



Director's Communiqué

Issue 16:
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Director's welcome

Welcome to my first Communiqué for 2018. I commented to a few people that, while I have been extremely busy, it seems to have taken me a little more time than usual to settle into the rhythm and tempo of the year. Nevertheless, the year is already well under way and we have been busy with a number of projects not least of which is the completion of our shift to our responsively designed web resource. We anticipate launching this very soon so watch this space. My next Communiqué will be a special issue dedicated to this and our wonderful IT staff who worked tirelessly to bring the project to life.

As you will see below I welcome new partners to the HealthInfoNet. Our partnerships are crucial to our ongoing relationships with key organisations in the sector so it give me great pleasure to introduce the Australian Association of Social Workers WA and Hitnet as partners

and friends of the HealthInfoNet. I have been working closely with representatives from both organisations to develop some exciting joint initiatives that I hope to be able to share with you in the coming months.

I would like to introduce Melanie Robinson an Aboriginal artist from the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Melanie exhibited her work for staff at the HealthInfoNet and we purchased a number of works to be used on our site. Art is central to the HealthInfoNet resource and we are delighted to be working with such talented artists as Melanie. To honour their work we have reintroduced a gallery on our new resource.

Also, I am absolutely delighted to announce that Dr Uncle Mick Adams has been offered a three year extension to his Senior Research Fellowship at ECU

and the HealthInfoNet in recognition of his outstanding contribution over the last three years developing our primary research capability. To underscore his value to the University, shortly after his reappointment was finalised Uncle Mick was awarded a Lowitja CRC research grant leading a team of esteemed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers to explore the lived experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young men. There is much more to tell you so please read on and enjoy my March Communiqué.



Professor Neil Drew



Nutrition review

In February we produced a new Review of nutrition among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The review provides detailed information on food, diet and nutritional health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and includes data for diet-related conditions; morbidity, mortality and burden of disease. This review highlights the importance of nutrition promotion and the prevention of diet-related disease, and provides information on relevant programs, services, policies and strategies that help improve food supply, diet and nutritional health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The review was written by Professor Amanda Lee a Senior Advisor

at the Australian Prevention Partnership Centre at the Sax Institute and Kathy Ride (HealthInfoNet Research Team Leader) and shows the important part nutrition plays in health. As we see in many areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, community control has been shown to be critical for the success of nutrition programs.

<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/health-risks/nutrition/reviews/our-review>



We welcome new partners



Australian Association of Social Workers WA are the professional representative body of social workers in Western Australia. AASW (WA) is an active Branch with over 900 members and growing, managed by a voluntary Branch Management Committee elected by the membership. Social workers act collectively and individually to contribute to society in a way that is dedicated to achieving social justice, inclusion and wellbeing. The mission of the national association and its branches is to promote the profession of social work, advance social justice, uphold standards and build capacity of members. Nationally there are nine branches and national committees and practice groups supporting the work of the Association.



Hitnet is an innovative Australian 'Communication for Development' company that builds the smart digital

ecosystems needed to reach and engage the most marginalised of people. Hitnet empowers marginalised communities by co-creating culturally rich information and delivering it across an integrated digital platform. They co-create the information that empowers communities to make healthy life choices, prepare them for life in rapidly changing societies, and connect them with other communities now participating in and benefiting from the global digital economy. Their purpose is to co-create a platform for knowledge exchange, to build vibrant, included communities and by 2021, aim to be improving the lives of one million people daily.

National Close the Gap Day



Heart Foundation's Lyn Dimer with Neil Drew

This is at the core of what we do in supporting those working to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As we do each year we held a morning tea at our offices and invited a guest speaker from the sector.

I was delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Lyn Dimer from the Heart Foundation in WA.

Lyn is passionate about improving the health of her people and she works tirelessly to increase access to services and equality, which will lead to optimal care for her people who have, or are at risk of, cardiovascular disease. Lyn has qualifications in both health and education.

Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men's experiences research grant



Dr Uncle Mick Adams and Jesse Fleahy

Dr. Uncle Mick Adams our Senior Research Fellow has been awarded a Lowitja grant of almost \$300,000 to undertake research into the experiences of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. The research team also includes our own research team member Jesse Fleahy who will be engaged as a researcher on the project supporting Uncle Mick and collaborators from the University of Western Australia and Mibbinbah Men's Spaces. This is an extremely significant milestone in the development of the HealthInfoNet primary research capability.



Visitors to the HealthInfoNet

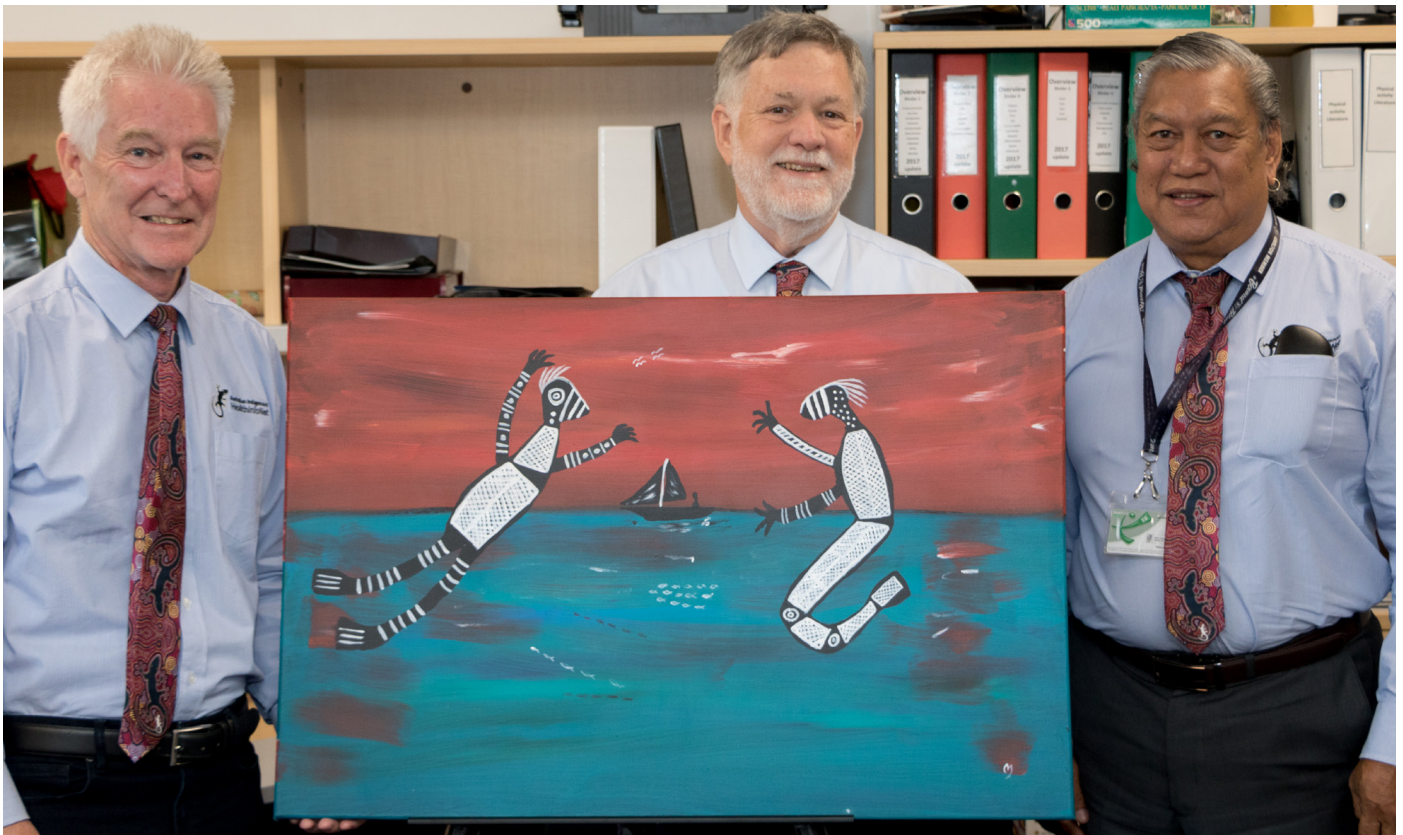
We always welcome visitors to our offices and if they have time we arrange a morning tea and provide an opportunity to share their work with our staff.

The Fred Hollows Foundation fund our eye resources section and pictured here are some of the HealthInfoNet research team involved in the project.



David Aanundsen (centre) from the Fred Hollows Foundation with HealthInfoNet staff

Retirement of a HealthInfoNet supporter



John is pictured centre with Neil Drew and Uncle Mick Adams.

I'd like to acknowledge Professor John Finlay-Jones, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Vice-President who retires this month. John has been a staunch supporter of our work since he joined ECU in 2008. He has been instrumental in getting support from ECU for our work and securing the appointment of Uncle Mick. He has an extensive track record

over three decades of personal excellence in teaching, research and community engagement. Prior to ECU, Professor Finlay-Jones was Assistant Director at the Telethon Institute of Child Health (2003-2008), and Professor of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and Head of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Flinders University (1998-2003).

Uncle Mick presented him with one of his artworks on behalf of staff as a token of our appreciation at a morning tea in his honour at our offices. Our best wishes to John for his support and a well-deserved retirement.

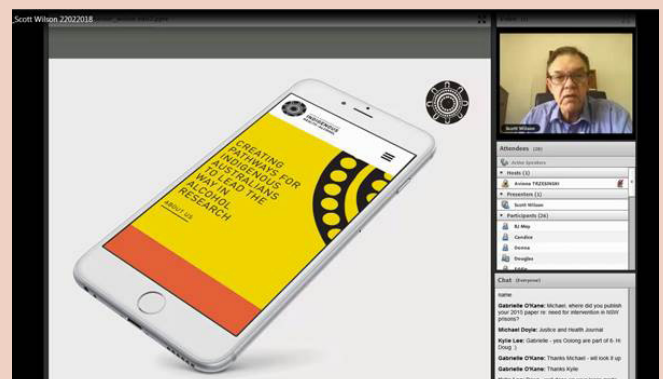
AOD Webinar with guest presenter from ADAC

The Australian Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre hosted a free one hour webinar on 22 February with guest presenter Scott Wilson from the Centre of Research Excellence: Indigenous Health and Alcohol. The webinar theme was *Creating pathways for Indigenous Australians to lead the way in alcohol research*. Associate Professor, Scott Wilson, is the CEO of the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council South Australia (ADAC), Adjunct Associate Professor at

the University of Sydney and Co-Deputy Director of Indigenous Health and Substance Use in Addiction Medicine, the University of Sydney and is on the Knowledge Centre reference group. He spoke about the Centre for Research Excellence in Indigenous Health and Alcohol which is aimed at supporting Indigenous researcher capacity in the field of alcohol use and health.

A recording of the webinar can be found on our website. They

provide a valuable learning tool for staff so please circulate the link <http://www.aodknowledgecentre.net.au/webinars>.



Art: an integral part of our site



The HealthInfoNet utilises artwork that is integral to the 'feel' and design of our web resource. All artwork is ethically sourced and used with the written permission of the artist.

In late 2017 Melanie Robinson visited us to display a wonderful selection of her work. Several pieces were purchased privately by staff or by the HealthInfoNet. The art pictured below will appear on our Alcohol and Other Drugs website. Melanie has kindly granted permission for all the artworks to be used on our site. Melanie's mother derives from the Northern Territory and Mparntwe (Alice Springs) where her family resided. Her connection with the

land and Aboriginal culture links directly with the Central Arrernte people, the traditional owners of Mparntwe. Melanie started to learn of her family's culture and history throughout the last ten years from visits to Mparntwe. It was during this time that Melanie's art career started to form with her natural ability to articulate and express her learnings through painting.

She has submitted art into the prestigious Cossack Art festival and sold many art pieces within Australia and internationally. Melanie has donated art to many charity organisations that has assisted many less fortunate people with sales contributing to improving life quality.

To see more of Melanie's work visit her Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MLRAboriginalArt/>. We are very proud to be associated with and have the privilege of displaying Melanie's work on our site.



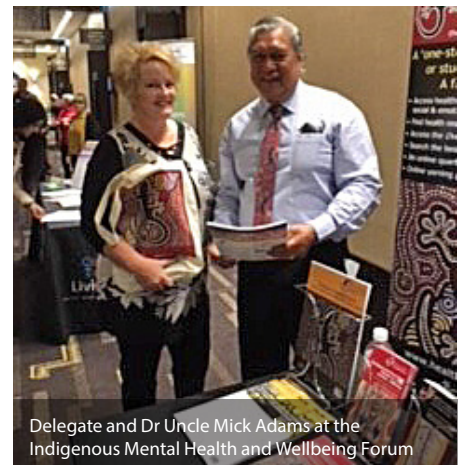
Engaging with the sector at HealthInfoNet Cafes

February:

- 2nd Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum Perth

March:

- QAAMS Workshop and presentation Brisbane. Used our bags as delegate satchels.
- WA AOD conference Perth
- Close the Gap for vision Melbourne
- Injury prevention Forum Perth
- We attended the ASOHNS scientific meeting in Perth
- NRHA scientific forum – our bags were used as delegate satchels.



Delegate and Dr Uncle Mick Adams at the Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Forum



HealthInfoNet's Sam Burrow (left) with some of the Fred Hollows Foundation staff at the Close the Gap for Vision conference