

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES AND PSYCHOLOGY INTEREST GROUP

JUNE 2012 NEWSLETTER

INDIGENOUS SUCCESS STORIES

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ATSIPP BUSINESS

A word from the Conveners

Hi everyone, it's hard to believe that it's the end of June and already in the middle of the year. We hope you enjoy this current newsletter, put together by our committed Secretary Kylie Cann. The newsletter has lots of timely information and access to resources. We have focused this one on Indigenous Success stories, to provide some inspiration to all our dedicated supporters of this Interest group. Please let us know if you have any comments or ideas about content or about the newsletter.

The Interest Group Committee continues to be involved with the APS Reconciliation Action Plan and with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA). We are all working towards the same goals to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have access to timely and appropriate psychological care. For this we are attempting to support Indigenous students in their endeavours to become Psychologists. A discussion forum for past and present students is scheduled at the APS Conference in Perth in September 2012 to help to identify barriers and enablers for Indigenous Psychology students to continue with studies and work toward becoming psychologists. This year, the ATSIPP student conference award will assist in supporting two students to the conference, and is now open for applications. Further information is supplied in the newsletter and we would appreciate your support in spreading the word about this initiative.

Yvonne Clark, Co-Convenor

A word from the Editor

With so much still to accomplish in terms of achieving equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, there can be a sense that we are not working fast enough to address the imbalance. We hear criticism of current policies and, even in our own professional practice, can feel frustration at the lack of culturally appropriate assessment tools and resources. At times, we can feel a little like mice on a treadmill – running fast but going nowhere. As a result, it is possible for a sense of hopelessness and even helplessness to set in. The aim of this edition of the ATSIPP Newsletter is to focus on some of the success stories to provide inspiration for the work that still lies ahead for all of us working in this field. By focusing on what IS working, what we CAN apply, what HAS been achieved and what measures we DO have in place, it is hoped that we can learn key lessons and move forward with momentum, a clear vision and strategic approaches.

Who are You? Profiling of Members

In order to ensure we are meeting the diverse needs of our membership group, we would like to invite all members to complete a brief profile in order that we can best serve you. All ATSIPP IG members are invited to complete the following table and email to kylie_cann@bigpond.com or Stephen.Meredith2@health.sa.gov.au. We would like to use this information to provide a summary of our membership group for publication in our 21st Anniversary Newsletter. Personal information will, of course, remain anonymous.

Name & Grade of Membership	Length of IG Membership	Area of work and client base	Main reason for joining IG	Desired focus for IG efforts

21st Anniversary Newsletter

We are currently preparing our Anniversary Newsletter to reflect on over twenty years of Interest Group activity and to document a timeline of events and achievements. We would love to hear any stories, memories or functions that you would regard as important as we look back on the history of the Interest Group. We would also like to hear your views on where you think the Interest Group focus should be for the future. What would you like the Interest Group to have achieved as we reflect on our progress again in another twenty years? This is your opportunity to shape the direction of our tasks and commitment to our members as we work to promote best practice for psychologists working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Call for Contributions

The topic for the August edition of the Newsletter is *Issues Impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children & Youth*. This topic coincides with National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day and National Child Protection Week. The topic also provides the opportunity to provide further information and resources in the area of special needs and disability following a member request for information on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. We welcome your input if you would like to contribute to this topic. Please email kylie_cann@bigpond.com by 1st August, 2012.

APS UPDATES

Have your say on the APS Reconciliation Action Plan

The APS is delighted to present the DRAFT of the inaugural APS Reconciliation Action Plan, developed in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) and Reconciliation Australia (RA) and overseen by the APS RAP Working Group. Our Interest Group Co-Convenors Yvonne Clarke and Stephen Meredith are both members of the working group and, along with other contributors, have committed a great deal of time and energy to ensure the RAP is a meaningful process. Four priority areas for action have been identified in the APS RAP. These include:

- Respectful Relationships
- Governance
- Cultural Competence, and
- Indigenous Education and Employment

As a special extension for the Interest Group, members are invited to comment on the draft plan by emailing the RAP team at reconciliation_aps@psychology.org.au by **9th July, 2012**. In particular, you might like to respond to the following questions:

- Does the plan adequately address what you consider to be the key issues for an APS reconciliation process?
- What actions or areas do you consider a high priority?
- Is there anything missing from the APS RAP or do you have any further comments?
- What action(s) will you prioritise as your personal commitment to the RAP?

Most importantly, the RAP working group is searching for your views on what commitments and actions would you like to see your APS Board, Branch, Interest Group, College, University, etc, undertake as part of the reconciliation process.

The feedback you provide will help to inform any refinements to the RAP in its final form. It will also help to influence the three-year implementation of the APS RAP. Visit: http://www.psychology.org.au/RAP/Member_consultation/?utm_source=Homepage&utm_medium=Hero&utm_campaign=RAP. Stay in touch with the latest RAP developments by bookmarking the [APS RAP website](#).

ATSIPP STUDENT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group invites submissions for the *ATSIPP Indigenous Student Conference Attendance Award*.

The award was established to provide Indigenous students with a positive experience of the profession through a conference format. It will provide students with the opportunity to network and liaise with psychology students and psychologists, particularly Aboriginal psychologists, in attendance at the conference. The overall aim of this process is to contribute toward increasing the number of Indigenous psychologists in Australia.

Our primary focus for this year's award is to select Indigenous psychology students to attend the APS Annual Conference in Perth 2012. Students will be invited to assist/attend a forum on student issues as well as participate in all other aspects of the conference.

We would appreciate the support of ATSIPP IG members in distributing this information to any indigenous psychology students via their networks and in encouraging students to apply.

Nominations close on Friday 3rd August, 2012

<http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/indigenous/>

SUCCESS STORIES-PSYCHOLOGY

Oxford University educates its first Aboriginal Psychology Student.

In case you missed the August 2011 InPsych article, members are invited to read about Paul Gray, a member of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA), who was one of two inaugural recipients of the Charlie Perkins Scholarship, which funds postgraduate study at Oxford University for those of Aboriginal descent. Paul, a 27-year-old Wiradjuri man from the Bogan River in NSW, is undertaking a PhD in experimental psychology as an Oxford Charlie Perkins Scholar. InPsych caught up with him on his trip home to Australia. Visit:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=3850>

<http://www.indigenousscholarships.com.au/resources/inspirational-stories/paul-gray>

SUCCESS STORIES – SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr Tom Calma recognized in Queen’s Birthday Awards

Honoured by the Queen in the Queen’s Birthday Order of Australia awards was renowned social justice advocate Dr Thomas Edwin (Tom) Calma, Waramanga. Dr Tom Calma was awarded the Officer in the General Division (AO) for his distinguished service to the indigenous community as an advocate for human rights and social justice, through contributions to government policy reform and to cross cultural understanding. Some of his achievements to date include:

- As the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner from 2004-2010, he produced the Social Justice Reports from 2004 to 2009 http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/sj_report/index.html and spearheaded across the board efforts to improve the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/health/index.html .
- Members of the Stolen Generations requested that he deliver the official response to the National Apology in February 2008.
- He was the driving force behind the establishment of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, having led the steering committee and establishing accountability mechanisms for the organization as a member of the Ethics Committee.
- Dr Calma is currently National Coordinator, Tackling Indigenous Smoking to lead the fight against tobacco use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Dr Calma is on the Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council 2011-2014 and is the Ambassador and Board Member of the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) <https://wallofhands.com.au/>

For a full biography visit: <http://www.cdu.edu.au/sites/default/files/Tom-bio.pdf>

SUCCESS STORIES – INDIGENOUS LITERACY

The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation (ALNF) is dedicated to raising language, literacy and numeracy standards across Australia. ALNF was founded in 1999 by Mary-Ruth Mendel, leading Australian Speech Pathologist, and Kim Kelly, Mother of four with a business background. Both women are passionate about providing best-practice literacy programs and helping to ensure that children in Australia’s most marginalised communities are given equal access to the literacy skills many Australians take for granted.

“I am alive again. Listen! Language is life. You have given me language. You have given me life. I am alive again...” Warumungu Elder

Raise your hand to literacy and donate to: <https://wallofhands.com.au/>

REPORTS

The **Closing the Gap Clearinghouse** was established by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to bring together evidence-based research on overcoming disadvantage for Indigenous Australians. The Clearinghouse provides access to a collection of information on what works to improve Indigenous people's lives across the seven building blocks identified by COAG: early childhood, schooling, health, economic participation, healthy homes, safe communities, and governance and leadership. This paper provides policy makers with key findings about what works and assesses the gaps in the evidence. Below is an overview of the main findings presented in the 2009-2010 report, which can be found at http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/documents/annual_papers/what_works_to_overcome_disadvantage.pdf

What works:

- **Community involvement and engagement.** For example, key success factors in Indigenous community-based alcohol and substance-abuse programs were strong leadership, strong community–member engagement, appropriate infrastructure and use of a paid workforce to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Adequate resourcing and planned and comprehensive interventions.** For example, a systematic approach with appropriate funding arrests the escalating epidemic of end-stage kidney failure, reduces suffering for Indigenous people and saves resources. A strong sense of community ownership and control is a key element in overcoming Indigenous disadvantage.
- **Respect for language and culture.** For example, capacity building of Indigenous families and respect for culture and different learning style were considered to be important for engaging Indigenous families in school readiness programs.
- **Working together through partnerships, networks and shared leadership.** For example, an Aboriginal-driven program increased knowledge about nutrition, exercise, obesity and chronic diseases, including diabetes. The educational component, participation of local Indigenous people in the program and committed partnerships with the organisations involved were important to the program's success.
- **Development of social capital.** For example the Communities for Children initiative, under the Australian Government's former strategy (the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy 2004–2009) highlighted the importance of a collaborative approach to maternal and child health, child-friendly communities, early learning and care, supporting families and parents, and working together in partnership.
- **Recognising underlying social determinants.** For example, data from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children demonstrated that financial disadvantage was one factor among other variables that may affect school readiness and progress for young children.
- **Commitment to doing projects with, not for, Indigenous people.** For example, the evaluation of the NSW *Count Me In Too* Indigenous numeracy program found that contextual learning was successful and critical, professional development for teachers was essential, effective relationships were vital and Aboriginal community buy-in was also essential for ongoing success.
- **Creative collaboration that builds bridges between public agencies and the community and coordination between communities, non-government and government to prevent duplication of effort.** For example, a collaborative project between health and education workers at a primary public school in South Australia (The Wadu Wellness project), in which a number of children were screened, has resulted in follow-up and support for children for hearing problems and dental treatment, and social and emotional support.
- **Understanding that issues are complex and contextual.** For example, frequent house moves, neighbourhood conflict, functionality of housing amenities and high rental costs were found to have an impact on children's schooling.

EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

NT

For more information about Danila Dilba, a service highlighted as making a positive contribution to the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal clients in the Northern Territory in the above report, visit:

<http://www.daniladilbaexperience.org.au/about-us.html>

SA

The Wadu Wellness project

Wadu Wellness is a health and education partnership program for Aboriginal children developed at the Alberton Primary School in suburban South Australia. The school collaborated with several local health services to address the physical health and well being of the large number of Aboriginal children attending the school. Ear health and oral hygiene were of particular concern. The program includes health screenings, individual follow-ups, and school-wide health education and health promotion campaigns.

Wadu Wellness: improving the health & wellbeing of Aboriginal children at Alberton Primary School: evaluation report

This report presents findings of an evaluation of the program, which utilised interviews and focus groups with families and professional personnel, as well as record analysis. The report discusses the organisational context, program components, program rationale and objectives, the evaluation process, and the findings from the evaluation, and presents recommendations for further development. Extensive appendices are included of screening tools, questionnaires, and flyers.

http://www.aihw.gov.au/closingthegap/resources/ga.cfm?item_id=5185&ic_assessment_id=671&group_type=BB&group_id=2&q=&coll=GEN&perPage=all&detailList=SUMMARISE&start=47

NSW

Hey, Dad! Program for Indigenous Dads, Uncles and Pops

The *Hey, Dad! for Indigenous Dads, Uncles and Pops* manual was designed to be delivered to groups of Indigenous men as a weekly program, series of workshops or a weekend program. A trial of the program was held in 2006 and 2007 in a number of areas in New South Wales. The aim was to increase communication and parenting skills and family and social connections, improve conflict resolution skills, and increase community participation in, and knowledge in the community about, maintaining strong and resilient relationships.

Some of the positive feedback from participants included that the program was an all-Aboriginal group and that very few of these were available to men at the time, the delivery and session design was flexible and could be modified to individual needs (including within correctional and remand centres), there was great diversity of participants, the style and language was positive and relaxed, and the use of Aboriginal facilitators was beneficial. Participants were also encouraged by positive coverage in the community and the media, and the use of celebrations and certificates to recognise their participation. Most participants felt that Hey, Dad! had enhanced their parenting, communication, conflict resolution and relationship skills. The evaluation report detailed a number of recommendations regarding the successful roll-out of the program to other areas.

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/pubs/newsletter/n12pdf/n12e.pdf>

<http://www.aifs.gov.au/afrc/docs/heydadeval.pdf>

WA

Moorditj Koort (meaning 'Solid Heart' in Noongar language) Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre officially opened on Tuesday 27th September, 2011 in Kwinana WA. The centre is run in partnership with the local community and the Rockingham Kwinana Division of General Practice.

The Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre exists to enhance the health of the Aboriginal community in Rockingham and Kwinana by developing and strengthening relationship between all local services, agencies and the community, to improve the planning, evaluation and delivery of health services.

The centre offers services to the Aboriginal Community including chronic disease management, pregnancy information, maternal group practice, practice liaison, outreach and transport, school-based health clinics, tobacco cessation, as well as asthma and diabetes education, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion activities, psychologists and addiction counselling and management.

Aboriginal Health Services Manager, Mr Jonathon Ford was named Australia's top young leader in primary health at the HESTA primary health care awards for his work in establishing the health and wellness centre. Mr Ford said the idea for the centre came from the Aboriginal community action group in the Kwinana and Rockingham area to develop a one stop shop to bring health services together, rather than Aboriginal people having to visit multiple health services.

"I want to build a strong and supportive Aboriginal community who have access to the services they need under one roof, in a place run by locals that they trust," Jonathon said.

<http://www.rkdgp.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=65670>
<http://www.sewbmh.org.au/location/view/1392>

CENSUS DATA RELEASED

You may be interested to know that the data from the 2011 Australian Census of Population and Housing was released on 21 June 2012 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The Census was conducted in August 2011, and aims to provide information about the population's characteristics and its housing, within small geographic areas, to support planning, administration, policy development, and evaluation activities in the public and private sectors.

In the 2011 Census, there were 548,370 people identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. Of these, 90% were of Aboriginal origin only, 6% were of Torres Strait Islander origin only and 4% identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. In the Northern Territory, just under 27% of the population identified were counted as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. In all other jurisdictions, 4% or less of the population were of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. Victoria has the lowest proportion at 0.7% of the state total.

Over half (53%) of the people who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin lived in nine of the 57 Indigenous Regions. The three largest regions were located on the eastern seaboard: Brisbane (53,271), NSW Central and North Coast (52,319) and Sydney – Wollongong (52,171). These three regions accounted for 29% (157,761 of 548,370) of the total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander count.

With the exception of Fitzroy River in Western Australia, the ten Indigenous Areas with the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were in the Northern Territory and Queensland. The Indigenous Area of Laynhapuy – Gumatj Homelands in eastern Arnhem Land had the highest proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (98%), followed by the Indigenous Areas of Cherbourg and Yarrabah (both 97%), two discrete communities in Queensland.

A second release of Census data on 19 July 2012 will contain data cubes for the Indigenous geography. Further information:

- 2011 Australian Census data now available online - including Indigenous statistics (HealthInfoNet news item):
<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/news/897>
- Census 2011 information now available: Indigenous statistics (HealthBulletin item)
<http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/census-2011-information-now-available-548370-people-identified-as-indigenous/>
- *Census of population and housing - counts of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2011*
<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/key-resources/bibliography/?lid=23603>

RESOURCES

The following two publications by Dr Tracy Westerman are available from the website:
<http://www.indigenoussychservices.com.au/publications.php>

Westerman T.G. & Wettinger, M. (1998). Working with Aboriginal People. Psychologically Speaking, Western Australian Psychological Society - Frameworks of Working with Aboriginal People.

Westerman T.G. & Wettinger, M. (1998). Working with Aboriginal People. Psychologically Speaking, Western Australian Psychological Society - Psychological Assessment of Aboriginal People.

Achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality within a generation (2005)

First published in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner's *Social Justice Report 2005*, this sets out the campaign's human rights based approach to achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality in detail. You can order copies from publications@humanrights.gov.au

Did you know that **Beyond Blue** has a range of downloadable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Resources and Indigenous Mental Health Guidelines? Resources include *Keeping Strong: A flyer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People*, which provides information on the signs and symptoms of depression, along with ways to find help and healing.

The Mental Health First Aid Guidelines for Indigenous people were developed by the Orygen Youth Health Research Centre with funding from *beyondblue*. They have been developed using the Delphi method, which is a systematic way of assessing the consensus of a panel of experts. The guidelines consist of first aid actions that have been rated as important or essential by an expert panel of professionals, consumers and carers. Topics include:

- Mental Health First Aid Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Cultural Considerations and Communication Techniques
- Depression Guidelines
- Psychosis Guidelines
- Trauma Guidelines
- Problem Drinking Guidelines
- Problem Drug Use Guidelines
- Suicidal thoughts and behaviours and deliberate self-injury

To download, visit http://www.beyondblue.org.au/index.aspx?link_id=7.980#aatsi

Headspace also provides a comprehensive overview of information and evaluations of what works with young people:

<http://www.headspace.org.au/what-works>

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) National Hoodie Day (NHD) Library

This site provides a unique library of shared stories and resources including Cultural Engagement Tutorials, an Interactive Indigenous Language Map, History of the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags, along with links to *Koori Mail*, *Message Stick* and *National Indigenous Television*. The site invites all Australians to connect with Indigenous Australia and to engage with and feel a part of the oldest surviving culture in the world. We are invited to embrace an Australian history that stretches far beyond the 200-odd years and into the depths of history and, in doing this, we go from being seen as a young country to one of the oldest and richest in the world. Visit: <http://www.nationalhoodieday.com/learn-more/>

PUBLICATIONS

Dudgeon, P., Pickett, H & Garvey, D. (2000) *Working with Aboriginal People: A handbook for Psychologists*. Curtin University, Perth WA: Centre for Aboriginal Studies.

Westerman T.G. (2002). Psychological Interventions with Aboriginal People. Connect Magazine, Health Department of Western Australian.

This paper argues for an approach to Aboriginal mental health, which incorporates a range of unique risk factors, implicated in the development of psychopathology for Aboriginal people. Whilst acknowledging that risk factors elucidated in the mainstream literature has some relevance for Aboriginal people, there also exists a range of fundamental social and environmental stressors, which affect indigenous people uniquely. It is these unique factors, which have created a heightened risk for the development of mental health problems amongst Aboriginal people. The primary focus of this uniqueness is the issue of culture.The argument is therefore that there is a clear onus upon the practitioner to be trained sufficiently to be able to explore and assess cultural issues as the basis of differential diagnosis: that is, when is something culture, and when is it a real mental health problem. To read more visit:

<http://www.indigenoussychservices.com.au/publications.php>

E-BOOKS

Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice: a book on social and emotional wellbeing, edited by N Purdie, P Dudgeon and R Walker, July 2010

http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/files/user5/Working_Together_book_web_0.pdf

<http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/working-together-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-mental-health-and-wellbeing-principles-and-practice/>

Working in and with Indigenous communities: What the Australian literature has to say

The selected references are either available on the Web, or from the Australian Institute of Family Studies library via the Inter Library Loan System. The overview was compiled in November 2003 and includes information: Research and Methodologies; Research Guidelines & Protocols; Governance and Practice Considerations, along with Evidence of Change and Evaluation.

www.aifs.gov.au/sf/findings/indigenousslit.html

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Dudgeon, P. (2008). Empowering research with Indigenous communities. *Ngoonjook: a Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues*, 32, 8-26.

Thomas, A., Cairney, S., Gunthorpe, W., Paradies, Y., & Sayers, S. 2010 Strong Souls: Development and validation of a culturally appropriate tool for assessment of social and emotional well-being in Indigenous youth. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol 44, No. 1, pp. 40-48

This article reports on a study undertaken by Menzies School of Health Research that aimed to develop and validate a culturally appropriate tool for assessing social and emotional wellbeing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. The article includes information on the methods involved and the results of the study, and concludes that the instrument is a culturally appropriate and effective tool for assessing social and emotional wellbeing among Indigenous young people in the Northern Territory. Two key findings were: feelings of sadness and low mood were linked with anxiety and not depression; and the expression of anger was verified as a unique symptom of depression for Indigenous people. Read More:

<http://healthbulletin.org.au/articles/strong-souls-development-and-validation-of-a-culturally-appropriate-tool-for-assessment-of-social-and-emotional-well-being-in-indigenous-youth/>

Tsey, K., Wilson, A., Haswell-Elkins, M., Whiteside, M., McCalman, J., Cadet-James, Y. & Wenitong, M. (2007) Empowerment-based research methods: a 10-year approach to enhancing Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing. *Australasian Psychiatry*, Vol. 15, No. s1 pps34-38

This paper describes a research program that has operationalised the links between empowerment at personal/family, group/organizational and community/structural levels and successful mechanisms to address Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing issues such as family violence and abuse, suicide prevention and incarceration. Key program outcomes include an enhancement of participants' sense of self worth, resilience, problem-solving ability, ability to address immediate family difficulties as well as belief in the mutability of the social environment. There is also evidence of increasing capacity to address wider structural issues such as poor school attendance rates, the critical housing shortage, endemic family violence, alcohol and drug misuse, chronic disease, and over-representation of Indigenous men in the criminal justice system. Participants are also breaking new ground in areas such as values-based Indigenous workforce development and organisational change, as well as issues about contemporary Indigenous spirituality.

Read More: <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10398560701701163>

Haswell-Elkins, M., Reilly, L., Fagan, R., Ypinazar, V., Hunter, E., Tsey, K., Gibson, V., Connolly, B., Laliberte, A., Wargent, R., Gibson, T., Saunders, V., McCalman, J., & Kavanagh, D. (2009) Listening, sharing understanding and facilitating consumer, family and community empowerment through a priority driven partnership in Far North Queensland. *Australian Psychiatry*, Vol. 17, No. s1, pp. S54-S58

This paper provides an example of a mental health research partnership underpinned by empowerment principles that seeks to foster strength among community organizations to support better outcomes for consumers, families and communities. It aims to raise awareness among researchers and service providers that empowerment approaches to assist communities to address mental health problems are not too difficult to be practical but require long-term commitment and appropriate support.

Read more: <http://informahealthcare.com/toc/apj/17/s1>

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In recent years Australia has looked at the positive examples set by other nations, including Canada, and recognises the need to strengthen comprehensive primary health care.

The *National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: Framework for action by Governments* (2003) recognises that “Evidence shows that dramatic improvements in health status can be achieved and that gains on many issues can occur within even short time frames. Other comparable countries have made greater progress in improving the health status of indigenous peoples than what we have achieved in Australia”

<http://www.health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpubpoldoc&document=818>

Examples of research provided from an international perspective include:

Kunitz SJ (1996). “The History and Politics of US Health Care for American Indians and Alaskan Natives” in *American Journal of Public Health*, 86

Abstract

This paper traces the development of the US federal government’s program to provide personal and public health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives since the 1940s. Minimal services had been provided since the mid 19th century through the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior. As a result of attempts by western congressmen to weaken and destroy the bureau during the 1940s, responsibility for health services was placed in the US Public Health Service. The transfer thus created the only US national health program for civilians, providing virtually the full range of personal and public health services to a defined population at relatively low cost. Read More: <http://www.mendeley.com/research/history-politics-health-care-policy-american-indians-alaskan-natives/>

Other international articles serve to highlight cross cultural competence and the likely inappropriateness of applying traditionally Western approaches to Indigenous communities. The clear message for us within in Australian context seems to be that we cannot assume that evidence-based treatments can be applied effectively to Indigenous clients and we also need to recognise traditional knowledge and approaches. The Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health website <http://www.sewbmh.org.au/promising> makes reference to former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Tom Calma’s point that ‘the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and communities therefore prevents the identification of programs as ‘best practice’, since this assumes it is possible to ‘transplant it to another community and then just expect it to work’.

Novins, D., Aarons, G., Conti, S., Dahlke, D., Daw, R., Fickenscher, A., Fleming, C., Love, C., Masis, K & Spicer, P. (2011). Use of the evidence base in substance abuse treatment programs for American Indians and Alaska natives: pursuing quality in the crucible of practice policy. *Implementation Science*, Vol 6, Issue 1.

Abstract

A variety of forces are now shaping passionate debate regarding the optimal approaches to improving the quality of substance abuse service for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. While there have been some highly successful efforts to meld the traditions of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes with that of a 12-step approach, some American Indian and Alaska Natives remain profoundly uncomfortable with the dominance of this European-American approach to substance abuse treatment in their communities. This longstanding tension has now been complicated by the emergence of a number of evidence-based treatments that, while holding promise for improving treatment for American Indian and Alaska Natives with substance use problems, may conflict with both American Indian and Alaska Native and 12-step healing traditions. The authors conclude that broadening this conversation beyond its primary focus on the use of evidence-based treatments to other salient issues such as building the

necessary research evidence (incorporating American Indian and Alaska Native cultural values into clinical practice) and developing the human and infrastructural resources to support the use of this evidence may be far more effective for advancing efforts to improve substance abuse services for American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

<http://www.mendeley.com/research/evidence-base-substance-abuse-treatment-programs-american-indians-alaska-natives-pursuing-quality-crucible-practice-policy/>

ONLINE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Suicide Prevention Professional Development Training

The Australian Psychological Society (APS), with the funding of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, has developed a professional development training package for allied health clinicians working under the ATAPS Suicide Prevention Service. The aim of the *ATAPS Suicide Prevention Professional Development Training* is to equip allied health workers with foundational knowledge and skills to assist working with and effectively engaging populations at risk of suicide and serious self-harm. Under the ATAPS framework, allied health workers have been defined to include psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, occupational therapists and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

For APS Members to register, visit

<https://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=9179&Highlight=1>

For Non-APS Members, email: elearning@psychology.org.au

ONLINE TESTS FOR PURCHASE

The following three questionnaires were developed by Dr Tracy Westerman and are available from Indigenous Psychological Services

<http://www.indigenouspsychservices.com.au/courseinfo.php?cid=1>

The General Cultural Competency Test (GCCT) for Aboriginal Australians

The idea of testing cultural competency was developed by Dr Westerman as it enables individuals and organisations to consider the sorts of gaps (and also strengths) that exist for them in essential skills, knowledge and abilities in being able to work in a culturally appropriate way with Aboriginal people. Importantly, it also clarifies the types of strategies that need to be employed within organisations to achieve specific changes to worker skills and organisational structures.

The Cultural Needs Scale (CNS) for Aboriginal Australians

The CNS is used with the General Cultural Competency Test for Aboriginal Australians (CSN: 2003, 2010) which is filled out by managers and supervisors of Aboriginal people. The Cultural Needs Scale has been used with Aboriginal people for approximately 10 years. It was developed based on asking Aboriginal people about the sorts of difficulties that can often result from working in mainstream environments. Importantly, it gives some clear direction to organisations about the sorts of changes that need to happen to make sure that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are able to work together at a more culturally appropriate level.

Aboriginal Mental Health Cultural Competency Test (CCT)

The Aboriginal Mental Health Cultural Competency Test (2003) was developed as a method of determining the current skills levels of practitioners who are working with Aboriginal clients impacted upon by mental ill health. Additionally, Westerman's (2003) extensive research has also resulted in determining the predictors of Aboriginal mental health cultural competency. The CCT is able to assess your level of competency across the relevant areas of cultural competency and provide you with a comprehensive feedback report which is readily used as a cultural supervision plan to further develop your skills in working in this area.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

AUSTRALIA-WIDE

Dr Tracy Westerman's Aboriginal Mental Health Assessment and Suicide Prevention in Aboriginal Communities Workshops 2012

Mental Health Assessment of Aboriginal Clients 2 Day Workshop

ENDORSED by the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association

The only workshop in Australia able to measure and develop Aboriginal Mental Health Cultural Competencies*

Brisbane – 23rd & 24th July, Mercure Ibis Hotel

Mt Isa – 23rd & 24th August, Red Earth & Isa Motel

Adelaide – 17th & 18th September, Rockford Hotel

Sydney – 29th & 30th October, Venue TBA

Perth – 29th & 30th November, Mercure Hotel

Suicide Prevention in Aboriginal Communities 1.5 Day Workshop

Brisbane – 26th & 27th July, Mercure, Ibis Hotel

Mt Isa – 20th & 21st August, Red Earth & Isa Motel

Adelaide - 20th & 21st September, Rockford Hotel

Sydney - 1st & 2nd November, Venue TBA

Perth – 27th & 28th November, Mercure Hotel

<http://www.Indigenoupsychservices.com.au/trainingworkshops.php>

SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

The Charlie Perkins Trust

The scholarship is named in honour of Charlie Perkins, who it is reported was playing soccer professionally in the UK when he was inspired to return to Australia to undertake university study after competing in a game against Oxford University. Dr Charlie Perkins AO was the first Indigenous Australian to graduate from university, the first Indigenous head of an Australian Government department, and a renowned activist for his people.

In 2009, with the assistance of the University of Oxford, the Charlie Perkins Trust established annual Charlie Perkins Scholarships to provide two talented Indigenous Australians each year with the opportunity to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Oxford from 2010. With support from the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Cambridge Australia Scholarships Ltd., the scholarships will also be open for study at the University of Cambridge.

These postgraduate scholarships are particularly directed towards Indigenous Australians who have the potential to become leaders in their field of study and in their communities. The first two Charlie Perkins Scholars are being funded by the Australian Government, the British Government (through the Chevening program) and Rio Tinto.

In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- be accepted into any graduate degree program offered at the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge - it should be noted that this will require a First Class Honours degree, upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent.
- be of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- have tertiary qualifications

Applications for the Charlie Perkins Scholarships open on **Monday 7 July 2012**. Applications will close at 5pm AEST on **Wednesday 1 August 2012**.

For more detailed information visit: <http://www.perkinstrust.com.au/html/about.html>

Don't miss an opportunity to visit Oxford University

The Charlie Perkins Scholarship Trust is pleased to be able to offer a group of high achieving Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander undergraduates the opportunity to visit Cambridge and Oxford in late October 2012.

The Trust is seeking applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university undergraduates (including those in their honours year) who have completed at least one year of their course of study and have the potential to become Charlie Perkins Scholars in the future.

The successful applicants will spend a week in the UK at Cambridge and Oxford meeting with students and academics in their areas of interest. The aim of the visit is to expose Indigenous students to a number of options for postgraduate study. Costs associated with travel, accommodation and meals will be covered.

Applications open 9am 2 July 2012 and close 5pm 1 August 2012.

The successful applicants will be chosen primarily on the basis of academic achievement (Distinction average or higher), but also on the basis of their potential to become leaders in their field of study and in their communities. Preference will be given to students in the final years of their undergraduate study.

Questions can be emailed to fi.belcher@auroraproject.com.au and should include a contact telephone number, or phone (02) 9469 8103.

To read some of the November 2011 Oxford and Cambridge Trip Reflections, visit:
<http://www.perkinstrust.com.au/links/Reflections.pdf>

Endeavour Awards

The Endeavour Awards is the Australian Government's internationally competitive, merit-based scholarship program providing opportunities for citizens of the Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas to undertake study, research or professional development in Australia. Awards are also available for Australians to do the same abroad. Endeavour Research Fellowships provide up to \$23,500 for graduate research students and postdoctoral researchers to undertake 4-6 months of research.

Closing Date: 30th June 2012-06-24

Download the Brochure:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Documents/EAPostGradBrochure.pdf>

Apply Online: <http://www.australiaawards.gov.au/>

Read More: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/International/EndeavourAwards/Pages/Home.aspx>

Email: endeavour.awards@deewr.gov.au

Bond University Award for Indigenous Community Excellence

This inaugural award has been made available through private donations raised at the Bond University Indigenous Art Auction and is specifically designed to support an Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) student to study at Bond. The scholarship covers full tuition fees for any single eligible undergraduate or postgraduate degree (excluding Master of Psychology).

Closing Date: August 2012

<http://www.bond.edu.au/scholarships>

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and administered by Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA). The Scheme was established in recognition of Dr Arnold (Puggy) Hunter's significant contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and his role as the inaugural Chair of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). Scholarships are worth up to \$7,500 per year for part time study or up to \$15,000 per year for full time study and will be available for the normal duration of the course.

The scholarship provides financial assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are or will be studying at a TAFE (certificate IV and above) or entry-level university course in the following professions: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, Allied health (excluding pharmacy), Dentistry/oral health, Medicine, Midwifery, Nursing.

Applicants must identify as and be able to prove their Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status. For more information contact the Royal College of Nursing, Australia.

Free call: 1800 688 628

Email: scholarships@rcna.org.au

See: www.rcna.org.au

Application Dates: The next round of Scholarships for study in 2013 will open Friday 20th July
Closing Date: Sunday 16th September 2012.

CADETSHIPS

Government of Western Australia Department for Child Protection Indigenous Cadetships

The Aboriginal Cadetship Program provides an opportunity for Australian Aboriginals studying a degree in Social Work, Psychology or other relevant human services, to gain valuable work experience whilst still studying and allows easy access to employment opportunities on completion of their studies. The Indigenous Cadetship Support (ICS) program helps students by providing money to cover living costs and also provides an opportunity for paid work experience that is linked to their course of study. For more information about the application criteria visit : <http://www.indigenousscholarships.com.au/scholarship/government-western-australia-department-child-protection-indigenous-cadetships>

Closing date: 30th July 2012

CALL FOR PAPERS

2012 Indigenous Psychologies Conference: Our Past, Present and Future

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th November 2012, University of Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand

Abstracts for three kinds of submissions are invited:

A lightning Talk – Speakers have 5 minutes, max of 4 slides and 1 question
(Great for promoting organisations, projects in progress or upcoming events)

An Oral Paper – Speakers have 20 minutes and 5 minutes for questions

A Mini-Symposia – Where a particular theme is discussed via several presentations within an 80 minute session

Closing Date: 15th August 2012

<http://www.mppc.co.nz/2012/sub/submit-an-abstract/>

CONFERENCES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

47th Annual Australian Psychological Society Conference, 27-30 September 2012, Perth.

The theme for this year's conference focuses on the contribution that psychology – as a discipline and profession – makes to addressing the current and future challenges of the modern age for individuals and society.

Apart from the usual conference highlights, there is a full line up of items that are likely to be of relevance and interest to ATSIPP IG members including:

Thursday 27 September

- **Conference Opening, Welcome to Country** (Wadumbah Aboriginal Dance Group)
- **Symposium (90 mins) *Suicide prevention and postvention - learning from the people and communities most affected*** P. Dudgeon K. Hams D. D'Anna C. Dunckley K. Cox, A. Graham H. Lovelock L. Barnett
- **Professional & Practice Forum (90 mins) *Psychologist Roles in Rural and Remote Australia: Service Delivery, Networking, and Professional Development - The Way Forward.*** P. Campbell & Rural & Remote Interest Group

Friday 28th September

- **Fellows Address APS Honorary Fellow, Emeritus Professor Graham Davidson**
"Does culture as an explanatory construct facilitate or frustrate the advancement of psychological theory and practice"
- ***Closing the mental health gap: psychology, education and Indigenous Australian people*** H. Gridley Y. Adams N. Drew R. Walker K. Williams C. Gillies
- ***Ways forward for psychological assessment with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians*** H. Gridley P. Dudgeon D. Darlston-Jones J. Harris
- **Professional & Practice Forum (45 mins) *Social determinants of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing - risk and protective factors*** P. Dudgeon R. Walker T. Wilkes H. Gridley

Saturday 29th September

- **Professional & Practice Forum (90 mins) *Experiences of Indigenous Psychology Students at Australian Universities*** S. Meredith Y. Clark H. Gridley
- **Professional & Practice Forum (45 mins) *The Australian Psychological Society Reconciliation Action Plan*** S. Crowe P. Dudgeon H. Gridley
- **Professional & Practice Forum (45 mins) *What's the APS doing about...? Psychology in the public interest*** H. Gridley S. Burke E. Sampson

Sunday 30th September

- **Individual Research Papers (15 mins each) – Indigenous psychology**
What implications for psychologists lie in the stories of Indigenous adults, who as children, left their home communities to attend school? S. Jenkins
Missionary, Mercenary or Misfit? What still drives some health practitioners to meet the call of the very remote Indigenous workplace? M. Tyrrell
- **Professional & Practice Forum (45 mins) *Considerations for family clinical interventions with indigenous populations: The interplay of cultural consultants, Aboriginal spirituality, psychology as a resource and systemic intervention.*** D. Milovchevich P. Narkle
- **Individual Research Paper (15 mins) *Mental Health is more than CBT: the role of community psychology in the development of community mental health services*** M. Smith

For a full overview of the conference, visit: <http://www.apconference.com.au/>

QUEENSLAND

APS Telephone & Internet-Based Counselling Psychology Interest Group

The last few years have seen exciting developments of e-health tools using the Internet, clinic-based computers, mobile phones, and other electronic devices. Such tools offer innovative ways to expand access to psychological support and transform service delivery. Increasingly, researchers, agencies, and individual practitioners are considering how they can best capitalise on the potential of these developments. As such, this exciting event is not only targeted towards researchers, but also practitioners who are looking to incorporate more e-health tools within their clinical practice and students who might be interested in learning more about this rapidly expanding area.

Pre-Conference Workshop on 10th August

The workshop titled "Linking in to Mental Health: Using Electronic Communications in Psychological Practice" led by Julia Reynolds (ANU) will discuss ways that practitioners can integrate e-health strategies into clinical practice.

The First National APS e-Psychology Conference on 11th-12th August

The conference will provide the latest information on research into e-health strategies to address disorders or behavioural risks and promote health and wellbeing. Keynote speakers will include many of the key researchers in this field such as Kathy Griffiths (ANU), Judy Proudfoot (UNSW), and Robert King (QUT).

Both the workshop and conference will be held at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove. Although the event is not currently CPD endorsed, we will be seeking endorsement from the APS Clinical College. Please refer to <http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=10126> for more information about this event. Note that fee reductions are especially generous for full-time students.

Network of Indigenous Health Knowledge and Development Conference

24–28 September 2012, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane

The conference will provide the opportunity for knowledge translation through activities designed to build capacity, stimulate research, and strengthen and expand the international knowledge translation system.

Contact: Dr Mick Adams, Conference Organiser, Australian Steering Committee
Email: m2.adams@qut.edu.au

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) Inaugural Conference

22-23rd November, 2012, Bardon Centre, Brisbane

The theme for the conference will be "Joining the dots...An inter-professional approach to Indigenous health". The conference program will focus on the importance of inter-professional working relationships and partnerships within the diversity of allied health services and the broader health and related areas to improve the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. This two day conference provides a supportive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous professionals to discuss topics on; Indigenous Allied Health Initiatives; Closing the Gap; Health leadership and influencing policy; Education and Training; Lateral-professional partnerships, Holistic care, Personal experiences and Community health services.

Registrations Open: June 2012 www.indigenousalliedhealth.com.au

INTERNATIONAL

2012 Indigenous Psychologies Conference: Our Past, Present and Future

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th November 2012, University of Auckland, Aotearoa/New Zealand

We extend a very warm and special invitation to indigenous Māori, Pacific, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics, psychologists, graduates of psychology and psychology students. The conference is open for attendance by all who wish to hear presentations led by indigenous people around the conference theme “At the Local Interface”.

Working in indigenous worlds with our own peoples can be both challenging as well as satisfying. The indigenous psychologist has much to offer, and equally, just as much to learn from indigenous clients and communities. This conference invites contributions that share experiences of working at the interface within research, teaching and practice and will move forward the task of discussing and documenting an indigenous psychology relevant to New Zealand, the Pacific and Australia. Contributions by indigenous practitioners and students are invited that meet the three goals:

1. Innovative ways of working with indigenous clients and communities;
2. Critically reflective experiences of indigenous practitioners engaged with indigenous clients and communities;
3. New solutions for persistent challenges.

Registrations Open: 10th August 2012 <http://www.mppc.co.nz/2012/>

IN THE NEWS

28th March 2012 APY Lands graduates learn to inspire

A group of Aboriginal women from the state's most remote and disadvantaged region have triumphed over adversity, graduating from university. The women, who all live on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands, have earned teaching qualifications from the University of South Australia that they will use to teach and inspire others.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/apy-lands-graduates-set-to-inspire/story-e6frea6u-1226312903345>

17th May 2012 UN declaration on rights of indigenous peoples inspired changes

The President of the General Assembly, Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, today hailed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted five years ago, as a landmark document that has inspired positive changes in the protection of the rights of indigenous communities.

<http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/NewsandMedia/tabid/1615/news/258/Default.aspx>

25th May 2012 Coal Cash for Central Queensland University

Central Queensland University has announced five new scholarships for Indigenous students commencing in 2013. CQUniversity's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Scott believes the partnership with BMA and their financial contribution will make a real difference in improved education and employment outcomes for recipients; “CQUniversity is at the forefront of Indigenous tertiary education in Australia, with an Indigenous student population that is already double the level of national targets.”

The scholarships are designed to influence skills shortages and build capacity in key service areas of BMA's communities. In line with this aim, scholarships will be awarded to students studying non-mining disciplines such as health, education and business for the duration of their degree programs. Read more.....

<http://www.indigenousscholarships.com.au/resources/news/coal-cash-cquniversity>

31st May 2012 Scholars Carry Charlie Perkins Banner

Ms Brown, alongside 27-year-old Kyle Turner and 25-year old Krystal Lockwood, was awarded a Charlie Perkins scholarship -- a \$53,000 grant to allow her to complete postgraduate study at Cambridge or Oxford. The scholarships, announced in 2009 by Julia Gillard in honour of the first Aborigine to graduate from an Australian university, are awarded to high-achieving indigenous students who win entry to world-leading universities. Read more.....

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/indigenous/scholars-carry-charlie-perkins-banner/story-fn9hm1pm-1226375610376>

1st June 2012 Time to Reflect on Sorry Day

The Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre held a ceremony in Kwinana (WA) to join activities across the country marking National Sorry Day. The occasion is a recognition of and reflection on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families between the 1800s and the 1970s, known as the Stolen Generation.

Koort manager Jonathan Ford ran the ceremony, sharing his family's experience and read former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's 2008 speech to Parliament apologising to Indigenous Australians. Mr Ford said afterwards he believed Sorry Day was still an important Aboriginal event. "Sorry Day is an emotional event regardless of your age," he said. "It's an opportunity for us to heal as a community and as people."

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/regional/rockingham/a/-/news/13840752/time-to-reflect-on-sorry-day/>
<http://www.inmycommunity.com.au/news-and-views/local-news/Apology-healing-clear/7624041/>

6th June 2012 Govt announces changes to native title

The Federal Attorney-General, Nicola Roxon, has spelled out the Government's proposed changes to the native title process which would make settling claims faster and cheaper.

The announcement coincides with the 20th anniversary of the High Court historic Mabo decision. Ms Roxon's expressed the hope that all native title claims will be settled within another 20 years. Read more....

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2012/s3519290.htm>

14th June 2012 SNAICC Submission - Senate Inquiry National Children's Commissioner 2012 Bill

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) supports the proposed National Children's Commissioner but urges for amendments to the proposed Bill to ensure adequate and appropriate protection and promotion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's rights. Read more:

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/policy-advocacy/dsp-default-e.cfm?loadref=123&txnid=812&txnctype=article&txncstype=>

18th June 2012 New Mental Health Workers Rolled Out

Sixty-six new mental health workers will be employed in community support services across Australia thanks to a \$13.4 million boost to the popular *Personal Helpers and Mentors* initiative. The new workers will be employed by 31 organisations in almost 50 communities across the country to provide one-on-one support to local people with mental illness.

They will work in communities with high levels of mental illness and need for extra support services, including Bourke and Wyong in New South Wales and Ipswich and Logan in Queensland. The new mental health workers will also provide targeted support to groups including young people leaving out-of-home care, recent migrants and refugees, homeless people and Indigenous Australians. To read more visit:

<http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/1937>

For more information about the remote servicing model and the focus on working with Indigenous Australians living with a mental illness in remote communities visit:

<http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/mentalhealth/progserv/PersonalHelpersMentorsProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

For an evaluation of the Personal Helpers and Mentors Program, particularly with regard to meeting the needs of Indigenous Australians, read pp 24-27

http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/mentalhealth/progserv/targeted_community_care/Documents/targeted_mhi_report.pdf

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission

www.ncca.org.au/natsiec

For inspirational stories on indigenous students completing education at the tertiary level, visit

<http://www.indigenousscholarships.com.au/resources/inspirational-stories>

Social and Emotional Wellbeing (including mental health)

<http://www.sewbmh.org.au>

<http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/other-health-conditions/mental-health>

DIARY DATES

July

1-31st JulEYE eye health awareness month

All Australians are urged to have your eyes tested this month and to place eye tests every two years on your family's calendar. Events held during the month of July support the many projects The RANZCO Eye Foundation currently has underway including projects in The Kimberley, Myanmar and East Timor as well as a new 10th Anniversary Project benefiting research into diabetic eye disease among indigenous Australians.

www.eyefoundation.org.au

2-8th Celebrate NAIDOC Week

www.naidoc.org.au

8-14th Diabetes Awareness Week

Doctors take on diabetic blindness in remote areas. Read more

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-25/doctors-take-on-diabetic-blindness/4091800>

www.diabetesaustralia.com.au

18th Nelson Mandela International Day

www.un.org/observances>Days

21st Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) – National Hoodie Day

AIME is committed to the belief that Indigenous can mean success. Every limited edition Blue AIME Hoodie sold will see AIME support more Indigenous kids to finish school at the same rate as every Australian child. The theme of this year's conversation is "Does Indigenous Success = Australian Success?" To learn more or get involved visit:

<http://www.nationalhoodieday.com/>

Stress Down Day

Everyday, Lifeline receives 1,250 calls from Australians in need of support. Sadly up to 50 of these calls are from people at high risk of suicide. Stress Down Day is a fun and easy way to reduce your stress levels while raising awareness and funds for Lifeline.

www.stressdown.org.au

28th World Hepatitis Day

The Northern Territory's Hepatitis B vaccination program has seen a 75 per cent decrease in the disease over the past two decades, indicating similar success is to be expected across the rest of Australia. <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/06/19/3528569.htm> - 19 Jun 2012

www.hepatitisaustralia.com>Events>Worldhepatitiday

30th-5th August Cerebral Palsy Awareness Week

www.cerebralpalsyaustralia.com

31st National Premmie Day

Did you know that the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander babies are born with a lower birth weight than Non-Indigenous babies?

www.lifeslittletreasures.org.au

August

4th National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day

National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day is celebrated on 4 August each year. The 2012 National Aboriginal and Islander Children's Day theme is "Our Children, Our Culture, Our Way"

<http://www.snaicc.asn.au/news-events/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=58>

9th International Day of the World's Indigenous People

This year's theme, 'Indigenous designs: celebrating stories and cultures, crafting their own future', highlights the need for preservation and revitalization of indigenous cultures, including their art and intellectual property.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/indigenousday/index.shtml>

September

2nd – 8th September National Child Protection Week

<http://www.napcan.org.au/campaigns>

10th World Suicide Prevention Day

World Health Organisation (WHO) World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September promotes worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.

http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_suicide_prevention_day/en/index.html

Read about the 2011-2014 Australian Suicide Prevention Council

<http://suicidepreventionaust.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Suicide-Prevention-Australia-Strategic-Plan-2011.pdf>

Read about the September 2011 Minister for Indigenous Health Media Release

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/10AA05594588B1FACA25790800836C31/\\$File/mb106.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/10AA05594588B1FACA25790800836C31/$File/mb106.pdf)

21st International Day of Peace

The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Peace is celebrated on September 21 each year to recognise the efforts of those who have worked hard to end conflict and promote peace.

“Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future” is the theme chosen for this year's observance of the International day of Peace. There can be no sustainable future without a sustainable peace. Sustainable peace must be built on sustainable development.

<http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

October

5th World Teachers Day

For information about the Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarships visit:

<http://www.deewr.gov.au/indigenous/schooling/programs/pages/indigenousteacherscholarships.aspx>

22nd Pink Ribbon Day

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC)* has released a new resource for health organisations and individual health professionals working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to promote breast cancer awareness through locally-run Well Women Workshops and resources. <http://canceraustralia.nbocc.org.au/breast-cancer/about-breast-cancer/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-women>

November

11th Remembrance Day

For a history of Indigenous involvement in Defence and to view the Defence RAP visit:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/fr/publications/DRAP2010-14.pdf>

Read *Aboriginal Diggers: Their sacrifice for our gain*

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-01/jones-reconciliation/4046630>

11th-18th National Psychology Week

National Psychology Week (NPW) aims to increase public awareness about psychology, psychological issues and the role psychologists play in community wellbeing. Visit:

<http://www.psychologyweek.com.au/>

QUOTES

“Education is undeniably one of the most important opportunities afforded to us.” Award-winning Australian Actor Deborah Mailman

“The Declaration can contribute to a harmonious Australia that recognises and respects cultural differences and values and sees them as a positive aspect of Australian culture and society. I look forward to working with you to achieving the ends of the Declaration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Australia.”

Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/declaration_indigenous/declaration_full.html#message