



THE LIME NETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 10 / November 2012

LIME WELCOME

Welcome to the tenth edition of the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network Newsletter. In this edition we are pleased to bring readers information about current LIME activities, including the recently launched Indigenous Pathways into Medicine Online Resource, which provides a comprehensive, searchable database, to assist future Indigenous doctors when deciding which medical school will be the best fit for them.

We also profile a number of new teaching and learning initiatives,

have information for graduates, clinicians, and students and highlight projects of interest from the medicine and allied health sectors. Our member profile this month features LIME Reference Group member Cris Carriage from the University of Western Sydney, who talks about her own path into medical education.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the LIME Network Newsletter and encourage your contributions for future publications.

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LOGO AND ARTWORK
by Michelle Smith
and Kevin Murray

NEWSLETTER DESIGN
by Inprint Design

The LIME Network Newsletter is published three times per year (March, July and November) and includes the latest information about issues concerning Indigenous health and medical education. The Newsletter is designed as a resource for Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical educators, students, medical practitioners, policy makers, nursing and allied health professionals and educators, community members and all those interested in improving Indigenous health outcomes.

The Newsletter is a collaborative publication that encourages information sharing between LIME Network members. It aims to celebrate the many successes occurring in Indigenous health,

while also contributing positively to areas in which improvement is necessary. If you have an article, a story, a picture or information about a project or an event of interest, we would love to hear from you– please [contact us](#).



The LIME Poster at PRIDoC 2012

LIME NETWORK UPDATE

THE LIME NETWORK PROJECT TEAM

The Project Team includes Dr Shaun Ewen, Ms Odette Mazel, Ms Caitlin Ryan, Mr Warwick Padgham and Ms Erin Nicholls (currently on maternity leave). If you have any questions, queries or good ideas, please contact us on E: <lime-network@unimelb.edu.au> or T: +61 3 8344 9160.

You can find out more about us on the LIME Network website: W: <www.limenetwork.net.au>.

REFERENCE GROUP

The LIME Network Project's governance model includes a representative Reference Group which consists of medical educators from each medical school in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand, who aim to improve Indigenous health through medical education and Indigenous student recruitment.

A [Reference Group](#) meeting was held at James Cook University in Townsville on 2 November. The key messages emerging from this meeting will be available in the next issue of the LIME Newsletter.

LIME NETWORK WEBSITE

The [LIME Network website](#) continues to be expanded and updated in order to keep members informed of relevant Indigenous health and medical education [news](#), [scholarships](#), [jobs and grants](#), as well as [conferences](#), [workshops and events](#).

Our most recent addition to the website is the new [Indigenous Pathways into Medicine Online Resource](#) – please see page 8 for further information on the resource.

The [Resources and LIME Publications](#) section now houses



THE LIMENETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

LIMECONNECTIONV

26 – 28 August 2013 / Darwin, Australia
www.limenetwork.net.au

LIME CONNECTION V

The LIME Network's planning is well underway for the next biennial LIME Connection being held in Darwin, Northern Territory. [LIME Connection V](#) is being co-hosted by Charles Darwin University and Flinders University and will be held at the Darwin Convention Centre on 26-28 August, 2013. All social events have been confirmed and details will be announced in the near future.

Our first LIME Connection V Organising Committee meeting

was held in July, 2012 with some initial discussion on the specific themes for the event as well as suggestions for potential keynote speakers, abstract submissions and entertainment ideas for the event. The theme for LIME Connection V is *Re-imagining Indigenous Health Education: Harnessing energy, implementing evidence, creating change*.

Key dates for LIME Connection V have also been confirmed and include:

- CALL FOR PAPERS CLOSE: 29 March 2013
- BURSARY APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 19 April 2013
- NOMINATIONS FOR LIMELIGHT AWARDS CLOSE: 3 May 2013
- EARLY BIRD AND SPEAKER REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 17 May 2013

[Registrations are now open!](#)

[LIME Newsletters](#), the [Projects of Interest Database](#) and the [Resources Database](#) – all of which are regularly updated with new information. This section also includes the LIME [Good Practice Case Studies](#) booklet, which is available for download.

If you have any suggestions about resources, projects of interest or news and events, or have feedback regarding the website, please contact us via E: <lime-network@unimelb.edu.au> or T: +61 3 8344 9160.

REGIONAL MEETINGS

A Regional Meeting, bringing together local university staff, community members, and staff from Aboriginal Medical Services/ Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, to discuss issues of partnerships between organisations, was held in Townsville on 1 November. The meeting was hosted by the James Cook University School of Medicine and Dentistry. The key messages emerging from this meeting will be published in the next issue of the LIME Newsletter.

people of Central Victoria. He holds a Post-Graduate Certificate in Professional Ethics from the University of Melbourne and a Bachelor of Business from Latrobe University.

As Project Officer, Warwick's role will focus on the organisation of the LIME Connection V Conference to be held in Darwin in August 2013, the maintenance of the LIME website and facilitation of the LIME Network's other projects. Prior to joining LIME, Warwick worked at the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau in business development and has also held positions with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Monash University.

We are very pleased to have him on board!

Baby News!

We are delighted to pass on the news that LIME Project Officer Erin Nicholls delivered a healthy baby boy on 20 September. Jye Matthew Pennett weighed in at 4.2kg. Congratulations to Erin, Tyrone and Jarrah on the new addition to their family!



Above: Warwick Padgham.
Below: Jye Matthew Pennett



STAFF UPDATE

New Staff Member

Welcome to the newest member of the LIME Secretariat, Warwick Padgham – who has replaced Erin Nicholls while she is on maternity leave.

Warwick grew up in Melbourne's north east, and has Indigenous heritage with the Taungurong

LIME FACEBOOK PAGE – JOIN US NOW!

New job, scholarship and study opportunities are now being promoted via the LIME Network Facebook page. Information shared via this page focuses primarily on opportunities relevant to medical students, while also providing news, resources and events information for everyone

interested in Indigenous medical education.

Membership on the page is growing all the time – you can 'like' us now via the main LIME website, or join us directly on [Facebook](#).

TEACHING AND LEARNING

ANU MEDICAL SCHOOL HANDS ON WORKSHOP FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS: KNOW YOUR BODY

The Australian National University (ANU) Medical School has been co-ordinating a workshop for Indigenous students in Years 10, 11 and 12 from the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and surrounding region since 2009.

The program is led by Indigenous staff of the ANU Medical School with input from Indigenous medical students from both the ANU Medical School and Sydney based medical schools. The workshops are held in collaboration with secondary schools, both public and private, the ACT Department of Education and a local community Elder.

This program was developed to inspire local Indigenous students to consider a career in medicine or other health related profession, and to prepare them accordingly. Acknowledging that there have been a very small number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors in the region, the program seeks to instill in the students an interest in medicine that may develop further through continued contact and interaction throughout their high school and college years.

The workshop program includes fun and interesting hands-on activities; presentations from Indigenous medical students, a Sports Doctor from the Australian Institute of Sport, and the ANU's Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre.

Students who attend the ANU workshop and are interested in exploring other allied health careers are invited to attend a follow-up workshop at the Canberra Hospital.

During this workshop, students are given a tour of the hospital; participate in a plastering session; visit the Pathology Museum; and have a hands-on session with a variety of allied health professionals, including a Physiotherapist, Nutritionist, Theatre Nurse and Speech Therapist.

In 2009, 16% of students participated in the follow-up workshop. This increased to 44% in 2010.

The program was developed with assistance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, ACT Department of Education, and meetings were held with the Indigenous Liaison Officers at the schools and the Indigenous Student Aspiration Team. Students were selected from each high school and college in the ACT and Queanbeyan in NSW and letters sent to them promoting the workshops.

The biggest challenge has been accessing interested students and recruiting them to attend. To overcome this barrier, closer relationships have been developed with staff members

from the schools who have a particular interest in their Indigenous students. This may be the Indigenous Liaison Officer, the Careers Officer, or another nominated staff member who is the pastoral care person for Indigenous students. Having direct contact with the appropriate staff member at a school has been key to the success of the program.

Following the workshops, students complete an evaluation of their experience with the assistance of staff or parents where necessary. This has ensured an above 90% completion rate for the evaluations, which are a simple 1 to 5 ranking with 1 being unsatisfactory and 5 being excellent. The evaluations showed a satisfaction rate of 4 or above in 90% of the evaluations.

A spin off from the Indigenous student workshop is the involvement of ANU Rural Medical Society (ARMS) students in mentoring and tutoring at a small number of ACT high schools and colleges.

The workshops have ongoing funding and are now on the annual calendar of events for the ANU Medical School.

For more information please contact Ms Gaye Doolan via E: <gaye.doolan@anu.edu.au>.



**Australian
National
University**

GRADUATES AND CLINICIANS INFORMATION

THE INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND CULTURAL LEARNING PORTAL FOR MEDICAL SPECIALISTS PROJECT (THE PORTAL)

The Portal is a collaborative project between the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Australian College of Dermatologists, and is funded by the Rural Health Continuing Education program. Other partners include member colleges of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC), the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

The Portal aims to be a one-stop reference point for medical specialists seeking information and access to accredited learning modules, professional development activities and resources in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness, cultural safety and health. It also aims to encourage networking on a multidisciplinary level and ensure that materials linked to the portal meet the aims and standards of the CPMC National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Framework.

Development of the portal began after the Australian Medical Council indicated to medical colleges that training in Indigenous cultural awareness and safety is a priority. The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Specialist Framework also recommended that Indigenous health perspectives are included in the training and education programs for Fellows, trainees and staff.

There is recognition among the medical colleges that the sharing of educational resources and professional networking would support achievement of these recommendations. The portal was proposed as one means by which this could be accomplished, as well as providing effective support, knowledge and recognition for health professionals working in Indigenous health.

A central feature of the portal design is a searchable database of professional development activities and resources related to Indigenous Health and Cultural Learning suitable for rural and remote health specialists working in Indigenous Health.

While some activities and resources will be available to the public, access to others will be restricted to health professionals. To facilitate this and to ease the administrative burden on providers, the portal allows health professionals to register on the site and gain access to appropriate materials.

The portal also allows registered users to share and access multi-disciplinary showcase presentations of health professional's work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and communities as well as to discuss successes, issues and problems encountered, in a secure professional environment.

The projected outcomes of the portal project are as follows:

- Identify professional activities in Indigenous health for medical specialists, trainees and International Medical Graduates as part of the continuing professional development programs;

- Practitioners from all specialties will have access to a centralised and catalogued list of training and professional development resources promoting Indigenous health care;
- It will help avoid duplication in educational materials and identify gaps in knowledge and resources;
- Build inter-college / stakeholder capacity to deliver and share multi-disciplinary activities and resources in Indigenous health;
- It will encourage an inter-professional approach to Indigenous health care through engagement with other professionals, the formation of networks and communities of practice; and
- Support the Indigenous cultural competency and safety learning needs of members to be met.

Material linked to the portal will be assessed against protocols developed and endorsed by the project partners to ensure cultural as well as professional appropriateness. The protocols support the inclusion of resources that have been developed in consultation or in collaboration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Under the current funding arrangements, the portal's focus is Australian Indigenous health. However, in recognition of the fact that the majority of the colleges cover specialist training in New Zealand and provide care to the Māori and Pacific Island

communities, it is envisaged that in the future the portal will link to New Zealand Indigenous health and cultural learning material and resources.

For more information please contact Kelvin Kong via E: <indigenoushealth@surgeons.org>.

HEALTH/INFONET TIME-SAVERS FOR DOCTORS AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

New searchable database for health practitioners

Health practitioners who work with Indigenous people can now rapidly locate resources relevant to their work, following the launch of a new Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet database.

The Health/InfoNet's new 'health practice resources' searchable database provides quick access to more than 750 guidelines, toolkits, manuals, protocols, assessment tools and other resources that directly assist health practitioners.

The database is continually updated as the latest Australian guidelines and protocols are released. Searches of the database can be conducted by year, subject or format. The resources cover more than 50 health topics relevant to the health of Indigenous people in Australia including cancer, lung health, alcohol and other drugs, environmental health, nutrition, physical activity and social and emotional wellbeing.

The database is now online and can be freely accessed [via the website](#), or by googling 'health practice resources' and following the links to the Health/InfoNet.

Indigenous health promotion resources

LIME Network members can also freely access the Health/InfoNet's health promotion resources database, which is a companion to the new health practice resources database. The health promotion resources database provides rapid access to information about more than 1,000 health promotion and patient education resources that have been developed for use with Indigenous patients. These include flyers, flipcharts, posters, online videos, DVDs and comics, and convey messages about health topics like nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease, hearing, and eye health.

This database can be accessed [on the website](#), or by googling 'health promotion resources' and following the links to the Health/InfoNet.

Healthy lifestyles for Indigenous people

Doctors can also benefit from a new Healthy Lifestyle Workers portal recently launched by the Health/InfoNet. Healthy Lifestyle Workers are employed across the nation as part of the Australian Government's *Closing the gap - Indigenous chronic disease package*. Healthy Lifestyle Workers help to reduce preventable chronic disease in Indigenous communities through local activities that target smoking, nutrition, alcohol and physical activity. The new portal is specifically designed to support Healthy Lifestyle Workers in this important work.

Features of the portal that will be of immediate use include:

- downloadable copies of the *Healthy Deadly and Strong toolkit* and guide developed by the

Health/InfoNet on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

- key facts and resources about nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use and alcohol use
- key facts and resources about diabetes, heart health, kidney health and other chronic conditions.

The Healthy Lifestyle Worker portal can be accessed on the website at W: <www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/> or by googling 'Healthy Lifestyle Workers' and following the links to the Health/InfoNet.

THE HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK

Through the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health, the Australian Government has allocated AU\$71.8 million over four years from 2009-10 under the Healthy Communities Initiative to support Local Government Areas (LGAs) in delivering effective community-based physical activity and healthy eating programs. The Initiative also encourages LGAs to develop and review local policies that support healthy lifestyle behaviours for the community into the future.

The Healthy Communities Initiative aims to help reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity within communities by maximising the number of people, predominantly not in the paid workforce, who are engaged in proven or innovative physical activity and healthy eating programs.

The Healthy Living Network is a registration portal that supports the Healthy Communities Initiative by providing a list of quality registered activities, providers and programs in your local area.

Do you provide healthy living programs?

Programs and service providers can apply for registration against the Quality Framework standards and criteria. Applicants meeting the criteria will be listed and searchable on the Healthy Living Network by community members and health professionals.

The benefits of registration include:

- free registration until June 2013,
- recognition as a quality Service Provider/Program,
- adoption of program models across Australia,
- potential increase to program participation numbers and improved program sustainability through promotion and awareness raising,
- community members are able to search for activities in their local area on the Healthy Living Network, also health and community workers can support community members to search for activities.

For more information contact
T: 1300 HLN 000, E: <info@healthylivingnetwork.com.au>
or visit the website W: <www.healthylivingnetwork.com.au>.

AMS CONTINUALLY DELIVER THE HIGHEST QUALITY HEALTHCARE

Attaining and maintaining clinical accreditation is just one example of Aboriginal Medical Services providing the highest quality of care for our people. Dedicated staff across the country welcome the *Interpretative Guide for the RACGP Standards for General Practice (4th Edition) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Services* (The RACGP Interpretative Guide) to assist in the achievement of formal certification under the 4th edition

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards.

The 4th Edition - RACGP Interpretative Guide is the latest resource which assists the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector to achieve and maintain clinical accreditation and to continue to deliver high quality health care for our people and community. Attaining and maintaining both clinical and organisational accreditation is one essential component that enables access, efficiency and effectiveness in health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The RACGP National Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) link through affiliates in each state and territory to gather information on how best to support the AMSs achieve and maintain certification. The state and territory affiliates are well placed to link services needs and broker opportunities that meet those needs.

The RACGP Interpretative Guide will be formally launched at the NACCHO AGM in Brisbane, November 2012.

For more information visit the RACGP Website at W: <www.racgp.org.au/guidelines>.

RACGP GENERAL PRACTICE REGISTRAR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2012

Dr Catherine Engelke from Kununurra, West Australia, has won the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) General Practice Registrar of the Year Award 2012. The RACGP General Practice Registrar of the Year Award recognises the strong commitment made by a GP registrar to learning, the general practice profession and provision of high quality patient care.

Presenting the award at the conclusion of GP12, the RACGP's annual conference, RACGP President Dr Liz Marles congratulated Dr Engelke, noting her strong determination to realise her childhood dream of becoming a doctor.

"Dr Engelke trained as a nurse and midwife, becoming involved in providing nursing care to the remote communities of East Kimberley. Dr Engelke subsequently settled in Kununurra where she became an educator for Aboriginal health workers and became involved in regional Aboriginal health planning. It was during this time, her passion to study medicine was unearthed once more," Dr Marles said.

"Since graduating from medicine in 2008, Dr Engelke has returned home to East Kimberley, where she proudly provides primary healthcare to the community of Kununurra and to the Aboriginal communities of Warmun and Halls Creek, to whom she is related."

Dr Engelke is well known for her ability to build strong rapports with her patients and is recognised for her holistic approach to delivery of care.

Currently Dr Engelke is employed as a GP Registrar at both the Kununurra District Hospital and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council.

Dr Engelke said receiving the award was an honour and a testament to her long-standing goal to practise medicine with and for her countrymen. "I feel blessed to be able to fulfil my childhood dream of becoming a doctor. I lacked the confidence initially and cannot believe how much my life has changed for the better since I have realised my potential," Dr Engelke said.

For more information on the 2012 RACGP Award categories, visit W: <www.racgp.org.au/awards>.

FEATURE: INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS INTO MEDICINE ONLINE RESOURCE

The LIME Network has recently launched a comprehensive database of information on [Indigenous Pathways into Medicine](#) for all universities in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The **Indigenous Pathways into Medicine Online Resource** is designed to help future Indigenous students determine which university will be the best fit for them as they study to become a doctor.

The resource is an online, searchable database, designed to provide a first point of contact for Indigenous school leavers, mature aged students and graduates who are looking to undertake medical studies. The resource provides a comprehensive, searchable database to compare all the medical courses in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand, including:

- entry requirements
- location and
- course duration.

In addition, information about alternate entry pathways and preparatory courses for Indigenous people is linked to each university where available.

The resource also provides further information on assistance with:

- scholarships
- housing and
- finance whilst studying.

You can also access contact details for Indigenous student support staff and LIME Reference Group members at each university.

There are many paths to gain entry into a medical degree, depending on level of education and previous work experience.

Alternative entry pathways provide access into medical school for Indigenous students who demonstrate capacity to complete a medical degree, but who may not meet the criteria for standard entry.

We hope that this resource can be widely utilised by Indigenous people wanting to study medicine, and that the database will assist future students in choosing the university that best suits their needs.

Visit the LIME Network website now to try out the resource for yourself, and determine the best path for you to become a doctor!

W: <www.limenetwork.net.au/pathways>



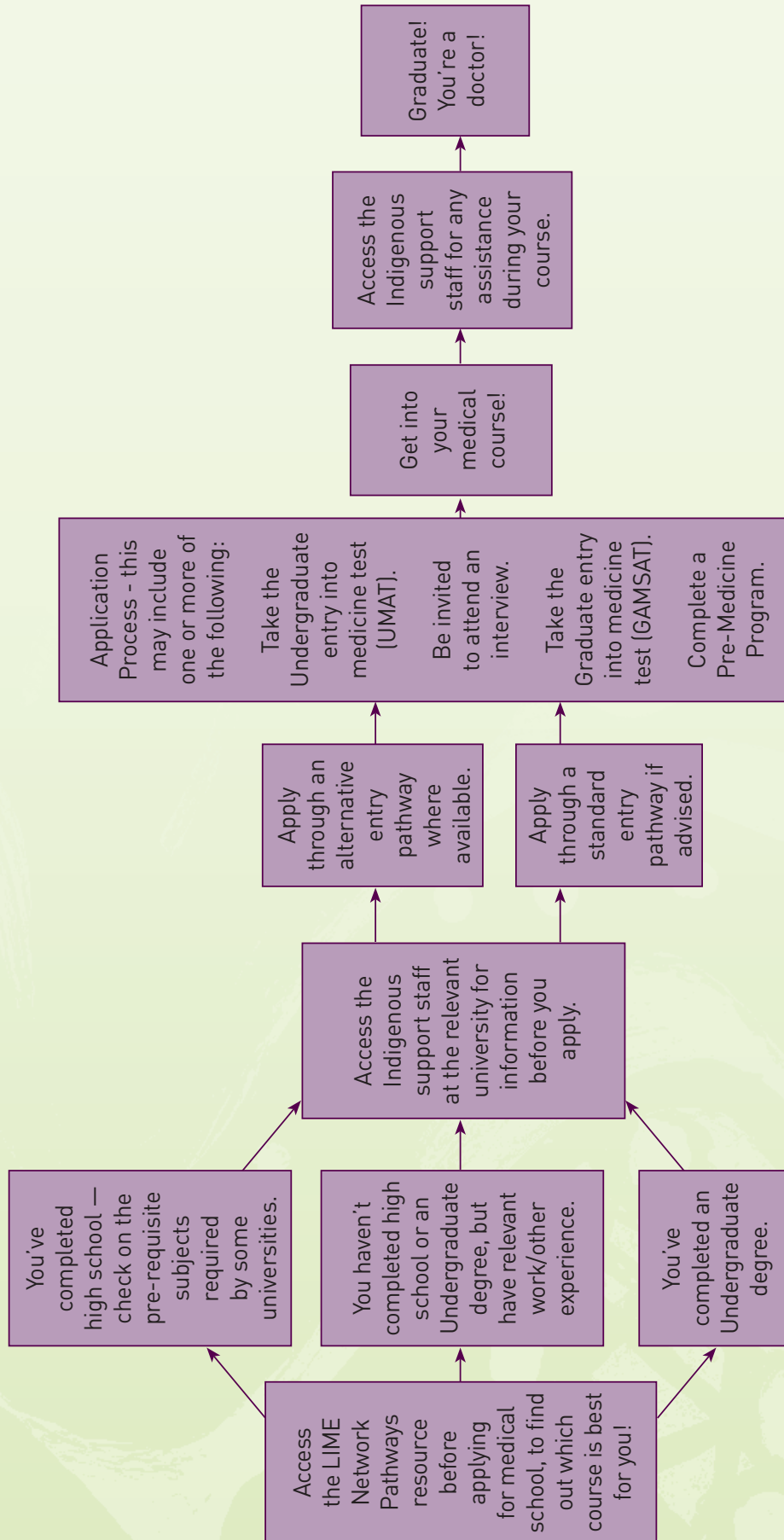
THE LIMENETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

Indigenous Pathways into Medicine Online Resource

Are you a future Indigenous medical student?

Determine which university will be the best fit for you as you study to become a doctor! Try out the resource now:
www.limenetwork.net.au/pathways

This flow chart outlines standard and alternative pathways for Indigenous applicants to gain entry into a medical course.



This is not a comprehensive representation of all pathways into medicine. Many universities have complex entry processes for Indigenous applicants. This chart is designed to show an overview of typical steps you may go through when applying to medical school. Be sure to search our resource, and you can also contact your chosen university for details on the specific steps required in applying for your course.

STUDENT INFORMATION

'IN SAFE HANDS' - LOCAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS

Chana Orloff, the Senior Project Officer at the Rural Health Academic Centre, the University of Melbourne (Shepparton campus), has developed a publication that recognises the great work and contribution of local Aboriginal health workers in the Shepparton region.

Work on the publication began mid 2011 and the book will be launched at Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperatives' Medical Centre on 28 November 2012.

The Publication features 14 biographies of people working in Aboriginal health; documenting personal and professional rewards as well as the challenges they face. The publication capitalises on other opportunities by providing the University of Melbourne course information, useful websites and career information about the health sector. It is anticipated the book will inspire young Indigenous

students currently in years 9-12 to pursue a career in health, and target those who might consider changing careers.

The ideas for the publication have also been a personal investment for Chana; she knows all too well the dedication of these health workers to their roles and their community. To formally recognise their unique professional work was something that drove the publication; and through the documentation of these biographies, Chana found some individuals played a role in her own health outcomes. "I got to thinking that in many respects, my health was in the safe hands of these people and this inspired the name of the book."

Aboriginal health workers see firsthand the impacting factors affecting Aboriginal peoples' health. They have extensive cultural and psychological knowledge that is essential in the efforts to improve Aboriginal health. "I have an immense

amount of admiration for these people because they're making a difference to help close the health gaps in Indigenous health and that's challenging work."

WEENTHUNGA HEALTH DAY: WOMEN'S TALK

On Tuesday 7 August, 20 young First Australian women participated in what everyone said was a fantastic Weenthunga Health Day: Women's Talk. Senior students from Broome and Bendigo were joined by First Australian students attending boarding schools in Melbourne.

Women's Talk commenced at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) showcasing a quality local Aboriginal health service. Aunty Di Kerr welcomed the girls to Wurundjeri country and Christine Ingram welcomed them to VAHS. They met and heard the stories of a number of First Australian women health professionals, including Denise McGuinness, Manager of VAHS Community Services, Candice Liddy, a Physiotherapy student, Kaylene Williamson, a Personal Trainer and Jo Dwyer, a Family Counsellor.

After lunch the girls went to the Royal Children's Hospital, where staff from the Wadja Clinic hosted the afternoon and spoke of their roles supporting children and their families. The speakers were Rebecca Crawford, Wadja Clinic Coordinator; Moira Raynor, Koori Emotional Well Being Worker; Amanda Firebrace, Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer; Nyoka Morgan-Briggs, Aboriginal Health Worker; Erin Lowrie, Occupational Therapist and Dr Chantelle Stubna.



IN SAFE HANDS
Local Aboriginal Health Workers

'Hands of Culture'. Artist: Brett Wilson, Echuca, Victoria

The girls said how much they liked the engaging nature of the presenters and hearing their stories of their personal journeys into their health careers. Some students with an interest in a particular health profession were linked up with First Australians in those professions.

In the evening the First Australian students and some Australian school friends were the guests at a dinner

at Charcoal Lane where, as well as enjoying wonderful food, they were inspired by Inala Cooper, Executive Officer - Indigenous Advisory Council of Monash University's Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit and Dr Fiona Stanley, AC, an epidemiologist and child health researcher, noted for her strong advocacy for Indigenous health.

Weenthunga Health Day: Women's Talk was made possible by the

generosity of everyone involved giving their time, as well as by the generous support of: Portland House Foundation; Anna Wearne Trust; Fairer Futures Fund; Reconciliation Victoria; and Weenthunga members Elizabeth Hatfield; Nell Angus and Meg Irwin.

For further information please visit W: <www.weenthunga.com.au/>.

STUDENTS' STORY-TELLING CUTS THROUGH THE SMOKE

The Smarter than Smoking Young Directors' Festival is reaching the final stages in deciding who will win the title of Best Television Commercial in 2012.

Students from six schools in the South Metropolitan area have been working on a 30 second television commercial for the past few months to promote an anti-smoking message for 'Smarter than Smoking'.

In the final stages of production, students are putting to use their skills acquired from Murdoch University training sessions on how to develop an idea into a script and storyboard, experimenting with professional production equipment including cameras, lighting, sound and editing techniques. They will also have access to an industry mentor in producing the final product.

"We haven't had a chance to do anything like this in any other subject areas; it was so much fun being involved in everything," said Rhianna, a Year 7 student at Willandra Primary School. "Going to Murdoch Uni was a highlight for me," said Jamie, another Willandra student.

"The Smarter than Smoking Young Directors' Festival entries in previous years have been hard hitting,

comical, smart and completely relevant expressions of how youth perceive smoking," Heart Foundation Cardiovascular Health Director Trevor Shilton said. "Film-making is an excellent engagement tool and I am looking forward to viewing the 2012 entries."

Coordinated by the Smarter than Smoking Project and the South Metropolitan Public Health Unit in Armadale, the Festival is an innovative approach to health promotion in the school setting.

Dorothy Roe, a teacher from Kelmscott SHS said "Making a television commercial made them [the students] feel like they do have a voice and that they could do something. A number of the

students have really stepped up in the media class and taken a leadership role and their self esteem has grown enormously."

The 2012 Smarter than Smoking Young Directors' Festival entries will be showcased and a winner announced to the local community at a special screen event at Armadale Cinema on 24 October.

To view the 2011 entries visit the new Smarter than Smoking interactive website W: <www.futureinyourhands.com.au>.

For more information or to express interest in the 2013 Smarter than Smoking Young Directors' Festival please contact E: <SMART@heartfoundation.org.au>.



Smarter than Smoking program participants. Credit: Kristy Brown

PROJECTS OF INTEREST

AIDA AND MEDICAL DEANS SIGN THEIR THIRD COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

On 21 August, Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and Medical Deans Australian and New Zealand (Medical Deans) signed the third Collaboration Agreement between the organisations, which builds on the successes of their 2005-2008 and 2008-2011 Collaboration Agreements and reaffirms the strong and sustained commitment of both organisations to partnership, under the following principles:

The 2012-2015 Collaboration Agreement will guide AIDA and Medical Deans program of collaboration toward achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality through the following three objectives:

- To provide leadership within the medical community on priority matters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- To drive Indigenous health initiatives across the medical education continuum and support initiatives across other health disciplines
- To share knowledge routinely and through specific identified initiatives.

AIDA and Medical Deans recently put out a media release promoting the signing of their Collaboration Agreements and the recent increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical student enrolments.

Last year the intake of first-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students



L-R: Former AIDA President Associate Professor Peter O'Mara and Medical Deans President Professor Justin Beilby sign the collaboration agreement. Agreements. Credit: Glen Carswell



in Australian universities has reached a new high of 2.5 per cent, matching the percentage of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. The increase of first year enrolments is up from 0.8 per cent in 2004.

"What makes our work with the Medical Deans important is we have made positive, sustainable and long term change over the life of our previous Collaboration Agreements," said the then AIDA President Associate Professor Peter O'Mara. "The new agreement will build on this success."

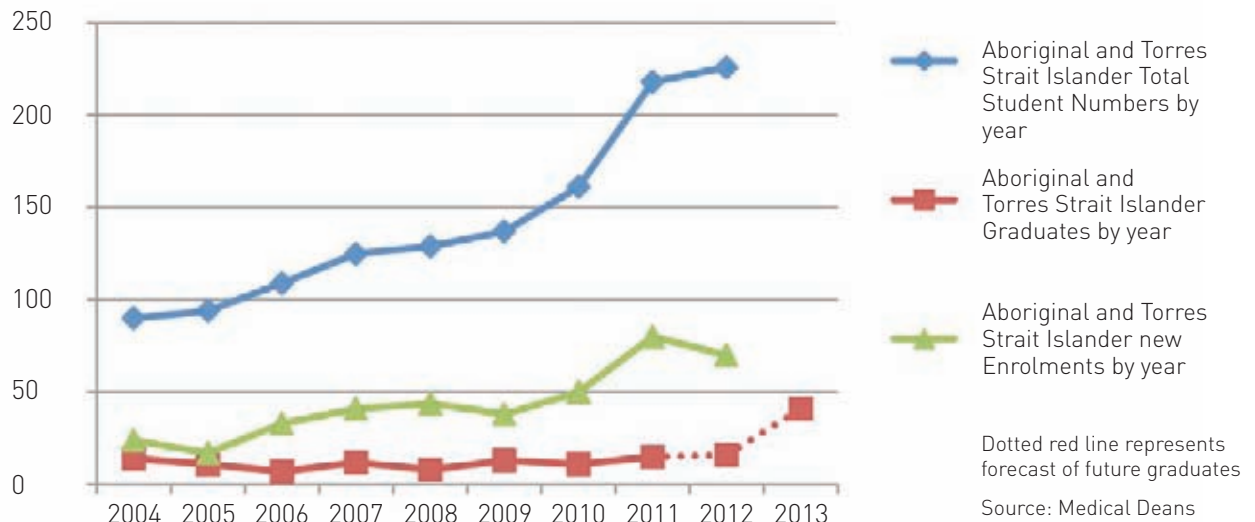
"Importantly, this Collaboration Agreement gives us the continuing capacity to jointly influence broader structural reform and policy and program agendas in health and education," said Medical Deans President Professor Justin Beilby.

"From this basis we are better able to work towards recruiting and graduating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students."

While positive progress has occurred in recruiting first-year Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students, the total enrolment rate stands at 1.6 per cent of total domestic medical student enrolments and graduations currently account for approximately 0.5 per cent of total domestic graduations.

"The rise in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students is a great way we can build the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. It's important to ensure that these students can access appropriate cultural and academic support

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER MEDICAL STUDENT AND GRADUATE NUMBERS



to graduate,” said recent AIDA Student Director, Ms Dana Slape.

Although total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolment and graduation percentages are expected to increase over the coming years, an important joint priority of AIDA and Medical Deans under their new Collaboration Agreement will be to advocate for reform within medical schools to ensure appropriate support processes are in place to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. Medical Deans’ Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network will continue to provide significant leadership within the schools to achieve this reform.

For more information you can contact Joe Cavanagh at Medical Deans on E: jcavanagh@medicaldeans.org.au or visit the AIDA Website W: www.aida.org.au/mdanz.aspx.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH PLAN

The Australian Government is developing a new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan (the Health Plan) in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their representatives. State and Territory governments have been invited to participate.

The Health Plan will support the Government’s efforts to close the gap in life expectancy and infant mortality between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the broader population. It will recognise that health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is not just the physical wellbeing of the individual, but also encompasses their social, emotional, spiritual and cultural wellbeing.

To develop a comprehensive plan in partnership, the Australian Government is holding a series of nation-wide community consultations and conducting an online submissions process to capture different views and ideas.

To provide context and guidance for the consultations and submissions process, the Department has developed a Discussion Paper which seeks responses to a range of questions to help shape the development of the Health Plan. By attending a consultation or completing a submission, key stakeholders will play an active role in ensuring the Health Plan identifies the key health issues and necessary priorities to further close the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

For more information please visit W: www.health.gov.au.

NSW HEALTH ABORIGINAL POPULATION HEALTH TRAINING INITIATIVE

New South Wales (NSW) Health is implementing a traineeship program for Aboriginal people in NSW who are interested in working in population health. Funded by the NSW Government as part of its commitment to the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health, the Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative (APHTI) aims to contribute to the development of the Aboriginal population health workforce, with the ultimate outcome to improve the health of Aboriginal people in NSW.

The APHTI is delivered in partnership between the NSW Ministry of Health and population health services within the Local Health Districts across NSW. Through increasing the number of Aboriginal people with well developed skills and knowledge of population health, the APHTI contributes to NSW Health's commitment to increase Aboriginal employment to 2.6% by 2015.

Trainees are recruited by the Local Health Districts and over three years, undertake a series of work placements within population health services and, at the same time, complete a Master of Public Health (MPH) by coursework studying part-time. The first four trainees commenced in 2011 and currently NSW Health is seeking to expand the number of trainees engaged with the APHTI.

Resources to support delivery of the APHTI have been developed. The Competency Framework of the NSW Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative guides workplace-based learning and projects that trainees complete, along with the review and assessment activities that are conducted within the program.



The framework is designed to be flexible as trainees' placements require them to work across a range of population health issues, community groups and settings.

The competency areas defined in the competency framework are:

- Professional practice
- Population health management
- Communication
- Evidence informed practice
- Epidemiology and data management
- Communicable diseases and risk management
- Health promotion

Trainees choose the university where they would like to study their MPH. The publication 'Where to Study my Master of Public Health?' provides information about MPH programs across Australia, and specific support available for Indigenous students.

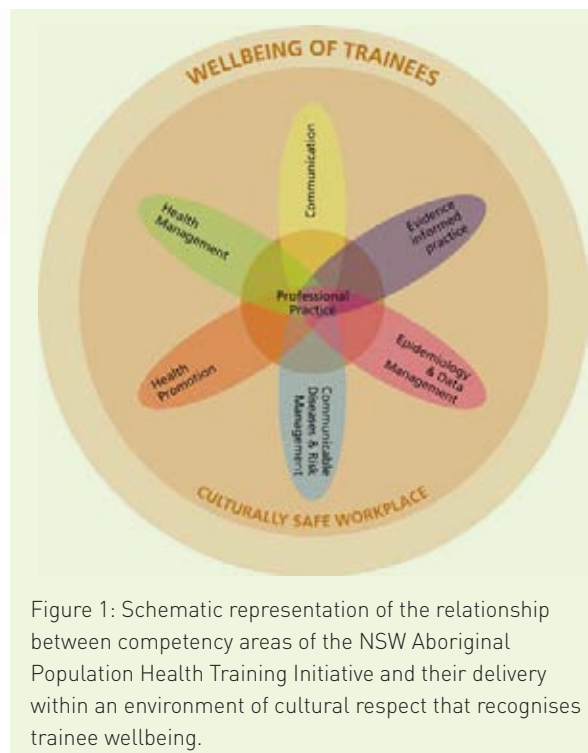


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the relationship between competency areas of the NSW Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative and their delivery within an environment of cultural respect that recognises trainee wellbeing.

For further information or to obtain copies of documents mentioned above please visit W: <www.health.nsw.gov.au/training/aphti> or contact Alex Swain, Senior Policy Officer, Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative, Ministry of Health on T: +61 2 9424 5771 or E: <aphti@doh.health.nsw.gov.au>.

Artwork, developed by Dreamtime Public Relations, represents the trainees' learning journey (the serpent) supported by the training program (the plant) delivered in multiple settings and meeting places (concentric circles) and people affected by the training program including family and community members (the dots).



MSOD PROJECT UPDATES

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database and Longitudinal Tracking (MSOD) Project - the world's first nationally coordinated project for tracking medical students through medical school and into prevocational and vocational training - has completed some significant achievements in the past few months.

Firstly, the MSOD Project has now released the 2011 annual national data reports on the Commencing Medical Students Questionnaire (CMSQ), the Exit Questionnaire (EQ), Medical Schools Data (MSD) and the Postgraduate Year 1 Questionnaire (PGY1). To access these reports please [visit the website](#).

Some of the key facts from these data reports include 263 MSOD participants who identified themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. This indicates a steady rise in the proportion of commencing medical students who identify themselves as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin from less than 1% in 2006 to 2% in 2011. The project also collects specific data on all students, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students, which identifies, for example, whether students are from urban, rural, regional or remote areas; are interested in being an academic and many other important issues.

Moreover, the MSOD project team recently presented to the Medical Deans' Indigenous Health Expert Advisory Group (IHEAG), to provide an overview of the data collected and invite IHEAG members to consider utilising MSOD data for future research projects.

Also, this year, for the first time, research grants were offered to medical students through the

Australian Medical Students' Association. The Selection Panel was very impressed with the high quality and calibre of the research proposed. With a total of AU\$20,000 on offer, it was decided to spread these funds equally across eight applications to allow as many students as possible the chance to undertake their research projects. The successful applications can also be viewed [on the website](#).

It is hoped the MSOD Project will be able to offer further research grants to students in the future and these will be advertised through medical schools and the MSOD Project communication channels, such as the new Facebook page and our bi-annual Newsletter.

Should you find that you would like more specific data for a research project we invite you to contact E: msodadmin@medicaldeans.org.au or visit W: www.medicaldeans.org.au/projects-activities/msod.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH WORKERS: A UNIQUE PROFESSION

The significant role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare workers play in the Australian healthcare system is being showcased in a Health Workforce Australia-funded DVD. The documentary-style DVD - *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers: A Unique Profession* - is part of a multimedia resource package that was developed in response to findings by HWA's Growing Our Future: Final Report on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Project.

Growing Our Future found misperceptions existed about the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare workers

by other health professionals and this had affected their scope of work, their job satisfaction and subsequent job retention. The report recommended the need to promote the varied and complex role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers to other health professionals and staff.

The multimedia resource is being funded under HWA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Program and is being delivered by the Rural Health Education Foundation (RHEF). Filming was undertaken on location at a number of Aboriginal health services in Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory during August and September.

The 30-minute documentary features interviews with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare workers, profiles, case examples, education and training activities and testimonials from non-Indigenous health professionals.

"Travelling around Australia we have met many dedicated and inspiring health workers who are making a real difference in their communities through their leadership and expertise," RHEF's Education Manager, Maurie O'Connor, said.

"If we truly want to close the gap on Indigenous health inequality, then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers will be the ones leading the way."

The multimedia resource package also includes a range of printable resource materials and features a learning guide that aims to clarify the role and foster an appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander healthcare workers.

For more information, please visit the website, at W: www.healthworkforceaustralia.com.au.

LIME NETWORK PROFILE

CRIS CARRIAGE – UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY

What is your current role and what does it involve?

I am the Indigenous Program Officer at the University of Western Sydney's (UWS) School of Medicine, which is located on the Campelltown Campus. I commenced with the first students in the program in 2007. My position has a strategic focus while retaining a hands on approach. It encompasses retention and recruitment of Indigenous students, engaging with Aboriginal communities, contributing to the development of the Aboriginal Health Curriculum and delivering lectures and workshops for students, staff and community partners. I also provide cultural advice and support to students, staff, projects and research projects. As a senior Indigenous employee of UWS, I also contribute to university-wide Indigenous projects and activities.

How did you become interested in Indigenous health?

My interests in Aboriginal health and community started at the age of 14 selling raffle tickets to fundraise for Tharawal Aboriginal Medical Service. I started to think about Aboriginal health beyond just the experience of my family. I volunteered my time when I could, became a voting member at 18 and I am still a member today. My first time as a member of the board of directors was in my 20s and I have been on and off the board for over the last 30 years. I have held position as Chairperson, Secretary, and Director - currently I am the Treasurer.

Throughout my career I have worked for various government departments such Health, Land Council and the Aboriginal Housing Office. I have also work for Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation in a range of positions.

I hold a Bachelor in Community Development, Diploma in Community Development, Masters in Indigenous Health Studies, and I am currently undertaking my PhD with the school of Medicine. Throughout my education and career I have always been drawn to Aboriginal community health and wellbeing, and doing what is right and applying what I have learnt. I see myself as contributing to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities and putting my energy where I am needed, in terms of both my professional and volunteer work.

What is your history with the LIME Network?

I started with the LIME Project and Reference Group in 2007 and have attended the LIME Connection Conferences in 2009 and 2011. I am currently part of the organising committee for LIME Connection V, 2013. In 2011, the UWS School of Medicine 5th Year Indigenous Health Attachment won the LIMelight Award for Leading Innovation in Community Engagement, which we accepted with great honour and respect to our Aboriginal Medical Service partners who play a big part in delivering and continuing the development of this program.

How do you think the LIME Network progresses medical education?

I see the LIME Network as being in a unique position to support medical schools to pursue curriculum and policy development for Aboriginal health and engagement, through medical



education that is centred on and around Aboriginal cultural values and experiences. The applications of these values are through Indigenous student recruitment and retention and community engagement. The LIME Network membership also enables us to draw from the experience and expertise of our colleagues, to determine how best each medical school can work effectively towards building relationships and develop better health care with Indigenous people and communities.

Any other information you would like to share?

I follow my mother's line. I am a woman of the Gunni people of the Gippsland of Victoria; I am the daughter of the Yuin Nation NSW and the granddaughter Yotta Yotta people. I live and work in the Tharawal peoples' land and my acknowledgement of my people and countries grounds me in what I do and what needs to be done. I am committed to Aboriginal people and health, my focus is on community development and self determination in Aboriginal communities and organisations; I keep the momentum going that my grandparents started.

NEWS

LIMElight Award Winners Highlighted

Indigenous Scholarships recently published an article highlighting a 2011 LIMElight Award winning program. 'An innovative program connecting University of Western Sydney medical students with the Aboriginal Medical Service in regional NSW and metropolitan Sydney has been recognised by the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network.'

Indigenous Doctors will Help Sick State of Aboriginal Health

The Sydney Morning Herald reported recently that 'more Aboriginal health professionals are needed for effective Indigenous health care in Western Australia, says a leading Goldfields paediatrician. Dr Christine Jeffries-Stokes, who is based in Kalgoorlie, believes "creative and innovative education solutions" need to be adopted to allow Aboriginal people to train as nurses and doctors while living within their own communities, rather than forcing them to leave and study in the city. Her comments came on the back of an Australian Medical Association audit report... consisting of information collated from 10 years of Indigenous health report cards.'

UBC's Aboriginal MD Program sees Largest Graduating Class

The University of British Columbia (UBC) 'set up an Aboriginal MD Admissions Program in 2001 to try to attract aboriginal students to the career... Since the program started, 35 Aboriginal students have completed their studies

in medicine. There are another 22 enrolled in the four-year MD program.' In May, 12 Aboriginal students received their degree, making it the largest number to graduate from UBC's Faculty of Medicine to date.

Aboriginal Health Careers: Go on Make your Mob Proud

The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of New South Wales (AH&MRC) has worked in collaboration with Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health, University of Sydney, on a health career promotion project with students from Bourke High School and the staff of Bourke Aboriginal Health Service. The project is targeted at high school students and is about encouraging them to consider careers in health by having hands on clinical experiences.

HWA clinical training and Indigenous Health Projects Secure Vital Funding

Via Health Workforce Australia

Two projects which combine clinical training and Indigenous healthcare will continue for at least another year, after Health Workforce Australia (HWA) formed an exciting new partnership with the Adelaide University global health group, Insight. HWA will fund Insight's Indigenous Ophthalmology trips to remote communities in Central Australia and the group's Katherine Psychiatry Special Community and Ambulatory Placement in the Northern Territory. Insight, along with the Adelaide University Rural Health Alliance, began running the student ophthalmology placements to remote South

Australian and Western Australian Indigenous communities last year. The placements run for four to 10 days and are offered to Adelaide University medical students in years three to six. Successful applicants travel with a number of ophthalmologists to various Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. During these placements students acquire a range of clinical ophthalmology skills, experience in medical screening, culture awareness and understanding of issues pertinent to Indigenous healthcare.

More Indigenous Medical Students Create Milestone

The Sydney Morning Herald reports that 'the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students has increased dramatically in the past decade and now matches the ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous people in Australia for the first time. Last year, 80 of Australia's 3241 domestic first year medical students were Indigenous - 2.5 per cent, up from 0.8 per cent in 2004. The milestone is being celebrated by Medical Deans and the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, because 2.5 per cent of Australia's population is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.'

Mentoring Program Supporting More Indigenous Students

Via Peter Garrett, Federal Minister for School Education and Early Childhood and Youth

An extra 900 NSW and Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students will now have access to an expanded mentoring program

under the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). Minister for School Education Peter Garrett said AU\$2.5 million has been awarded to AIME to expand its outreach programs on the NSW South Coast and in South East Queensland to an additional 300 participants per year for three years. "This dynamic educational program gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students the skills, opportunities and confidence to finish school," Mr Garrett said.

Goals set to Boost Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate Numbers

Via Health Workforce Australia

An action-plan to boost the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university graduates has been released. The Australian Government-commissioned report, Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander People, outlines the barriers facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students getting into university education and potential future solutions.

The Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans, who launched the report on 14 September, said the Government would now work in partnership with universities and professional bodies to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers and teachers. "International experience shows us that producing more Indigenous graduates, qualified to take up professional and leadership roles in business and government, will help address disadvantage in the Indigenous community," Senator Evans said. "A university education has the power to break down barriers and empower Indigenous people to take leading roles in their professions."

The findings come just weeks after it was revealed the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students has increased dramatically in the past 10 years and now matches the ratio of Indigenous to non-Indigenous people in Australia for the first time: 2.5 per cent, up from 0.8 per cent in 2004, statistics from the Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand's 2011 census have shown. The biggest task is getting Indigenous students to complete their medical degrees. Records show 30 per cent of Indigenous students drop out of their course compared to about two per cent of non-Indigenous students. Health Workforce Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Program is implementing a series of projects to build the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Narrm Oration Melbourne, VIC, 8 November

The Narrm Oration is presented by Murrup Barak, Melbourne Institute for Indigenous Development at the University of Melbourne, in collaboration with their foundation corporate partner Rio Tinto Australia. The Oration is named after the Wurundjeri word for the land surrounding Melbourne, and profiles leading Indigenous thinkers from across the world, to enrich our ideas and understanding about possible futures for Indigenous Australia. The 2012 oration will be delivered by Professor Megan Davis

– Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law Centre in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales and United Nations expert member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples. Professor Davis' oration will be on Aboriginal women and the limitations of the right to self determination.

The Lowitja Institute 2012 National Conference Melbourne, VIC, 14-15 November

The Lowitja Institute National Conference on Continuous Quality

Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care: 'CQI for Everyday and Everybody', aims to bring together service providers (including community based and community controlled services), government agencies, researchers, industry and policy development departments to present their work and research on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; to share information and stories about current research, tools and expertise on CQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care; and to identify gaps and complementary CQI initiatives.

**Health Workforce Australia
Conference**

Melbourne, VIC, 13-14 November

Health Workforce Australia's inaugural conference, Inspire 2012: Reshaping Australia's Health Workforce, brings together some of the world's most respected leaders in workforce innovation and reform. Inspire 2012 is a landmark event and the first ever to tackle head on the huge challenges this country faces to deliver Australia's changing healthcare needs. The conference provides an opportunity for the health leaders of tomorrow to be involved in solving the workforce challenges of today and into the future.

**Indigenous Allied Health
Australia National Conference**

Brisbane, QLD, 22-23 November

The conference, Joining the Dots... An Interprofessional Approach to Indigenous Health, will focus on the importance of interprofessional 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. The two day conference will provide a supportive environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous professionals to discuss topics related to: Indigenous Allied Health initiatives; education and training; cultural competency; holistic care; personal experiences; closing the gap; health leadership and influencing policy; lateral-professional partnerships and community health services.

**The Future of Primary Health
Care in Australia**

Alice Springs, NT, 27-29 November

Primary health care in Australia is currently undergoing considerable

change. You are invited to join the two days of discussion on the opportunities and challenges primary health care services are dealing with, at the SA Community Health Research Unit and the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress Research Symposium - The Future of Primary Health Care in Australia: Opportunities and Constraints. This is a chance to participate in a summit engaging policy makers, health service executives, managers, and practitioners and researchers in dialogue. You will also be able to discuss emerging results from NHMRC funded research on primary health care models in Australia. This dynamic symposium will feature international guest speakers and panel discussions with representatives from Medicare Locals, the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector, specialist NGOs, South Australian GP Plus and other Primary Health Care policy experts.

**Communicating Health
Symposium**

Melbourne, VIC, 4 December

The Communicating Health Symposium 2012 at the University of Melbourne aims to bring together healthcare and health communication researchers, healthcare professionals, educators and students from various disciplinary backgrounds and practice settings.

**The 2012 National Indigenous
Health Conference**

Gold Coast, QLD, 5-7 December

The 2012 National Indigenous Health Conference: Many Pathways, One Outcome, is designed to bring together both government and non-government agencies who are working in the field of Indigenous health, with the belief that working together can close the

gap between the state of Indigenous health as compared to the health of mainstream Australians. This gathering will highlight some of the existing Indigenous health programs currently implemented in Aboriginal communities and provide a unique opportunity for delegates and speakers to see the power of people networking together in one place, at one time with similar goals, and exchange information regarding the successes and challenges that workers involved in implementing Aboriginal health programs face.

**Australian Population Association
Conference**

Melbourne, VIC, 5-7 December

The Australian Population Association conference offers the opportunity to debate and discuss the full range of demographic issues facing Australian governments. Supporting this will be presentations of first analysis of 2011 Australian Census results. We hope you will be able to participate and contribute to this important area of government policy and practice.

**3rd Cross Cultural Health Care
Conference**

Honolulu, O'ahu, Hawai'i, 8-9 February 2013

The objectives of the 3rd Cross Cultural Health Care Conference: Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Interventions, are to; assess the potential challenges healthcare practitioners and researchers face when working with diverse populations; identify the strengths and limitations of existing tools and measures that assess cultural competency/humility; and develop opportunities to collaborate with researchers and/or practitioners across disciplines who share an interest in cross-cultural healthcare.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

Following are some recent publications and resources of interest. For more publications visit the [LIME Network Resources Database](#).

Can we Educate out of Racism?

McDermott, D., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol.197, no.1, p.15.

Dennis McDermott argues that educating doctors about the health consequences of everyday racism towards Indigenous Australians challenges all involved.

Revealing the (In)competency of 'Cultural Competency' in Medical Education

Paul, D., Hill, S. and Ewen, S., 2012, *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples*, vol.8, no.3, pp. 318-329.

There are multiple factors that influence the quality of health and the health care experience of Aboriginal patients. Some of these factors include health professionals' clinical decision-making and miscommunication between doctor and patient. A more 'culturally competent' health workforce is a recommended strategy in addressing the extensively documented health disparities between Australia's Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. Culture, its importance in, and connection to health, is being increasingly explored in medical curricula with the expectation of improved health outcomes. This literature review on cultural competency in medical curricula reveals an emerging awareness of the paucity of data showing evidence of positive health outcomes for Aboriginal patients of 'culturally competent' medical professionals. This highlights the need for there to be evidence of more than just practitioner satisfaction but also of meaningful

shifts in health outcomes for Aboriginal patients of a more culturally knowledgeable medical profession.

Why did you Decide to Become a Medical Educator?

Godwin, S., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia Careers Online*.

Interview with Dr Shirley Godwin, senior lecturer in Indigenous Health, University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, W.A., asking: why did you decide to become a medical educator?

Teaching Indigenous Health

Paul, D., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia Careers Online*.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved as an educator in Indigenous health. Since 2007, Australian Medical Council (AMC) accreditation standards for medical schools have included an explicit focus on Indigenous health. The standards specify that medical schools use the educational expertise of Indigenous people, and have effective partnerships with Indigenous organisations and communities. Importantly, medical schools are also required to have an Indigenous health curriculum that includes study of the history, culture and health of Indigenous Australians. The AMC has endorsed the nationally consistent Indigenous health curriculum that was published by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand in 2004. Dr David Paul, a senior lecturer at the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental

Health at the University of Western Australia, says this increased recent focus on Indigenous health within Australian medical schools means that there are substantial opportunities for doctors, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to get involved in Indigenous health education.

Indigenous Health: New Zealand Experience

Durie, M., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol.197, no.1, pp.10-11.

What can the Treaty of Waitangi teach Australia about reducing disparities in health? The health status of Indigenous populations in Australia and New Zealand gives justified cause for concern. After European colonisation, their survival was threatened by a range of infectious diseases to which they had little or no immunity. Though no longer the threat posed in the 19th century, the incidence of infectious diseases remains disproportionately high in Indigenous populations, and a range of non-communicable chronic diseases has also emerged, including cancers (breast, lung, stomach), mental disorders, youth suicide, alcohol- and drug-related disorders, obesity, obstructive respiratory disease, ischaemic heart disease, stroke and diabetes. In both Australia and New Zealand, the incidence of all these conditions is significantly higher in the Indigenous population than the non-Indigenous population. Solutions for Indigenous health will depend on a range of factors, most well outside clinical arenas.

Consequently, significant gains in health will be unlikely unless there is a concerted intersectoral, whole-of-government approach reflected in practices, legislation and national policies.

Do Indigenous Health Curricula in Health Science Education Reduce Disparities in Health Care Outcomes?

Ewen, S., Paul, D. and Bloom, G., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol.197, no.1, p.50.

The objective of this research was to 'undertake a systematic literature review to determine the scope, rationales, and evaluation foci of Indigenous health curricula included in university-based professional training of health care service providers.'

NAATSIP Member News August 2012

The National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Physiotherapists, Inc. Newsletter from August 2012.

Indigenous Higher Education Report a Welcome Next Step
Via Universities Australia

The Federal Government commissioned report, Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, chaired by Professor Larissa Behrendt, builds on the hard work universities have undertaken to address higher education inequalities between Indigenous Australians and the general population. "The panel has produced a well thought-out and thorough report, addressing an issue of national priority," said Belinda Robinson, Chief Executive of Universities Australia, the peak body representing Australia's 39

universities. "We absolutely share the panel's vision for higher education becoming a natural pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as it is fast becoming for the general population."

NACCHO Communiqué

The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation board welcomes you to the new online NACCHO Communiqué. By signing up via the website, you will receive the latest board information, press releases, members news and information on the day they are released. The new online format will allow subscribers to easily search for relevant information in menu categories and provide instant feedback in the online forums.

Improving the Patient Journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Acute Coronary Syndromes

Grenfell, R., Wade, V., Clune, E., O'Donohue K., and Power, P., 2012, *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol.197, no.1, p.27.

It has been estimated that 'leveling the playing field' in terms of cardiovascular health alone could narrow the life-expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians by 6.5 years. While there has been a particular (and important) focus on risk factor modification, and prevention and management of chronic disease, it is worth noting that, compared with other Australians, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have: three times the rate of major coronary events; higher death rates from coronary heart disease both in and out of hospital; lower rates of coronary angiography, angioplasty and bypass surgery; and a greater likelihood of adverse outcomes in the two years after discharge.

HWA Report Released

Announcing the release of the Final Report 'Growing Our Future': Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Project on the Health Workforce Australia website. The Final Report is now available to download. For further information contact the Project Manager on freecall T: 1800 707 351.

CPMC National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Specialist Framework Newsletter

The inaugural issue of the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Specialist Framework Project Newsletter is now available.

Factors that Impact on Rural and Remote Students' Participation in Higher Education

Hossain, D. et. al., 2012, *I.J. Modern Education and Computer Science*, 2012, vol.7, pp.1-8.

This paper aims to explore the factors that impact on rural and remote students' participation in higher education at university. The findings indicated that the students were familiar only with university scholarships, tertiary preparation program, and head start. Before admission, most students required information on pathways to university, admission requirements, scholarships, and range of courses and after admission they required information on academic support, tutorial assistance, library and IT services. This paper also suggests that universities need to evaluate the effectiveness of the services they offer to both attract and support rural and remote students to university if participation rates are to be raised.

BACKGROUND

The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network Program is a dynamic network dedicated to ensuring the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning of Indigenous health in medical education, as well as best practice in the recruitment and retention of Indigenous medical students. We seek to do this through establishing a continuing national presence that encourages and supports collaboration within and between medical schools in Australia and Aotearoa/ New Zealand and by building linkages with the community and other health science sectors.

The LIME Network is a program of [Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand](#), funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.* It was developed as a stand alone project in 2008 and stemmed from the Indigenous Health Project which began in 2002. Major outcomes of the [Indigenous Health Project](#) included the [Indigenous Health Curriculum Framework](#) and the [Critical Reflection Tool](#) (CRT), which remain important resources for the current Program.

The **LIME Network Program** has achieved significant outcomes including:

- The facilitation of bi-annual **Reference Group** meetings to provide the opportunity for those working in Indigenous health within medical schools to collaborate, share information, provide feedback and peer network
- The biennial **LIME Connection** conference to provide a forum for knowledge transfer and dissemination
- Publication of the tri-annual **LIME Network Newsletter** promoting best practice and sharing successes in the field
- Maintaining the **LIME Network Website** housing information on LIME Network projects and other news and events
- Building the evidence base of the efficacy of Indigenous health curriculum development and implementation as well as Indigenous student recruitment and retention initiatives through publications such as the **Good Practice Case Studies Booklet** and the Special Edition of the

ANZAHPE Focus on Health Professional Education Journal

- Developing and implementing internal **review tools** to support medical schools to reflect and evaluate their performance
- Supporting Indigenous high school students to understand the pathways to studying medicine through the online **Pathways into Medicine Resource**
- Building linkages across health disciplines and with medical colleges through **networking and information sharing**
- Supporting collaboration between medical schools and their local Indigenous Community Controlled Health Organisations through the facilitation of **Regional Meetings**
- Contributing to the **Medical Deans – AIDA National Medical Education Review**.

**The LIME Network is hosted by the [Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit](#) within the Melbourne School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne.*

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like more information on LIME Network activities, would like to become a member, or have something you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please visit our website: www.limenetwork.net.au, email us at lime-network@unimelb.edu.au or give us a call at T: +61 3 8344 9160.



THE LIMENETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

