

e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS July 2017

Victorian Aboriginal Health Education Summit

Weenthunga and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) are jointly hosting a Summit on 7 August at Victoria University, facilitated by Associate Professor Greg Philipps, which aims to strengthen the quality of Aboriginal health education and curricula in Victorian universities. The Summit focusses on improving the teaching of Aboriginal health (and ways working with Aboriginal clients/communities) to students studying in health courses in Victorian universities. The key Summit objectives are to identify strategies for:

- Aboriginal academic leadership and faculty-wide strategic investment
- Aboriginal community engagement in curriculum & teaching excellence
- Professional development and support for Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal academics
- Collaboration and sharing across courses and universities

The Honourable Jill Hennessy MP Minister for Health will open the Summit. Participants will hear from VACCHO on the Victorian health workforce. They will hear from a panel of speakers from IAHA, CATSINaM and LIME on national health workforce developments. There will be a presentation on the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Curriculum Framework. The Program includes presentations from universities on case studies of good practice.

One of the drivers for us in organising this Summit is that we want to see improved teaching of Aboriginal health in all health courses without overloading the limited essential resource of Aboriginal academics, advisers, and clinical facilities/placements. We are hoping an outcome of the Summit will be the establishment of a Victorian network linking all key players to facilitate ongoing collaboration.

There is a lot of interest in the Summit and places are limited, so we would encourage registration as soon as possible registrations close 31st July 2017. To register go to: www.trybooking.com/QIPV.

Networking to enhance First Australian health in Victoria

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Women's Talk Health Day

On 9 June 2017, Weenthunga Health Network held their annual Women's Talk Health Day in Bendigo. A total of 15 girls from the Bendigo region attended the day. The Health Day aimed to inspire these young women into pursuing health careers, and to help address the gaps that exist in the support systems for young Aboriginal people. An important purpose of the day was to help the girls to understand the importance of culture in keeping them strong in their working and personal lives.



The day started at St John of God Hospital (SJOG) with an acknowledgement to Dja Dja Wurrung

Country. After a tour of the new Aboriginal Support unit at Bendigo Health, the girls moved to Latrobe University for the afternoon session.

At SJOG, a number of Aboriginal women working in health roles shared their stories with the girls. They provided insights into their own experiences, and the varied ways one can find themselves in a career they love. They were given practical guidance for their potential futures in health, and offered personal support by the women themselves, should they need it.

Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer David Kerr showed the girls around the new facility at Bendigo Health, and gave them some insights into his role, and the complexities of working within a large hospital. He invited the girls and their families to attend the smoking ceremony to open the facility in the coming weeks.

At La Trobe, the girls had the chance to hear from previous Health Day participants, who are currently studying in health courses. The older girls offered advice on how to manage study workloads, how to find the career you love, and the importance of culture and staying involved. (continued)

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Women's Talk Health Day (continued)

Aunty Steff led a circle session about staying strong, identity and their role and responsibility to share and look after one another. The university Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Mishel McMahon, made the girls aware of her role, and made it clear that her door is always open, should they need advice on careers or study. (continued)

The day ended with a Wayapa Wuurrk, a wellness & connection to mother earth session, led by Allara Briggs-Pattison. SJOG presented scholarships to Emily Harper, Michellie Charvat and Tess Carter to support their studies. We would like to thank the girls for attending and participating. We would like to thank all the presenters for taking time out of their very busy schedules to attend and speak. Special thanks to the following people for to make the day possible by sharing their stories, presenting and assisting in organising the day Jo Cahill, Mishel McMahon, Jessie Barnes, Stephanie Blyth, David Kerr, Shirley Goodwin, and Allara Briggs-Pattison. We would also like to give special thanks to Georgia Radford, Charmaine Gray, Skye Anderson, Shania Charvat and Tanika Meeks, Weenthunga Health Day alumni, who gave their time so generously.

Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice

The Commonwealth Fund's Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Practice provide a unique opportunity for mid-career health services researchers and practitioners from Australia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom to spend up to 12 months in the United States, conducting original research and working with leading U.S. health policy experts. Read a Harkness Fellowships [brochure for more information](#), or visit [their website](#).

The House Call Doctor Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship

The House Call Doctor Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship recognises the immense contributions of Indigenous Australians throughout all sectors of society. However, the scholarship also acknowledges that Indigenous health professionals remain too few, numbering an estimated 0.3% of the national healthcare workforce. The Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship will recognise students who have not only demonstrated exceptional academic performance, but also displayed a commitment to their local community and personal development," said House Call Doctor CEO, Mr Wayne Ormond. "We are proud to support dedicated students as they embark upon this exciting and rewarding career path." One student will receive \$10,000 to go towards their academic costs in 2018. Applications will open on 15th June 2017 and close on 15th December 2017. To apply please visit [their website](#).

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Healthy Happy Deadly Event, Sunbury 26th September 2017

Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation and Sunbury Community Health would like to invite you to participate in the Sunbury Healthy Happy Deadly event 2017.

A Happy Healthy Deadly event has been held for the last three years, attracting approximately 200 people including 27 service provider and market stalls. This fun event features cultural and children's activities, food, and information about health and other services. The event has been successful in engaging Aboriginal people in Sunbury and surrounds—creating a stronger sense of community, while promoting healthy lifestyles. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members attend the event, which raises awareness of Aboriginal culture and presence within the broader community.

Should you wish to participate in this event in 2017 there are varying levels of involvement you may choose from. You may wish partner with SCH for the event by being involved in the organising of the event, or you might like to become a sponsor. Alternatively, you may wish to have an information stall or simply attend on the day. This is a great opportunity to engage with the Aboriginal community in an informal way to promote your services. To express an interest or for more information please email gailr@sunburychc.org.au or call 9744 9564 if you require further information.

Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership

The Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership fosters leadership, providing exceptional people with the support they need to achieve their vision for their communities by investing in recognised leaders and providing opportunities to emerging leaders within Victoria's Indigenous communities. The Fellowship supports past, present and future Indigenous leaders who are committed to achieving positive change for Indigenous Victorians and strengthening links between all Australians. We are currently 'Calling for Applications' for a Fellow and two Emerging Leaders. The closing date for applications is 5.00pm on Thursday 31st August 2017.

The successful applicants will receive \$70,000 per annum for a Fellow over 3 years and \$30,000 over 12 months to each Emerging Leader to enable them to concentrate their efforts on personal and professional development and to focus on leadership in their community. For more information, or to apply please visit their website at:

<http://indigenousfellowship.net.au/>