# Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

**Annual Report 2013** 









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# **About Us**

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This report provides a review of the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CREAHW) operations for the year 2013.

Our logo represents a group of Aboriginal people of different sizes, ages, from different families, all

gathered together to share information and work towards a better future. They sit above a coolamon

dish; the coolamon represents the gathering of information, just as food was gathered for the benefit of our people. Also a symbol of protection, the coolamon cradled babies many years ago. The pattern inscribed beneath, represents a network of people passing on stories, information, data for the future. Logo design by Jilalga Murray-Ranui.



# **Vision**

Our contract is to lead and critically translate research to ensure that it advocates, holds and privileges Aboriginal voices and knowledge, central to transforming and liberating progress toward Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

# **Aims**

Generate Knowledge

**Research Translation and Implementation** 

Collaboration

Training and Leadership

# **About the CREAHW**

In 2010, the National Health and Medical Research Council awarded the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing (CREAHW) a grant of \$2.5m over 5 years. It is a collaborative research venture between seven research institutions and 10 Chief Investigators (CI's) headed by Professor Fiona Stanley.

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

The collaborating institutions are:

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

# Report from the CIA - Professor Fiona Stanley

2013 has been another successful year for the CREAHW with the continuation of our valuable research programs. All the Chief Investigators continue to make worthwhile progress in their respective research programs and have developed and maintained important collaborative partnerships amongst CREAHW staff, students and themselves.

In this annual report we present an overview of how the CREAHW has met its aims. We continue to generate knowledge through our research programs; translate and implement our research on an ongoing basis; develop and maintain our collaborative efforts amongst the Chief Investigators, staff, students and external stakeholders and train our student researchers and provide assistance to them to achieve their goals. In addition, we list the CREAHW's publications, conference presentations/workshops, successful awards and grants.

I would like to commend the valuable work and commitment that the CREAHW Chief Investigators, research support staff and students continue to show in 2013 and beyond. With this commitment we are witnessing major improvements in the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.



# Overview of the 3rd year

In its third year, the Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing made considerable progress towards realising its overarching vision of improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people. The CREAHW hosted 2 retreats and one seminar. Our Cl's attended 15 conferences, either presenting keynote presentations or as participants.

The CREAHW held 5 Governance meetings. These meetings provided an opportunity for the Chief Investigators to come together to discuss their research and the future direction of the CREAHW. These meetings are essential to maintaining a collaborative leadership of the CREAHW.

The CREAHW has continued to promote its research activities to all relevant stakeholders and the wider community via a number of strategies, including website

updates, active engagement on Twitter and monthly newsletters.

In 2013, we held 3 student days which were well attended by students, Cl's and Associate Investigators. These meetings provided an opportunity for students to report on their progress of their studies. It also provided a forum for the students to network and receive feedback from their supervisors and peers. We also held 2 Cl planning days and one seminar.

In early 2013, the CREAHW Co-ordinator took a secondment position within the Institute. She was due to return to the position in late May but decided not to return to the role. The new Co-ordinator, Chrissie Easton took up the position in June 2013. Nita Harken acted in the role in a part-time capacity for the first part of 2013.

# **Telethon Kids Institute Commitment to Aboriginal Children and Families 2013 - 2017**

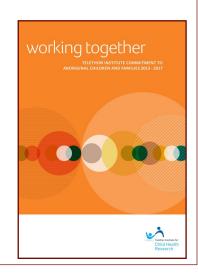
The Commitment was launched at Kings Park toward the end of 2013 by the Director of Telethon Kids Institute Jonathan Carapetis. It outlines the guiding principles for the work in Aboriginal child health and the priorities that need to be addressed. The Institute has a proud history of research and advocacy with Aboriginal families. It now seeks to draw upon this and further build partnerships with the community and stakeholders to address the big issues faced by Aboriginal kids.

The aim of the Commitment is to prioritise research that addresses areas of the greatest importance to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children, and that builds on existing strengths and strategic advantages. The Institute will continue to search for better ways to diagnose, treat, and cure childhood diseases, improve quality of life for those who suffer disease and disability, prevent disease and maintain good health and wellbeing.

The vision of the Commitment is to improve the health and wellbeing of children through excellence in research.

# The values of the Commitment are:

- We make a difference by ensuring our research is translated into action now and in the future.
- We challenge existing ideas and ourselves, and seek innovative and creative ways of working.
- We work together and with our community to bring better health and wellbeing to children.
- We care for children and the community, in Western Australia and beyond.
- We respect the contributions of all who work at and with the Institute.
- We uphold these values as a measure of our success and the integrity of our work and organisation.



# **Chief Investigators**



Professor Fiona Stanley (Patron), Telethon Kids Institute (Perth, WA)



Professor Dawn Bessarab, Director of CAMDH, University of Western Australia



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



Emerita Professor Rhonda Marriott, Murdoch University



Associate Professor Roz Walker, Principal Investigator, Telethon Kids Institute



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



Dr Michael Wright, Curtin University and Telethon Kids Institute



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



Professor Pat Dudgeon, School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia



Professor Sandra Eades, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute (Melbourne, VIC)















# **Associate Investigators**

Heather D'Antoine - Division Leader & Associate

**Director for Aboriginal Programs Menzies** 

Dr Rebecca Glauert - Manager, Developmental

Pathways Project, Telethon Kids Institute

Associate Professor Christine Jeffries-Stokes - Western

Desert Kidney Project

Jocelyn Jones - Curtin University, Perth WA

Professor David Lawrence - Research Professor,

**Telethon Kids Institute** 

Dr Brian McCoy - La Trobe University, Melbourne VIC

Clinical Associate Professor Deborah Lehmann -

Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute

Associate Professor Peter Richmond - Head of

Division, School of Paediatrics and Child Health, UWA

Ms Annette Stokes - Western Desert Kidney Project

Professor Neil Thomson - Perth WA

**Professor Ted Wilkes** - National Drug Research

Institute, Curtin University, Perth WA

Francine Eades - Aboriginal Health Management

Advisor, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network

# **Support Staff**

**Research Co-ordinator** 

Chrissie Easton - Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

**Senior Research Officer** 

Dr Clair Scrine - PhD, Telethon Kids Institute, Perth WA

**Research Assistants** 

Tanya Jones - Looking Forward Team, Telethon Kids

Institute, Perth WA

Margaret O'Connell - Looking Forward Team, Telethon

Kids Institute, Perth WA

**Charmaine Green** - CUCRH, Geraldton WA. Assists Dr Juli Coffin.

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

**Joy Neri** - University of Western Australia, Perth WA. Assists Prof Pat Dudgeon.

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

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

# **Students**

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

**Denise Groves - PhD student, Murdoch University** 

David Hendrickx - PhD student, UWA

Robyn Williams - PhD student, Curtin University, Perth

Ailsa Munns - PhD student, Curtin University, Perth WA

Clinton Schultz - PhD student, Griffith University, Qld

Yolanda Andrews - Masters student, UWA

Jocelyn Kickett - Masters student, Murdoch University

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



# **CREAHW Capacity Building Activities**

One of the aims of the CREAHW is to advance the training and skill development of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers to enable them to conduct research which delivers tangible health benefits for Aboriginal people. The CREAHW organises student days, workshops and seminars to assist our students to meet their educational requirements. In addition, the CREAHW hosts students on short-term placements to assist the CI's to achieve their research outcomes.

# **Student Days**

In 2013 the CREAHW held 3 highly successful student/ CREAHW review days. Two were held at the Institute and one was held at UWA. At each student day, the students provided background, outlines and updates of their projects. The student days provide a platform for lively discussions, and expert guidance and input into student's research pathways. At each student day the CI's are also given the opportunity to discuss their research projects with the audience.

## **Student Placements**

Sandra Eades supervises 3 PhD students at various universities in Sydney. They are Chris Lawrence, Alison Gibbard and Catherine Chamberlain. Chris submitted his PhD in 2013.

# **Facilitating Workshops / Seminars**

The Looking Forward Project team held a workshop at the Canning River Eco-centre to mark the beginning of the next phase of their project. The workshop was followed by an open space forum where participants were responsible for setting the agenda.

In September, the CREAHW organised a seminar on Participatory Action Research which was well attended by staff and students. We hosted Jan Robertson, research fellow at James Cook University, Qld and Ernie Stringer, a research and development consultant in education and training. The topic of the day centred around 'Best practice for informing and supporting community driven social change'. Jan's topic was 'Translating tobacco policy in remote Australian Indigenous communities—the challenges and opportunities'.

# **CI Retreats and Planning Days**

In February the CI's gathered in Geraldton to outline their overall program for 2013. Then in November, the CI's all gathered at Prof Stanley's house to discuss the future of the CREAHW with 2 years to go. It was decided on this day to plan for another CREAHW in 2015.

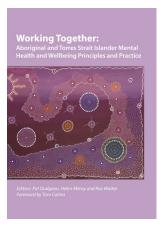
### CI Collaborative Activities

In addition to CI's working across each others research projects the following are two examples of specific work undertaken to meet the outcomes of the CREAHW.

'Revised Edition of Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles and Practice 2014'

Five of the CI's and two PhD students from the CREAHW have contributed to the revised edition which is co-edited by Professor Pat Dudgeon, Professor Helen Milroy and A/Professor Roz Walker.

The revised edition contains 10 new chapters. The book is used as a core text for professional development and cultural awareness workshops across a range of health, mental health, allied health and social services disciplines. Working Together has 76 contributing authors, 44 of which are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.



# 'Mia Mia community development: Sustaining Cultural Security-Vision, Analysis and Practice'

Mia Mia Aboriginal Community Development Text Book is to be published by Cambridge University Press.

A national project led by Chief Editor A/Prof Kickett-Tucker from Koya Aboriginal Corporation and Pindi Pindi and supported by editors Dr Michael Wright, Dr Juli Coffin and Prof Dawn Bessarab. The aim of Mia Mia Aboriginal Community Development is to provide an Aboriginal perspective of our worldview, including the livid experiences, ways of being and working in and with the Aboriginal community.

The ethics, protocol, practice, values and spirit required to initiate, develop, practise and sustain Aboriginal community development are presented in this book.

# **Research Programs**

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

Our research themes including Aboriginal mental health and wellbeing, cultural security and cultural competence put in place to assist with developing articles and and maternal and child health.

presentations in 2014.

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

# **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

# The role of Gender in Contemporary Aboriginal Life Glenn Pearson

This research project: 'Being a Man': The role of Gender in Contemporary Aboriginal life, is exploring what it means to be a man within contemporary Aboriginal life. Plans are underway to establish an Aboriginal men's steering group to lead in the design and implementation of the research.

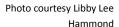
# Strengthening social and emotional wellbeing of Australian Aboriginal people

Cheryl Kickett-Tucker

This project is an extension of A/Prof Kickett-Tucker's research on the development of racial identity and related self-esteem of Aboriginal children, youths and adults using her I-RISE (Indigenous Racial Identity and Social Esteem) measures across the lifespan. It describes the mediating factors of racial identity and self-esteem that influence Aboriginal people's mental wellbeing. It proposes to strengthen the social, cultural and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children aged 4-12 years, youths aged 13-17 and adults from 18 onwards.

In 2013 the team have completed the data collection which includes surveys, case studies and in depth personal interviews. All targets were reached with over 500 participants across the Peel, Swan and Kalgoorlie sites. Statistical analysis databases were developed. David Lawrence, Steve Zubrick and Daniel Christensen from Telethon Kids Institute assisted with the analysis of instruments. We piloted the IRISE\_YC (5—7 year olds inventory) project as part of the Bush School project funded by a PEET grant and led by Libby Lee Hammond from Murdoch University. All interviews have been completed and transcribed. A writing team has been put in place to assist with developing articles and presentations in 2014.

Jessie-Lee Joseph holds ups a leaf at the Bush School Project.







Winners of an award in Children's Week WA - Uncle Len Thorne, Elizabeth Jackson-Barrett, Jasmyn Yavu-Kama, A/Prof Libby Lee Hammond and A/Prof Cheryl Kickett – Tucker.

During 2013 A/Prof Kickett-Tucker employed three employees who assisted with her various projects. They have conducted SPSS data entry, interview transcripts, research administration tasks, co-author two children's books and other duties. She also trained an undergraduate Aboriginal student Jasmyn Yavu-Kama (pictured above) in data collection and data analysis in quantitative and qualitative mixed methods of research. Four university students from Murdoch also worked on the project transcribing interviews, conducting literature searches and filing. A/Prof Kickett -Tucker also employed Dr Jenny Dodd to assist her as a writing coordinator.

# **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

# **Empowerment, Healing and Leadership program**

Pat Dudgeon, Roz Walker, Clair Scrine, Cheryl Dunkley, Divinna D'Anna and Kathleen Cox

This project was conducted in collaboration with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) Social and Emotional Wellbeing Unit in response to the high rates of suicide in the Kimberley since 2010. This project is now in development and delivery stages and is funded by the State Government through the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council.

# The National Empowerment Project (NEP)

Pat Dudgeon, Roz Walker

This project is a universal strategy to promote social and emotional wellbeing and reduce community distress and suicide in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. A grant of \$1,000,000 was awarded to UWA in 2012 to roll out the project nationally. This grant was further funded by \$600,000 in 2013/2014.

The NEP work with eight site locations across Australia in a participatory action research approach. These sites are:

- Cherbourg, QLD
- Kuranda, QLD
- Toomelah, NSW
- Sydney, NSW
- Mildura, VIC
- Perth, WA
- Northam/Toodyay, WA
- Narrogin, WA

The first site was in Darwin, NT.

In 2013, the School of Indigenous Studies at UWA received additional funds by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to undertake three new sites and to support the existing eight sites across Australia. As part of the ongoing support to each of the existing sites, the NEP developed the STAR concept. This involves supporting sites, developing comprehensive programs for sites, training community co-researchers, advocacy and research.

The NEP Phase Two will also investigate all relevant programs and courses available locally and nationally to inform development of the comprehensive cultural social and emotional well being program. In the course of development, the Project will work with other experts in the field to develop an appropriate program that includes the 'voice of the community'. Information from each local community consultation about what they need to empower themselves, their families and the wider community informs developments.

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

Michael Wright and Fiona Stanley

The Looking Forward Project aims to change the way mental health and drug and alcohol services are delivered to Nyoongar peoples living in the Perth south-east metropolitan corridor (Armadale to Bentley).

The Project brings together Nyoongar Elders and mental health and drug and alcohol service providers to create the conditions required to bring about systemic change in the mental health and drug and alcohol sector, to deliver more responsive culturally secure services to Nyoongar peoples.



Looking Forward Project Workshop 2013

# **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

In July 2013 we ran an open space workshop coordinated by well-known open space facilitator, Brendan McKeague, which brought Nyoongar Elders together with participating service providers, to begin the 'working together' phase of the Project. In true open space style, our agenda for the day was set by the participants in response to one overarching statement: Building a more meaningful working relationship between Nyoongar people and mental health and drug and alcohol service providers, now and for the future.

evidence for the importance of kinship, supporting pregnant women and new parents as a preventative factor in the development of perinatal mental health issues. A longitudinal project will establish whether resilient and positive parenting is sustained over time. In Aboriginal communities family is an important component of life and much support, particularly during times of adversity, is derived from the family. This project will also explore the importance of family in resilience during pregnancy and early parenthood.

"The day brought it all together for me, particularly through meeting the Elders. I loved the openness and honesty from the Elders...I also felt they were educating us through their own experiences".

Proceedings from the day have provided some key focus areas on which Elders and service providers will work through the development of service level Action Plans, as part of the Organisational Review and Project Evaluation phase in 2014.

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

Rhonda Marriott, Fiona Stanley, Nicholas de Klerk, Cheryl Kickett-Tucker, Roz Walker and Denise Groves

Professor Rhonda Marriott is funded through an ARC Indigenous Discovery Grant and A/Prof Roz Walker contributes her time to the project as part of her CREAHW work. This holistic, mixed method study aims to promote positive perinatal mental health, parenting, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and resilience in young Aboriginal parents residing in two locations in Western Australia (one urban and the other regional).

In 2013 we will work with health services that will develop more culturally appropriate programs for young Aboriginal expectant mothers and new parents that are aimed at strengthening their parenting skills and knowledge. An in-depth exploration will provide



# Family Assessment Tool, Milliya Rumurra, Broome

Dawn Bessarab

Dawn's project entails partnering with a grass roots Aboriginal drug and alcohol organisation in:

- developing an assessment tool to assist families of clients addressing their substance abuse,
- applying a gendered analysis to explore Aboriginal concepts of parenting,
- establishing the connection of cultural justifications to excuse family violence against women and children, and
- understanding the context to preventable deaths of Aboriginal children from factors such as infection and traffic accidents.

This project is based at Milliya Rumurra (MR), Broome which is a residential centre providing treatment and rehabilitation to Aboriginal community members wishing to address their misuse of alcohol and other drugs.

# **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

# Solid Kids Solid Lives II – Social Marketing the parents' response

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

The overall aim of the SKSSII is to formatively develop and evaluate a community-based social marketing bullying prevention campaign designed to appeal directly to Aboriginal families in the Midwest/Murchison region. It will be supported by whole-school bullying prevention education and point-of-need support for affected students and their families. The project will build on the extensive Aboriginal bullying prevention research that is currently available. (Solid Kids Solid Schools).

In transferring the SKSS II project to the Telethon Kids Institute, the team will aim to build on what has been achieved to date with the aim of completing the social marketing development, testing and implementation of the project. The overall goal will be to assess the effectiveness of this approach to social marketing with regards to both informing and changing parenting behaviour around mental health issues related to bullying among Aboriginal children/youth.

The project has created one film clip from a series of three which has been well received in the social media community and wider audiences. Presentations have been done as part of the MWSMARG group and networking activities are continuing around the bullying issues. Poster series and booklets for feedback have now been created. Community forums during the school holidays have also proven an effective way to gain feedback about the effectiveness of the social media strategies the team employed. CI and steering group meetings took place toward the end of 2013.



HOLD video which was aired on GWN in 2013

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

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

This project has been exploring the meanings of 'cultural security' and Birthing on Country for Aboriginal women in the study location.

We are investigating what:

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

Professor Rhonda Marriott is leading the project and coordinating the overall research program and research design . A/Professor is assisting in the evaluation of organisational cultural competence of the health services participating in the study and is leading the evaluation of the cultural competence of the workforce.

We are expecting outcomes of the project to strengthen culturally secure midwifery care for Aboriginal women birthing in an urban location.

# **Cultural Security and Cultural Competence**

# **Cultural Security for Yamaji people within regional** health services

Juli Coffin

This project aims to create a culturally secure health service for Yamaji (Aboriginal people) in the Midwest/ Murchison region of Western Australia. This year the team has achieved a number of factors including obtaining ethics approval; establishing community partners and stakeholders; organising presentations to local communities, businesses and forums; interviewing Aboriginal people and transcribing their interviews; forming partnerships and reporting back to relevant authority bodies regarding project outcomes.

The team is intending to respond to the Aboriginal communities expressed felt need about the inadequacies of the health system and to investigate whether the 'Coffin' model of cultural security has merit across the health sectors. We are also working on how to empower the Aboriginal community for health and wellbeing attainment.



# **Supporting the Cultural Learning through Cultural Competence Assessment Tools**

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

Discussions are still underway in 2013 with the senior Aboriginal management team of the Aboriginal health branch to work with the Action Learning Group to explore ways of supporting the implementation of the Cultural Learning Framework with staff working in the WA Health Department to implement the cultural competence tool trialled at KEMH and PMH.

# **Tobacco Intervention - Gazebo Project**

Juli Coffin

Dr Coffin's research into tobacco control involves a range of innovative family interventions to reduce tobacco smoke exposure among Aboriginal children and develop communication resources projects for Aboriginal people.

Her current project involves building gazebos and installing smoke monitors in the homes. They have already built 20 gazebos in 2013 which are being tracked and monitored and the data gathered already indicates a positive outcome.

One of the aims is to change the way Aboriginal people socialise around tobacco and to make houses safer for children and pregnant women by building spaces for Aboriginal people to smoke.

In 2013 we will develop social marketing campaigns using radio, television and other social media including Youtube and Facebook to promote the project in the wider community.

In November 2013 Juli was awarded the 2013 Dr Bob Elphick medal for her outstanding contribution to tobacco control.



Dr Coffin receives her prestigious award at the Australian Council of Smoking and Health Awards 2013.

### Maternal and Child Health

# Maternal Child Health and Wellbeing in the Western Desert

### Roz Walker

This program of work is being undertaken from 2010 to 2014 to improve the maternal and child health and wellbeing of Martu communities living in the Western Desert communities of Jigalong, Punmu, Parngurr, Kunawarritji and Parnpajina, Newmanin the Pilbara.

Initial research to collect the Aust. Early Development Index (AEDI) results for these communities led to the development and implementation of a suite of initiatives to improve health outcomes for children. This included resources to assist community groups to understand and act on the AEDI results.

One aspect of this research as an exemplar of using Community based Participatory Action Research is the

establishment of a Phd Program being undertaken by David Hendrickx in response to community identified concerns regarding the extent of scabies and skin infections and its impact on the health, education and developmental comes.



David Hendrickx Out-

While the PhD aims to address scabies and other skin infections, the Telethon team including the Director, Jonathan Carapetis have developed a much broader and comprehensive program of work 'Healthy Skin, Healthy Lives' which will extend across the Pilbara and Kimberley in the next couple of years.

# Western Australian Aboriginal Intergenerational Fetal Growth Study (WAAIFS)

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

In 2013, the research program was meant to investigate the determinants of maternal and neonatal health, in particular the intergenerational determinants of fetal growth. This work was unable to be completed whilst Sandra advertised for a biostatistics PhD student. The project will recommence in 2014.

# Improving care of Type 2 diabetes among Indigenous Australians

### Sandra Eades

During 2013 we completed recruitment and baseline data collection from 19 Aboriginal health services working with us on the study to reduce the evidence practice gap for type 2 diabetes care. Paul Ishiguchi and Prof Eades are collaborating with researchers/staff from the University of Newcastle and are working through a multifaceted intervention with nine of the health services. To date this has involved helping services assess what their evidence practice gap is and begin to devise strategies to improve organisational approaches to reduce those gaps. The project has major logistic challenges but working directly with health services to improve care for type 2 diabetes has been valuable.

# Other related child health projects

### Sandra Eades

Staff in Melbourne and Sydney continue to complete work on other related projects including the 45 and Up Study which includes almost 2000 older Aboriginal people and provides some insights into health issues for older Aboriginal people. The SEARCH (Study of Environment Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health) is also progressing well with more than 1700 children 0-17 and their carers participating in this longitudinal study.

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

Glenn Pearson

This project is seeking to develop a community led engagement framework to establish a relationship between key stakeholders in the Aboriginal community and the Intergenerational determinants of fetal growth in Aboriginal Western Australians Life Study (the Study). This project is still underway and is working with the Kulunga Aboriginal Research Development Unit to undertake the lead on the engagement of the Aboriginal community, particularly Aboriginal women.

# **National and International Linkages**

National and international linkages are important for sharing resources and expertise, facilitating collaborative research initiatives and publications, and building networks and relationships, all of which are essential for scientific excellence. During 2013 several opportunities to create national and international linkages with a diverse range of institutions have arisen for CREAHW members.

### **National**

As in 2012, several Cl's have remained on the Australian Research Council grant for the National Indigenous Research and Knowledge Network (NIRAKN) - a multidisciplinary hub and spokes model network comprising of 49 leading Aboriginal Cl's from over 20 collaborating universities and AIATSIS (Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies). The network is a platform creating a critical mass of researchers to meet the compelling research priorities and needs of Aboriginal communities.

Prof Pat Dudgeon is a co-lead in the Indigenous Health node of NIRAKN along with Profs Bronwyn Fredericks and Kathleen Clapham. Dr Juli Coffin and A/Prof Dawn Bessarab facilitate links between the CREAHW and the Network in Australia and internationally. Prof Fiona Stanley and A/Prof Roz Walker are mentors and will provide advice, input and on-going critical review of the different elements of the program and collaborative opportunities.

Professor Pat Dudgeon was appointed co-chair with Tom Calma AO of a new expert group to advise on 'tackling Indigenous suicide'. The group is called Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group (ATSIMHSPAG).

# International

In October, 2013 Prof Fiona Stanley became the Director of the 2013 Festival of Ideas organised by the University of Melbourne, Victoria. The Festival explored the science of healthy living in this challenging 21st century. It was a six day event full of thought-provoking discussions, debates and performances that explored the complex challenges facing humanity and the innovative solutions that might overcome them.

In July, CI A/Prof Dawn Bessarab attended the 2nd International *Indigenous Voices in Social Work Conference* in Canada. The aim of the conference was to promote Indigenous voices in social work by enhancing awareness and the applications of Indigenous practices aimed at healing social problems facing Indigenous families, children and communities.



Dawn and her colleagues at Winnipeg, Canada

In August, Prof Pat Dudgeon travelled to Yogyakarta to present at the 10th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology at the University of Gadjah Mada.

# Awards, Prizes or Recognition of CI's

Juli Coffin—Bob Elphick Award 2013 for Outstanding Contribution to Tobacco Control

**Pat Dudgeon**—Deadly Award for Health at the 19th Annual Deadly Awards

**Pat Dudgeon**—IAHA (Indigenous Allied Health Australia) Lifetime Achievement Award

**Sandra Eades** – MJA, MDA National Prize for Excellence in Medical Research on her article—'An intensive smoking intervention for pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a randomised controlled trial'.

Cheryl Kickett-Tucker et al – WA Department for Communities, Children's Week WA, Communities Award for Metro Project Award—'Connecting Culture, Curriculum and Community in Early Years Aboriginal Education'

**Fiona Stanley**—Honorary Doctor of Medicine honoris causa, University of Queensland

**Michael Wright**—Health Consumers' Council (HCC) award for his excellent service to health consumers

### **Publications**

The following publications for the period of January 2013 to December 2013 have arisen from projects with which CREAHW personnel are affiliated.

- 1. Making a difference: Engaging both hearts and minds in research practice, Wright, M, Culbong, M, Jones, T, O'Connell, M & D Ford, 2013, Action Learning, Action Research Journal, 19(1), 36-61.
- 2. Weaving the narratives of relationship into community-based participatory research. **Wright, M**, Culbong, M, **O'Connell, M**, **Jones, T** & D Ford, 2013, New Community Quarterly, 11(3) Issue 43, 8-14.
- 3. Pregnancy And Neonatal Diabetes
  Outcomes in Remote Australia
  (PANDORA) Study (2013) BMC Pregnancy
  Childbirth. Maple-Brown LJ, Brown A,
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  Whitbread C, Moore E, Longmore D,
  Dent G, Corpus S, Kirkwood M, Svenson
  S, van Dokkum P, Chitturi S, Thomas S,
  Eades SJ, Stone M, Harris M, Inglis C,
  Dempsey K, Dowden M, Lynch M, Boyle
  J, Sayers S, Shaw J, Zimmet P, O'Dea K.
  2013
- 4. Inequalities in ventilation tube insertion procedures between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in New South Wales, Australia: a data linkage study. Falster K, Randall D, Banks E, Eades SJ, Gunasekera H, Reath J, Jorm L.BMJ Open. 2013
- 5. Psychosocial interventions for supporting women to stop smoking in pregnancy. Chamberlain C, O'Mara-Eves A, Oliver S, Caird JR, Perlen SM, **Eades SJ**, Thomas J. (2013)
- 6. The overall health and risk factor profile of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants from the 45 and up study. **Gubhaju L**,

McNamara BJ, Banks E, Joshy G, Raphael B, Williamson A, **Eades SJ**. BMC Public Health. 2013 Jul 17;13(1):661

- 7. Improving the health of First Nations children in Australia. **Eades SJ, Stanley FJ.** Med J Aust. 2013 Jul 8;199(1):12-3.
- 8. Measuring mental health in Indigenous young people: a review of the literature from 1998-2008.
  Williamson A, Andersen M, Redman S, Dadds M, D'Este C, Daniels J, **Eades S**, Raphael B.Clin Child Psychol Psychiatry. 2014.
- 9. Developing research in partnership with Aboriginal communities strategies for improving recruitment and retention.
  Rae K, Weatherall L, Hollebone K, Apen K, McLean M, Blackwell C, **Eades S**, Boulton J, Lumbers E, Smith R. Rural Remote Health. 2013
- 10. An intensive smoking intervention for pregnant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women: a randomised controlled trial. **Eades SJ,** Sanson-Fisher RW, Panaretto K. Med J Aust. 2013
- 11. Disparities in revascularization rates after acute myocardial infarction between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Australia. Randall DA, Jorm LR, Lujic S, O'Loughlin AJ, Eades SJ, Leyland AH. (2013)
- 12. Diabetes in pregnancy among Indigenous women in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. Chamberlain C, McNamara B, Williams ED, Yore D, Oldenburg B, Oats J, **Eades S**. Diabetes Metab Res Rev. 2013.
- 13. Children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder and their hospitalisations: population data linkage study. Silva D, Colvin L, Hagemann E, **Stanley F**, Bower C.Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2014.

- 14. Privacy protectionism and health information: is there any redress for harms to health? Allen J, Holman CD, Meslin EM, **Stanley FJ.** Law Med. 2013
- 15. Off-label use of ondansetron in pregnancy in Western Australia. Colvin L, Gill AW, Slack-Smith L, **Stanley FJ**, Bower C.Biomed Res Int. 2013
- 16. Cross-country comparison of victimisation-related injury admission in children and adolescents in England and Western Australia. Gonzalez-Izquierdo A, Ward A, O Donnell M, Li L, Roposch A, **Stanley F,** Gilbert R.BMC Health Serv Res. 2013
- 17. Neonatal complications in public and private patients: a retrospective cohort study. Einarsdóttir K, Stock S, Haggar F, Hammond G, Langridge AT, Preen DB, De Klerk N, Leonard H, **Stanley FJ**. 2013.
- 18. Trends in pre-existing mental health disorders among parents of infants born in Western Australia from 1990 to 2005. O'Donnell M, Anderson D, Morgan VA, Nassar N, Leonard HM, **Stanley FJ**.Med J Aust. 2013
- 19. Role of public and private funding in the rising caesarean section rate: a cohort study.Einarsdóttir K, Haggar F, Pereira G, Leonard H, de Klerk N, **Stanley FJ**, Stock S. BMJ Open. 2013
- 20. Assisted vaginal deliveries in mothers admitted as public or private patients in Western Australia. Einarsdóttir K, Haggar FA, Stock S, Gunnell AS, **Stanley FJ**. PLoS One. 2013
- 21. Is autism one or multiple disorders? Whitehouse AJ, **Stanley FJ**. Med J Aust. 2013

## **Publications**

- 22. Are women with major depression in pregnancy identifiable in population health data? Colvin L, Slack-Smith L, Stanley FJ, Bower C.BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2013
- 23. Setting the RECORD straight: developing a guideline for the Reporting of studies Conducted using Observational Routinely collected Data.Langan SM, Benchimol EI, Guttmann A, Moher D, Petersen I, Smeeth L, Sørensen HT, **Stanley F**, Von Elm E.Clin Epidemiol. 2013
- 24. Neonatal outcomes after preterm birth by mothers' health insurance status at birth: a retrospective cohort study. Einarsdóttir K, Haggar FA, Langridge AT, Gunnell AS, Leonard H, **Stanley FJ**. BMC Health Serv Res. 2013
- 25. Hypertensive diseases of pregnancy predict parent-reported difficult temperament in infancy. Robinson M, Oddy WH, Whitehouse AJ, Pennell CE, Kendall GE, McLean NJ, Jacoby P, Zubrick SR, **Stanley FJ**, Newnham JP. J Dev Behav Pediatr. 2013
- 26. Maternal conditions and perinatal characteristics associated with autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability.Langridge AT, Glasson EJ, Nassar N, Jacoby P, Pennell C, Hagan R, Bourke J, Leonard H, **Stanley FJ**. PLoS One. 2013
- 27. Analysis of baseline hypothalamicpituitary-adrenal activity in late adolescence reveals gender specific sensitivity of the stress axis. Reynolds RM, Hii HL, Pennell CE, McKeague IW, de Kloet ER, Lye S, **Stanley FJ**, Mattes E, Foster JK. Psychoneuroendocrinology. 2013

- 28. Delivery at 37 weeks' gestation is associated with a higher risk for child behavioural problems. Robinson M, Whitehouse AJ, Zubrick SR, Pennell CE, Jacoby P, McLean NJ, Oddy WH, Hammond G, Stanley FJ, Newnham JP. Aust N Z J Obstet Gynaecol. 2013
- 29. Identifying barriers and improving communication between cancer service providers and Aboriginal patients and their families: the perspective of service providers. Shahid S, Durey A, **Bessarab D**, Aoun SM, Thompson SC. BMC Health Serv Res. 2013
- 30. Voting with their feet--predictors of discharge against medical advice in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ischaemic heart disease inpatients in Western Australia: an analytic study using data linkage. Katzenellenbogen JM, Sanfilippo FM, Hobbs MS, Knuiman MW, Bessarab D, Durey A, Thompson SC. BMC Health Serv Res. 2013
- 31. Improving palliative care outcomes for Aboriginal Australians: service providers' perspectives. Shahid S, **Bessarab D**, van Schaik KD, Aoun SM, Thompson SC. BMC Palliat Care. 2013
- 32. Aboriginal-mainstream partnerships: exploring the challenges and enhancers of a collaborative service arrangement for Aboriginal clients with substance use issues. Taylor KP, **Bessarab D,** Hunter L, Thompson SC. BMC Health Serv Res. 2013
- 33. The experience of lung cancer in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and what it means for policy, service planning and delivery. Davidson PM, Jiwa M, Digiacomo ML, McGrath SJ, Newton PJ, Durey AJ, **Bessarab D**, Thompson SC. 2013 Aust Health Rev. 2013

- 34. Comparative validation of self-report measures of negative attitudes towards Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders. Skinner TC, Blick J, Coffin J, Dudgeon P, Forrest S, Morrison D. Rural Remote Health. 2013
- 35. Disabling chronic low back pain as an iatrogenic disorder: a qualitative study in Aboriginal Australians. Lin IB, O'Sullivan PB, **Coffin JA**, Mak DB, Toussaint S, Straker LM. BMJ Open. 2013
- 36. Co-author with co-researchers for National Empowerment Project Site Reports. **Dudgeon P**.
- 37. A case study of community led innovation in digital media. Sweet M, Pearson L, **Dudgeon P**. @IndigenousX: Media International Journal No. 149 pp 104-11. 2013.
- 38. The social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. **Dudgeon P,** Calma T. In Mental Health Council of Australia Perspectives: Mental Health and Wellbeing in Australia. pp36-39. Canberra: Mental Health Council of Australia.
- 39. Engaging Tensions:
  Methodological reflections from
  Australia on community based
  participatory housing research. **Green C**,
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  International Journal of Critical
  Indigenous Studies, QUT. V6, No. 2,
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- 40. **Stanley FJ**. Griffith Review Edition 41: Now we are Ten—Essay—On the ground—Key to successful policy outcomes. 2013
- 41. **Walker**, **R**. & Reibel, T. 2013, Young People's Experiences with Health Services - A literature Review. Telethon Kids Institute, UWA and Commissioner of Children and Young People, Perth, WA

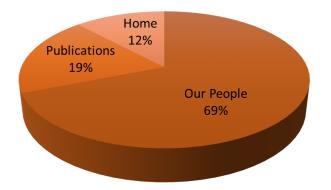
### **Communication and Dissemination**

The CREAHW has a comprehensive communication and dissemination strategy to enhance the translation of information about the research being undertaken and its findings. We currently use our website, our Twitter account and newsletters as our major sources of communicating the CREAHW messages to our wider audience.

# Website - http://aboriginal.telethonkids.org.au

The CREAHW is represented on the Aboriginal health section of the Telethon Kids Institute website. In 2013 the website attracted 8155 hits. The website is updated on a regular basis. Our most popular pages were—69% on the 'Our People' page and 19% on the 'Publications' page.

We have strong interest in our website from around the world, including countries such as France, Netherlands, China, Norway, Russia, Singapore, South Africa.



### **Twitter**

Twitter is the most established form of social media as a communication tool to date. Since the CREAHW set up a Twitter account in late 2011, there has been a phenomenal amount of interest in our tweets. By the end of 2013, the CREAHW had 852 followers with about 5 new followers per day.

Our Twitter account is @CREAHW.

### **Newsletters**

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

In 2013 we developed 7 newsletters that were distributed widely amongst our stakeholders, both online and in hard copy. We now have over 50 people on our newsletter distribution list.

# **Public Lectures, seminars and workshops**

In 2013 there were a number of invitations to CREAHW Chief Investigators to present information from their research and deliver workshops. These are listed in the following pages.

### **Financial Statement**

The chart below provides a statement of operating income and expenditure for the period ending January 2013 to December 2013

### Financial statement for year ended 31 December 2013

Income	\$		
NHMRC Grant			
Amount allocated in 2013	526,968		
Amount carried forward 2012	114,110		
Total Income	641,078		
Expenditure			
Personnel	212,323		
Research Funds (Universities)	292.132		
Travel	8,790		
Administration	17,643		
Total Expenditure	530,888		
Funds carried forward to 2014	110,190		

# **Keynote Presentations**

Investigators	Title	Conference	Location	Month
Dawn Bessarab	Redfern Oration: 'What's Race Got To Do With It! Health Care and Aboriginality in the 21st century	Royal Australian College of Physicians (RACP) Future Directions in Health Congress	Perth	27 May 2013
Rhonda Marriott	Aboriginal researchers and their cutting edge research in child and adolescent health	Australian College of Children and Young People's Nurses (ACCPYN) Conference	Melbourne	30 August 2013
Pat Dudgeon	Collaboration and Partnerships in Mental Health Nursing	ACMHN 39th International Mental Health Nursing	Perth	22-24 October 2013
Pat Dudgeon	Strategic Alliances: Facing the Challenges Together	5th Australian Rural and Remote Mental Health Symposium	Geelong, Victoria	14-15 October 2013
Rhonda Marriott	Innovation in healthcare—its impact on Aboriginal communities and families	WA Health Conference	Perth	19-20 November 2013
Pat Dudgeon	The magical answers? Accept cultural differences and ensure it is in the work and services provided and work in partnership with Aboriginal people	IAHA National Conference	Adelaide	26-27 November 2013
Sandra Eades	Building Mental Wealth—like all wealth, needs to start early and accumulate over the long term	Curtin University Seminar Series	Perth	5-6 December 2013
Cheryl Kickett- Tucker	10 year anniversary for the ACCESS program and Aboriginal Student Graduation	Swan View Senior High School	Perth	27 December 2013

# **Seminar/Forum Presentations & Workshops (Invited)**

Investigators	Title	Venue	Location	Month
Roz Walker	Social and Emotional Wellbeing—Child and Teen Development	City of Stirling Family Services	City of Stirling	19 February 2013
Roz Walker	Ethics	Telethon Kids Institute Seminar Series	Telethon Kids, Subiaco	28 February 2013
Roz Walker	Healthy Skins, Healthy Lives	Telethon Kids Institute Seminar Series	Telethon Kids, Subiaco	June 2013
Cheryl Kickett- Tucker	IRiSE_A: Indigenous (I) Racial Identity (Ri) and Self Esteem (SE)	Moort Boola Network	Chevron, Perth	November 2013
Roz Walker	Young People's Experiences with Health Services	Commissioner for Children and Young People	Perth	19 November 2013
Roz Walker	National Aboriginal Disability Researcher's Network (Workshop)	First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN)	Sydney, NSW	28 November 2013
Pat Dudgeon	Workshop based from the work undertaken by the AIPA	Curtin University Seminar Series	Curtin University	5-6 December 2013
Cheryl Kickett- Tucker	What is Noongar Leadership?	South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council	The Vines, Perth	November 2013

# **Conference Presentations given by CREAHW Investigators**

Investigators	Title	Conference	Location	Month
Fiona Stanley and Sandra Eades	3-generation data on Aboriginal people in Australia	Intergenerational influences on Mental Health	New York	March 2012
Pat Dudgeon	Linking physical health with social and emotional wellbeing	The MHS Summer Forum	Sydney	21 February 2013
Dawn Bessarab	Getting it Right: Indigenous Knowledges and Practices in social work education	2nd International Indigenous Voices in Social Work	Winnipeg, Canada	8—11 July 2013
Pat Dudgeon	Addressing inequalities and celebrating genuine partnerships: The APS Reconciliation Plan	AASP 2013 Conference—The 10th Biennial Conference of the Asian Association of Social Psychology Universities	Gadjah Mada, Yogyarkta, Indonesia	21-24 August 2013
Roz Walker	Interdisciplinary care to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and SEWB	48th APS Annual Conference	Cairns	8-12 October 2013
Dawn Bessarab	Celebrating Mowanjum's Future	Holistic Wellbeing of Aboriginal Children	Floreat	9—13 August 2013
Rhonda Marriott , Roz Walker, Jan Kapetas	Collaborating with a regional communi- ty for optimal parenting, cultural wellbe- ing and resilience in young Aboriginal parents	Infant and Early Childhood Social & Emotional Wellbeing Conference	Canberra	November 2013
Pat Dudgeon	Pat—Chair of the Forum	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders in Mental Health Forum	Sydney	13 November 2013

# Grants won by Cl's and support staff in CREAHW

Year	Investigators	Grant Title	Funding Body
2013	Pat Dudgeon, Roz Walker, Claire Scrine, Carrington Shepherd, Ian Ring, Tom Calma	Closing the Gap Clearing House Building the Evidence Base for Effective Strategies to Strengthen & Promote Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health & Wellbeing', AIHW	AIHW
2013	Karen Edmond, Rhonda Marriott, Fiona Stanley et al (Al's—Glenn Pearson	Centre of Research Excellence in Improving Health Services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	NHMRC
2013	Pat Dudgeon	Curricular approaches to increasing cultural competence and Indigenous participation in psychology education and training	
2013	Glenn Pearson et al	Assessing the development, wellbeing and community connectedness of children in the middle year	ARC Linkage Grant

# Round Tables, Seminars and Yarning Circles hosted or attended by CREAHW

Investigators	Title	Venue	Location	Month
Fiona Stanley	Year 12 Students	Broome Senior High School	Broome	June 2013
Fiona Stanley	Round Table on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Data Linkage	The Lowitja Institute	Melbourne	October 2013
Dawn Bessarab/ Pat Dudgeon- keynote address	Round Table on Indigenous Knowledges informing and transforming Australian Social Work Education	Curtin University	Perth	October 2013