

## **Issue 3; 24 January 2014**

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### **Leadership Group comes together**

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Briggs (CEO NACCHO); Mary Buckskin (CEO AHCSA), Barbara Henry (CEO Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, WA) and Damian Rigney (Well health check coordinator, Watto Purunna Aboriginal Primary Health Care Services) have all joined the CREATE Leadership Group. Their knowledge and experience will be invaluable in helping guide CREATE for the duration of the program. The inaugural Leadership Group meeting is scheduled to take place over two days at the end of February (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>).

### **Overviews underway**

CREATE research fellows Karla Canuto and Judith Streak Gomersall are presently undertaking two overviews of systematic reviews. These reviews are focused on the identification and assessment of all systematic reviews on chronic disease outcomes, prevention, management and treatment models/strategies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. Feedback on the protocols has been received from Chief Investigators and they are currently in the process of searching for studies.

### **CREATE seminar series**

As part of the program, the Centre is establishing an Aboriginal health and translational science related seminar series. Scheduled monthly, the inaugural seminar will be held on March 25th in the Conference room of the Joanna Briggs Institute (115 Grenfell Street, Adelaide). Dr Odette Gibson and Dr Karolina Lisy will present results from their recent systematic review based on the Kanyini Vascular Research program. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Engagement strategy under development**

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, the CREATE team gathered together in the new SAHMRI building to discuss the development of an external stakeholder engagement strategy and potential topics for future meetings. Fantastic ideas were forthcoming, and the final draft of the engagement strategy is nearing completion. Thanks to everyone for your invaluable input.

### **Advertisements**

Advertisements for two research fellow positions and multiple PhD positions have been advertised in the Saturday Advertiser, Koori Mail, The National Indigenous Times and on SEEK.com. These positions represent wonderful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers to develop skills in translational health science and contribute to a diverse range of projects within the Centre. Applications close on February 21<sup>st</sup> 2014.

### **Upcoming conferences**

The Lowitja Institutes second National Conference on Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care will be held at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne on 17-18 March 2014. The conference will focus on sharing knowledge about how to best embed CQI into everyday practice and how to best transfer knowledge derived from successful CQI examples to others working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing space. For more information, visit the Lowitja Institute website at <http://www.lowitja.org.au/cqi-2014>



The New South Wales NACCHO State Affiliate, the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council, is holding its third Chronic Disease Program conference in Sydney from 6-7 May 2014. The Conference aims to strengthen and promote networks and raise awareness of good practice for chronic disease prevention and management programs. For further information, visit the AH&MRC events page at [www.ahmrc.org.au](http://www.ahmrc.org.au)

### **CREATE Profile: Heath White**

Mr Heath White is the Program Manager within the Centre of Research Excellence for Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange (CREATE). His role is to oversee the administrative and research components of the program and to assist CREATE researchers in the development of systematic reviews and other projects.



Heath was originally trained in primary research looking at introducing drought resistance into cereals through genetic modification. In 2010 he took a position at the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (ASERNIP-S) at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, where he contributed to the development of multiple systematic reviews, health technology assessment reports and horizon scanning summaries.

In February 2013, Heath was given the opportunity to work for the School of Translational Health Science, The University of Adelaide, in the position of Research Assistant to the Head of School, Prof Alan Pearson AM. In October 2013, Heath accepted the position as program manager within the CREATE program, and is excited about the prospects of applying translational health science to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a chronic disease.