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## Director's Communiqué

### Director's welcome

Welcome once again to my Communiqué. I sincerely hope this finds you safe and well. I have recently returned from a trip to the UK to visit my daughter and grandson. It was a wonderful trip, but unfortunately, I returned with an unwelcome guest and spent the next seven days in COVID isolation. I am delighted to be back at work now, safe and well, having been nourished by the love and joy of being with family once again.

Our priority this year has been getting back on the road to visit peak organisations. On the back of our trip to Adelaide in April, we have since visited Brisbane, Sydney and Canberra in May. I have many trips planned through to the end of the year and I am so looking forward to seeing many of you in person again.

In September, we celebrate our 25th anniversary. We are hosting an event at Parliament House Canberra. The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Linda Burney has agreed to speak. Our host institution Edith Cowan University will be represented by Braden Hill, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Equity and Indigenous), and the MC for the event will be Glenn Pearson, a long-standing member of our Advisory Board and a great friend and supporter of the HealthInfoNet. We look forward to many of you joining us for this important milestone event.

This year also provides an opportunity for us to reset and recalibrate our organisational clock. With the retirement of our long serving Research Team Leader Jane Burns (see below for a photo of our long COVID delayed



celebration of her outstanding contribution to our work over 21 years), we have taken the decision to hold off appointing a replacement until after a review of our structure, to ensure that we are optimally placed to meet the challenges ahead. I have engaged an external organisational consultant to speak with staff and stakeholders, including our Advisory Board members, to determine what we will need to look like in the future to ensure that we continue to serve the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, communities and organisations to the best of our ability in the most cost-efficient and professional way we possibly can. We expect the report towards the end of the year.

I hope you enjoy my latest Communiqué. Please be in touch if there is anything I can do to support you in your vital work.

Professor Neil Drew

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The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of Australia and the Torres Strait. We respect all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—their customs and their beliefs. We also pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging with particular acknowledgement to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional owners of the lands where our offices are located.

## Advisory Board meeting



Some of our Advisory Board members



Newest member Stuart McGrath with Neil Drew

The HealthInfoNet national Advisory Board meeting was held in May in Canberra. It was our first face-to-face meeting since September 2019, and we welcomed in person one of

our two newest members Stuart McGrath. Excluding myself, Tara Hoyne, Development & Marketing Manager and Professor Braden Hill (ECU representative), we had seven members

attend in person, with two other members joining us online. This was a wonderful show of support for our work from these extremely busy individuals and the organisations they lead.

## Brisbane and Canberra meetings



Tara Hoyne with PEPA QLD Manager Aurora Hodges

In addition to my meetings in Canberra and Sydney, Tara Hoyne (Development & Marketing Manager) met with Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC), Health Workforce QLD, The Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA) QLD, partner organisation Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and gave

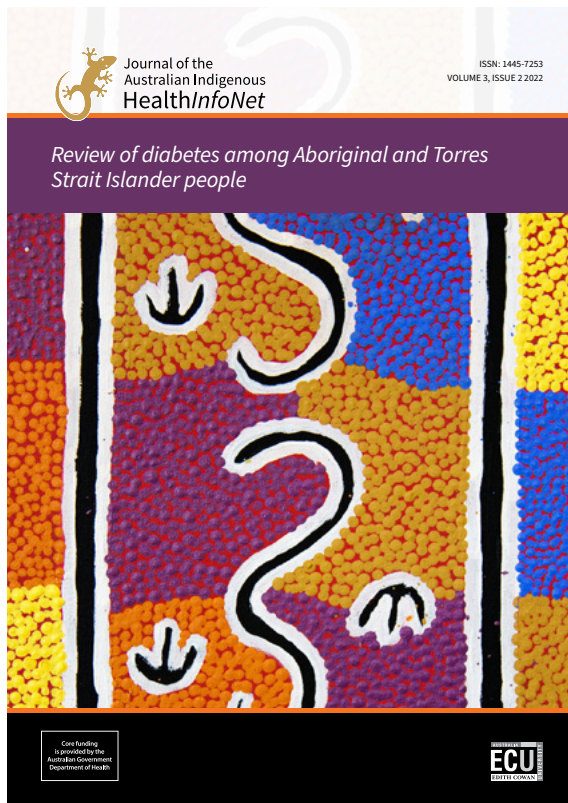


AIDA staff Charlotte Ward and Terri Jacobs.

a presentation to the Haylene Grogan's Executive team at QLD Health. In Canberra, she met with Indigenous Allied Health Australia partners, National Rural Health Alliance and the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association and attended the Advisory Board meeting. We were delighted to receive strong support and the inclusion

of our brochures at workshops run by PEPA QLD and QAIHC SEWB team. Our websites continue to be well used by these organisations, which support them in their work, and it provides us with an opportunity to update these important organisations on new developments and resources.

## New Reviews



Review of diabetes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including a summary, factsheet and video

We produced two new health topic reviews in June which are part of our important work to provide information that is timely, accessible, and relevant to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector workforce. The reviews are accompanied by a plain language summary version, a video and factsheet as part of the suite of tools allowing multiple ways to access the latest information.



Review of cannabis use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including a summary, factsheet and video



## Perth Roundtable



Roundtable presenters Susan Holt, Neil Drew, Glenn Pearson, Ashley Reid, Robyn Hoffman

In June, I was delighted to host another Roundtable with representatives from many organisations in the health sector in Perth. Our guest speakers included:

- Ashley Reid, CEO, Cancer Council WA
- Glenn Pearson, Director of Aboriginal

Health, Kulunga Aboriginal Research Development Unit, Telethon Kids Institute

- Susan Holt, Western Australian Network of Alcohol & Other Drugs Agencies (WANADA)
- Robyn Hoffman, WA Branch Coordinator, Australian Association of Social Workers

Once again, the feedback we received has been uniformly positive. I thank the speakers and participants for taking time from their busy schedules to join us for a morning of information sharing and collegial networking.



## Social Media news

We continue to engage with and update our users via our social media channels. Our Instagram account is showing continued steady growth, up by 53.47% this year. Stay connected and follow us on our social media channels to keep up to date and share information from your organisation.



## TIS workshop

Research team member Ashleigh Parnell attended the Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) jurisdictional workshop in May, which was held in Adelaide. She also had the opportunity to update attendees on the TIS website, which supports them in their work. Ninti One fund the TIS website, which we designed and developed in consultation with the TIS members. The resource provides easy online access for TIS workers around the country <https://tacklingsmoking.org.au/> Ashleigh also attended the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) planning days, held in Adelaide on 13 and 14 July 2022 to provide input for the NBPU TIS Four Year Project Plan 2022-2026. The whole NBPU TIS team was in attendance, including members from all consortium organisations – the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, University of Canberra and Ninti One. National TIS Coordinator Professor Tom Calma AO FAA attended the Planning Days in person, and representatives from the Department of Health and Aged Care attended some sessions via weblink.



*Ashleigh Parnell presenting at the TIS workshop in May*



*Some of the members of the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking*

## Conferences



Mardi-Leigh Rolls, Goondir Health Service visits our stand at QAAMS



Astrid Melchers from SAHMRI



PHAA Conference delegates Lorelle Holland and Suzanne Eustace-Earle



HealthInfoNet's Joanne Hoareau (right) with Kerri Ann Fletcher from Lives Lived Well.

Since my last Communique we attended the following events.

- PHAA Preventative Health Conference Brisbane (exhibited)
- Australian & New Zealand Addiction conference Gold Coast (presented and exhibited)
- QAAMS Workshop Adelaide (exhibited and conducted a workshop)

## Jean Hailes for Women's Health



I am delighted that we are once again working on a project with Jean Hailes for Women's Health. We have enjoyed a longstanding relationship with this through

our Letter of Agreement signed in 2013. To further strengthen our partnership we will be promoting and participating in their annual Women's Health Week - Jean Hailes

for Women's Health | Women's Health Week ([womenshealthweek.com.au](http://womenshealthweek.com.au))

## Palliative Care week

Palliative Care Week was in May and we promoted this important event on our website, newsletters and on social media. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care portal is funded by Palliative Care Australia and has culturally appropriate resources to support practitioners working in this area <https://healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-system/palliative-care/>



## Staff news

We welcomed two new staff. Sara Cresswell to the Admin team as a casual and Research Officer Michelle Barrett.

As noted in my last Communiqué, our Research Team Leader Jane Burns retired after 21 years of outstanding service. Since her departure at the end of 2021 we have searching for an opportunity to come together to celebrate her career and wish her well for the future. After several months of COVID induced delays we held an event on the 26th July.

Pauline Shanley (Business Manager, Tara Hoynes (Development & Marketing Manager), Christine Potter (Senior Research

Coordinator) and Graham Barker (Senior Library Technician) celebrate 14 years at the HealthInfoNet. Monique Cumming and Vilma FitzGerald celebrated 4 years at the HealthInfoNet.

We enjoyed a staff cultural PD at the Art Gallery of WA (AGWA). Staff were taken on a special tour of several collections. In an Australian State Gallery first, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art took the entire stage at AGWA, during BlakLight, a month-long program celebrating the diversity of First Nations art and culture. There was also an extensive collection from the Pilbara region of WA.



Monique Cumming and Vilma FitzGerald celebrated 4 years at the HealthInfoNet



New Research Officer Michelle Barrett



Staff who joined the HealthInfoNet 14 years ago: Pauline Shanley, Christine Potter, Tara Hoyne and Graham Barker



New Admin team member Sara Cresswell



Uncle Mick paid a surprise visit and caught up with some of our staff



Jane Burns at her retirement lunch with Neil Drew



Staff cultural PD at the Art Gallery of WA