

e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS August-September 2017

Weenthunga Aboriginal Health Education Summit

On 7 August 2017, Weenthunga Health Network led the Aboriginal Health Education



Summit, with support from the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO). Held at Victoria University on Flinders St, the Summit attracted the attendance of over 80 academics and health professionals from across Australia, alongside Weenthunga and VACCHO members.

The aim of the Summit was to contribute to improving Aboriginal health outcomes in Victoria by strengthening the quality of Aboriginal health education and curricula. The wealth of knowledge and experience in the room on the day contributed to fascinating conversation about the problems faced in achieving this goal, and the potential for moves in the right direction. The passion and enthusiasm felt by the Summit participants and presenters was clear, and created a positive energy in the space for constructive conversation and debate.

The Hon. Jill Hennessy MP, Minister for Health, opened the Summit with words about the barriers faced in changing health curricula, and how to overcome these barriers. "We must ensure that health services... are culturally safe places to be, and that our curricula better reflects the needs and aspirations of all Victorians." Jill Gallagher AO, CEO of VACCHO, followed the Minister to speak of the importance of change in health education, in order to have culturally safe graduates and culturally safe workplaces. "Culture is ancient, modern, vulnerable, but valuable."

During the morning session, the Summit sat two panels of key speakers from organisations and universities across Australia. With the direction of star facilitator Greg Phillips, panellists discussed the need for changing attitudes, more resources for teaching and learning, and Aboriginal leadership and involvement in education (cont)

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reformation and delivery. Professor Joanna Zubrzycki, Shawana Andrews and Professor Liz Cameron also presented on three case studies of good practice in Victoria at Australian Catholic University, University of Melbourne, and Deakin University respectively.

The afternoon session had Summit participants break out into groups, to brainstorm strategies to achieve positive goals for their group's theme, outline how it should be done, and who is responsible. The six themes discussed were clinical placement; strategy; Aboriginal pedagogy; student support and pathways; Aboriginal staff and academic support and continuing professional development; and allies. The breakout groups engineered a number of compelling and achievable strategies, and raised many important points and questions for consideration.

Lin Oke and Steff Armstrong of Weenthunga Health Network closed the Summit by proposing the creation of an online network to facilitate discussion and maintain connection between the participants. The idea was received positively by the participants. Weenthunga will be developing a report on the Summit, and will utilise the report and the online platform to further advance towards strengthening the quality of Aboriginal health education and curricula in Victoria.

From all at Weenthunga Health Network and VACCHO, we thank our speakers and panellists on the day; N'arweet Carolyn Briggs, Hon. Jill Hennessy MP, Jill Gallagher AO, Kevan Horder, Dawn Bessarab, Sue Jones, Donna Murray, Ali Drummond, Candice McKenzie, Joanna Zubrzycki, Shawana Andrews, Liz Cameron, Aunty Kerrie Doyle, Petah Atkinson, Professor Mark Rose, Professor Andrew Gunstone, and Professor Christine Bennett. Special thanks to Associate Professor Greg Phillips for his fantastic facilitation of the Summit, for succinctly and effectively summarising key themes and ideas, and for prompting engaging conversation throughout the day. (quotes from the summit continued over)



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“...there is a ground swell of people wanting to take action, but need support to do so.”

– Sue Jones, Curtin University

“...the day was a great success and really encouraging to see so many people interested in how to implement Aboriginal knowledge into the health curriculum.”

– Dawn Bessarab, University of Western Australia

“I’m not here for us to make nice statements – I’m here to start a revolution.”

– Greg Phillips, Facilitator.

Coverage of Weenthunga’s Aboriginal Health Education Summit

Weenthunga’s successful Aboriginal Health Education Summit was reported on in the Koori Mail. The article is available to read on [our website](#). The Summit was also covered by Indigenous Allied Health Australia, whose article you can [read here](#). It is fantastic to see our event get covered by important indigenous organisations and media.

Young Luv

The Young Luv program is part of FVPLS Victoria’s Early Intervention and Prevention program and it is focused on promoting healthy relationships for Aboriginal young women between 13 and 18 years old. Young Luv is an innovative and engaging program developed by and for young Aboriginal women. This program engages young women in a culturally safe space where they can talk about, reflect on and better understand important issues including: the dynamics of healthy relationships; safety while dating, including how to access appropriate support and services; how to recognise inappropriate or unsafe behaviour; and safety online and appropriate use of social media. [Click here](#) to download their flyer.

Western NSW Primary Health Network shows what works in delivering effective Aboriginal health services

The Western NSW Primary Health Network released a report into some of the success they have had in delivering Aboriginal health services in their area. Although different to the Victorian context, there are valuable learnings around structure, governance and the value of consortia. In particular, the Victorian cross service partnerships that addressed the needs of community, are vital in moving forward. The press release is on [their website](#), and the report can be [downloaded here](#).

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Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship

The Rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale Fellowship is designed to support individuals wanting to make a contribution in the area of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. The Fellowship particularly aims to support the development of workers and future leaders in Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and welfare. *Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Eligibility: Australian citizens or permanent residents who have appropriate prior experience and/or education and wish to undertake approved programs, activities, further education or a research project.

Value: Up to \$60,000 towards a salary, support or resources for a period of up to 12 months at a level commensurate with the Fellow's experience, qualifications and project proposal or a stipend and/or payment of course-fees to undertake approved training, education or research.

Further information: The Fellowship is awarded initially for a period of up to 12 months. Applications for 2018 are now open. The closing date is 22 September 2017. [Download the application form](#) (DOCX) and [Terms and Conditions](#) (PDF). For all enquiries please call Louise Lawler on 0418 251 864 or email louise.lawler@sydney.edu.au

Victorian Women's Trust—Here She Is!

Victorian Women's Trust is one of Australia's leading progressive gender equality advocates. For several years now, they have operated a successful directory of women called Here She Is! This directory is a valuable public resource that helps people and organisations connect with capable and successful women. Since its launch in 2013 it has profiled hundreds of diverse women and has enjoyed strong usage and enthusiastic support. To build on its success, the Victorian Women's Trust are in the process of moving Here She Is! to their new digital platform, which will reach out to an ever expanding audience as a resource for any person or organisation to find an inspirational speaker, panellist, board member, mentor or leader. If any women who are a part of Weenthunga Health Network would be interested in having a profile on Here She Is! we would encourage them to do so. Create a profile here: <https://www.vwt.org.au/apply-to-directory-of-women/> or visit the directory here: <https://www.vwt.org.au/directory-of-women/>

Healthy Happy Deadly Event, Change of Date

Note, the Sunbury Healthy Happy Deadly event 2017. that was advertised in the July Newsletter has moved. It is now on the 2nd of October 2017, 11am-3pm. For more information please email gailr@sunburychc.org.au or call 9744 9564 if you require further information.

Profile on Luisa Hope– Communications Manager

Where are you from?

I grew up on the chilly south-west coast of Portland, and was lucky enough to travel across Australia and internationally with my parents and brother. I moved to Melbourne in 2009 and have been here ever since, although I do like to visit Portland often, and recharge my batteries in the Southern Ocean.

What is your interest and background in Health?

While not having experience in health myself, it has been a part of my life forever. My mother is a nurse, as was her mother and grandmother before her, and have grown up with health being a frequent conversation. Currently, my housemate is an old school friend who has pursued medicine (specifically anaesthesia), and once again, health is a frequent conversation. I'm very right-brained, and not geared towards scientific studies, but I've always been fascinated by health professions, and their overlapping roles in caring for the human body.



Why did you choose Weenthunga to work with?

Growing up in Portland meant I was close to areas significant to Australian history, such as Budj Bim, and the Gunditjmara Convincing Ground. We are not First Australians, but my parents made sure my brother and I knew the land and this history, even if it wasn't taught in schools. My studies developed into a Master of Criminology, in which I focused particularly on the Northern Territory Intervention, the disproportionate numbers of First Australians in prison, and the potentials of justice reinvestment (focusing on prevention and rehabilitation over regulation and incarceration). I believe Weenthunga to be implementing the principles of justice reinvestment in the realm of health, and I'm fascinated by this prospect. I hope to learn from Weenthunga's successes, and apply them to my own discipline in the future. Steff and Lin have such a wealth of knowledge and experience between them, and I'm lucky enough to be listening to them and learning from them every day.

What are your hobbies, what do you do in your spare time?

I love to travel, I love food, and I love music. Best of all is when I can combine all three! I recently travelled to New Orleans, where the food and music has always called to me – it is a city like no other. At home, you'll find me pottering around the kitchen, listening to music, and trialling new recipes.