operating income and expenditure for the period ending January 2014 to December 2014

Financial statement for year ended 31 December 2014

Income	\$
NHMRC Grant	
Amount allocated in 2014	606,850
Amount carried forward 2013	278,036 (Amount includes funds from other sources)
Total Income	884,886
Expenditure	
Personnel	796,563
Scholarships	79,706
Travel	8,324
Other research costs	30,325
Total Expenditure	914,918
Balance of funds as at 31 Dec 2014	Surplus/(Deficit) (30,032)

