

Talkin' Strong

KOORI HEALTH RESEARCH

The community newsletter of the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit.

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NAIDOC 2005

NAIDOC 2005 saw *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit celebrate with a lunch to launch our new name and website, followed by a seminar.

We were once again honoured to have Aunty Joy Murphy-Wandin launch the Unit's new name, *Onemda*. After much discussion and consultation it was Aunty Joy who gave us the name, which is a Wirrundjeri word which means 'Love'. All of the staff of the Unit are pleased and proud to have the new name.

Whilst lunch was being devoured, the front page of our new website was on show. The revamped website will be a great source of information for people locally, nationally and internationally about the work of *Onemda* and our community.

After lunch we had our second NAIDOC seminar. Following last years successful presentation from Aunty Joan Vickery and Angela Clarke, this year we were fortunate enough to have Megan Davis from Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning and Professor Ian Anderson, our Director. Megan presented a paper which discussed the ideas and principles of a treaty, and how it might actually come about in a legal and consitutional framework. Ian then followed with a presentation on how a treaty, or lack thereof, may influence health and the health status of Indigenous people. The presentations triggered a range of interesting questions, and many of us left wondering when such an event might actually happen, and the consequences if it doesn't happen soon.

The staff of *Onemda* had a busy week during NAIDOC week, going to many events, and particularly enjoying hosting the community for our lunch, launch and seminar.

See NAIDOC photos on page 6 & 7.

Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health Report

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Convocation

The CRC for Aboriginal Health held its Convocation on 6-7 April to provide an opportunity for representatives from Aboriginal Medical Services, Government departments and research institutions to come together and discuss what was happening in the CRC.

Onemda was represented at Convocation by Ian Anderson, Paul Stewart, Angela Clarke, Priscilla Pyett, Brian McCoy, Johanna Monk and Judy Pryor. The CRC offered to fund each partner to invite community representatives. Four people were funded to attend from Victoria: Jill Gallagher and Peter Waples-Crowe represented VACCHO, and Felicia Dean and Justin Mohammed represented Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative.

Participants heard updates on what was happening in each CRC Program and then gathered in smaller groups to discuss some of



Paul Stewart and Justin Mohammed



Priscilla Pyett and Brian McCoy

the issues arising and how each particular Program might develop.

The Convocation also marked a significant turning point in meeting the Board's objective of having a community-driven research agenda. That is, the research undertaken by the CRC must be of use and benefit to the Aboriginal community. The CRC therefore wants to make sure that there is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander involvement in the development of the research program and of each particular research proposal. It was observed that the research process should involve the Aboriginal community at all stages and make sure research results are shared with communities and key stakeholders.

One way of promoting this involvement is the establishment of the CRC network of interest. An outcomes of Convocation discussions was that rather than having a network of interest for each of the five Programs, it would be more practical to have one network of interest for the CRC with subgroups for each Program. People indicated their interest in being part of the network of interest at Convocation but if you did not attend, you are still encouraged to register your interest with the CRC (see contact details below).

Programs Update

Our Programs are progressing at different stages. The Board has now signed off on funding for the Healthy Skin Program. Project outlines are being developed for the Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Health Systems and Workforce Program. These project outlines will be considered by the Board in August for further development. The Social Determinants and Social and Emotional Well Being Programs are currently developing Program Statements and will ask the network of interest for input into this work. The Chronic Diseases Program is planning to work on mapping the current projects to identify gaps in the Program.

Program Managers have been appointed to support the work in each Program. These are CRC staff positions and will liaise with project teams and further develop the Program work.



Ian Anderson, Michael Tynan, Justin Mohammed, Kevin Rowley, Paul Stewart



David Legge (LaTrobe), Kim O'Donnell (Flinders), Peter Waples-Crowe (VACCHO)

They will also support the Program Leaders who are to be appointed soon. The Program Managers are:

Shirley Godwin (part time) – *Chronic Diseases.*

Roger Brailsford (full time) – *Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Health Systems and Workforce; Social and Emotional and Well Being.*

Tamelyn Hall (full time) – *Healthy Skin; Social Determinants.*

Contact the CRC

If you would like further information on the CRC for Aboriginal Health, please contact Johanna Monk, Link Person for the University of Melbourne on 03 8344 0884 or monkj@unimelb.edu.au.

The LIME Connection a roaring success!

One hundred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people gathered in Fremantle near Perth recently for **The LIME Connection**. LIME stands for Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education. **The LIME Connection** was a national conference and was concerned with teaching Aboriginal health properly to medical students, and recruiting and retaining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students into medicine.

The LIME Connection is an initiative of the CDAMS Indigenous Health Curriculum Project, which is based at Onemda. **The LIME Connection** was co-convened with the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA), who is a key partner and stakeholder in medical education.

The CDAMS Project has for two years been working with medical schools around the country to audit medical schools for their Indigenous health curriculum content, write a curriculum framework and now assist them in implementation of the curriculum.

The LIME Connection saw representatives from fifteen of the seventeen medical schools in Australia come together along with AIDA, Indigenous community representatives, medical colleges, postgraduate medical councils and medical student representatives. We were also honoured to have Maori delegates come along and share their experiences in relation to getting cultural safety embedded in nursing and medicine courses in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The major outcomes of **The LIME Connection** were:

- Professional development and further engagement for 100 medical educators;
- Broad commitment to implementing the CDAMS Indigenous Health Curriculum Framework;
- A national report from AIDA on recruiting and supporting Indigenous medical students;
- Identification of factors for success in implementation and monitoring of curriculum development;
- An announcement of \$40 000 extra funds from the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health to establish The LIME Network – an ongoing association of medical educators concerned with Indigenous health;

- A broad approach agreed for working with other funding partners to make our efforts on-going and sustainable.

Specific outcomes from The LIME connection can be seen at:

<http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/koori/html/cdams.htm>

The Connection was held at the beautiful Esplanade Hotel, and allowed delegates to enjoy the sites and cafes while on break from the meeting. A beautiful conference dinner was held at the new Maritime Museum, overlooking the Indian Ocean. All in all, it was a wonderful three days, with many stories shared and many lessons learned.

Big thanks must go to Tara Eldridge, as a casual staff member, who worked very hard to make the conference a success, and to Viki Briggs and all the others that helped in organising and staging The Connection.

For further information on the CDAMS Project or The LIME Connection, please contact Gregory Phillips by phone on (03) 8344 0640, by email at glphil@unimelb.edu.au, or go to <http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/koori/html/cdams.htm>



Croc Festival

Swan Hill 11th – 13th October 2005

The main aim of the Croc Festivals is to foster improvement in health, education and well-being of Indigenous students and non-Indigenous youth in rural and remote areas of Australia, and to assist in the development of their employability and interpersonal relationships. Another of the core focuses of this event will be encouraging Indigenous youth to live healthy lifestyles, free from tobacco, alcohol and other substances.

The University of Melbourne will be making a huge contribution and presence at this year's festival in Swan Hill. Nearly all faculties will be representing this year, and we will be providing opportunities for young Indigenous kids to participate in fun and interactive activities that will also help them to map out a pathway into studying at higher levels and hopefully at The University of Melbourne. This year we will have workshops, hands on activities, games, prizes and giveaways and much more to ensure that Indigenous youth have the best start for their education and careers in the wider community.

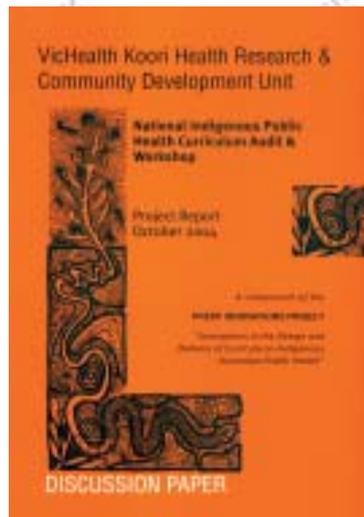
For more information contact Steve Clarke 03 8344 8057 or go to

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

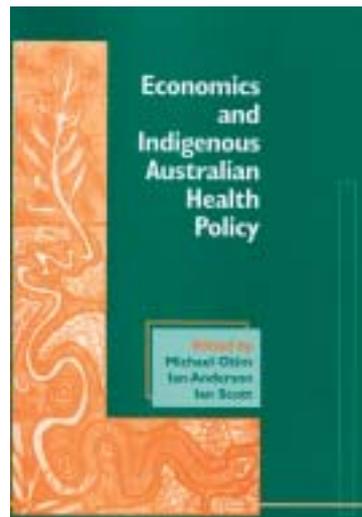
Our latest Publications



Economics and Indigenous Australian Health Workshop



National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Audit & Workshop



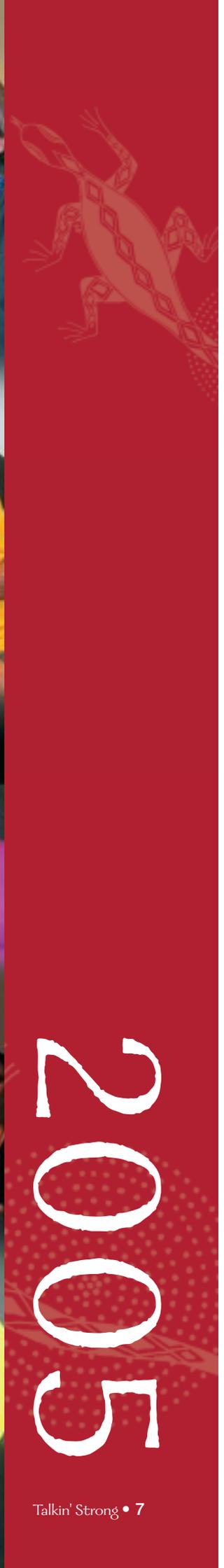
Economics and Indigenous Australian Health Policy

For further information please contact Nicole Waddell on 03 8344 0813 or waddell@unimelb.edu.au or have a look at our publications page:

<http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/koori/html/publications.htm>

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Visitor from the LANCET



In April Onemda hosted a visit from Stephanie Clark. Stephanie is the managing editor of The Lancet, one of the most prestigious medical journals in the world, and she is based in London.

Ian and Shaun took Stephanie to Shepparton, where we spent some time looking around the facilities at Rumbalara. Stephanie was interested to learn about the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health sector, and was pleased to meet with Felicity Dean, the Chairperson of Rumbalara. We also managed to fit in a visit to the Department of Rural Health in Shepparton.

Nyernila Koories Kila Degaia

(Listen up to Koories Speak about Health)



**Aunty Melva Johnson, Aunty Joan Vickery,
Angela Clarke and Ian Anderson**

Nyernila Koories Kila Degaia (Listen up to Koories Speak about Health) documents the beginnings of Health Services starting up in Victoria. It was launched at the Koorie Heritage Trust on the 2nd August. Congratulations to Aunty Joan Vickery, Angela Clarke and Karen Adams. The book is available for purchase from the Koorie Heritage Trust, 295 King Street, Melbourne for \$29.95.

Upcoming Positions Vacant

Onemda is pleased to announce that we are looking to recruit someone to a research or senior research fellow position within The Unit. The person will work as a part of a team involved in the implementation of the Aboriginal health research program in the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, Centre for Health and Society. Closing date 19th August.

For details of the position, and how to apply please look on the University website at <http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/jobs/>

We also expect to have available in the near future two trainee positions for Aboriginal people who may be looking for opportunities to develop skills in Business Administration, and WebDesign and Maintenance. These positions will be funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, and will be initially for 12 months. The trainees will need to complete a Certificate III or IV in a relevant TAFE course as part of their traineeship.

Keep an eye on our website <http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/koori/> for more information about these positions.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Postgraduate

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences has a "Indigenous Capacity Building for Research Bursary", which is a bursary managed by the Faculty for Indigenous people wishing to undertake coursework higher degrees, which have the potential to increase the capacity to undertake research in the future. The bursary was awarded in Semester one to Karen Atkinson, who is undertaking her degree in nursing. Students wishing to apply for semester two should make inquiries to Joan Vosen jvy@unimelb.edu.au.

Undergraduate

The Harry and Lotti Bench bursary is an award of value between \$4000 - \$8000 available annually. The Bursary will be awarded to an Indigenous undergraduate student based on an assessment of need. Indigenous students enrolled in any undergraduate course offered by the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences will be eligible to apply for the bursary.



Katie Cahill



Ebony Lovett

Two current Indigenous students at the University of Melbourne have been awarded the Harry and Lotti Bench bursary; Reece Lancaster who is a 1st year medical student, and Ebony Lovett who is a 1st year physio student.

Katie Cahill was awarded with an Access Melbourne Scholarship as well as the Trinity College Yorta Yorta Scholarship. Katie is studying Physiotherapy and is in her 1st year.

For more information contact Catherine Wills on 03 8344 7766.

Critical Debates in Aboriginal Health

During 2nd semester, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the University of Melbourne hosts a series of public forums as part of the Critical Debates in Aboriginal Health postgraduate seminar series. Each seminar involves a panel of community members, researchers and policy-makers. Topics include: Aboriginal research ethics, Mainstream and community sector service delivery responsibilities, Services for young people in Aboriginal health, Responses to Aboriginal family violence, Aboriginal men's health, and Macro policy: Mutual obligation and self-determination. There is no charge to attend these public seminars - all are welcome.

The forums are held **fortnightly on Thursdays from July 28 @ 1.45pm - 3.15pm in Lecture Theatre 2, Basement, 207 Bouverie St** (except Sept 22nd) at the University of Melbourne. Further inquiries to Bill Genat 8344 9375 or bgenat@unimelb.edu.au

Masters of Social Health

The Masters of Social Health (Aboriginal Health) is responding to the national demands for people to come and do all or part of this course by offering the Aboriginal Health specific subjects by either block release mode, or distance mode from next year. For more information about these subjects, visit our education pages on our website at <http://www.cshs.unimelb.edu.au/koori/html/education.htm>



Community Profile

Marlene Drysdale

Associate Professor Indigenous Health
School of Rural Health
Monash University

In my current position as Head of the Indigenous Health Unit at the School of Rural Health, Monash University I am responsible for the management and development of the Unit, including the recruitment of medical, nursing and allied health Indigenous students as well as research, lecturing and curriculum development. My approach has been to encourage Indigenous students on a learning path in Indigenous health, education and culture. My focus is on developing an individual's competencies by supporting them with the information and opportunities to continually improve. I am currently involved on a number of committees related to Indigenous health and education and have professional associations with various organisations interested in the health and well being of Indigenous Australians.

The Indigenous Health unit is involved in various research projects and is currently developing a package for the recruitment and retention of Indigenous students into medical schools. Monash University is also committed to the inclusion of the CDAMS recommendations within the MBBS medical curriculum and the Indigenous Health Unit has recently employed a Senior Lecturer to ensure this is achieved.

Contact Marlene at
marlene.drysdale@med.monash.edu.au or
03 5128 1001.



New Staff

Steve Clarke

Steve Clarke is the new Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. This newly created position within the faculty of medicine will see Steve concentrating on recruitment and retention strategies and programs for Indigenous students for medicine and other health sciences. He will be also working closely with the Centre for Indigenous Education and various faculties within the university to help facilitate the transition of Indigenous students into the faculty of medicine and the wider University. Steve has previously worked for ATSIC and ATSI for the past 5 years, where he worked in environmental health programs and the provision of housing and infrastructure to remote Indigenous communities.

You can contact Steve on 03 8344 8057 or clarkesc@unimelb.edu.au.

Are you on our mailing list?

If you would like to receive our newsletters, and to be informed about workshops, seminars and courses that we run at the Unit, please fill in this form and mail or fax it to the address below. All questions are optional but it would help us to know what aspects of our work you might be most interested in.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Organisation:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone(.....)..... Fax(.....).....

Email:

Are you Koori? Yes No

Do you currently work in a Koori community organisation?

Yes No

How would you currently describe your current area of work or study:

Does your work/study involve any of the following: (Please ✓ as many as apply)

Health service delivery

Health policy

Health research

Other research

Koori education

Other education

Koori community service

Other (please specify)

Do you have any particular interests that we might be able to help you with? (eg. children's health, evaluation, research methods, Koori history)



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



VicHealth



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Melways Map Reference: 2B D8