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Director's Communiqué

Director's welcome

Welcome to my July Communiqué. For much of the period since my April Communiqué, I have been in the UK visiting with my daughter and new granddaughter Elowen (yes... she is impossibly cute, even if I take off my firmly rose-coloured glasses).

For much of my time since the previous edition, I have been working closely with funding partners to negotiate renewed agreements for the period from 1 July. I am absolutely delighted to report that some of our current funding partners have renewed their commitment to the HealthInfoNet. This is a testament to the strength of our relationships and the quality of the work we have done together over a number of years. My sincere thanks to:

- Healing Foundation (the Healing Portal)
- eMHPac (WellMob)
- Palliative Care Australia (The Palliative and End-of-Life-care Portal)
- Ninti One (Tackling Indigenous Smoking)
- The Western Australian Government Department of Health (the WA Section)

For your commitment of trust and confidence in the HealthInfoNet.

Very shortly after I returned, it was a pleasure to host our Sydney Roundtable (see below for a full report). The Roundtable was very well attended, and I thank our presenting partners and all attendees. In these times of escalating costs, it is great to get so many supporters and friends in the same room for a couple of hours. There is always a great buzz in the room as people connect and reconnect with colleagues and friends.



My introduction to this communiqué is short and sharp. The only thing I could do to pad it out is provide you with a blow-by-blow account of my time overseas, but I will spare you that. Most of what I report below is the work of the wonderful team at the HealthInfoNet, and I thank them for their ongoing commitment and dedication. Please enjoy this update of our activities.

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.

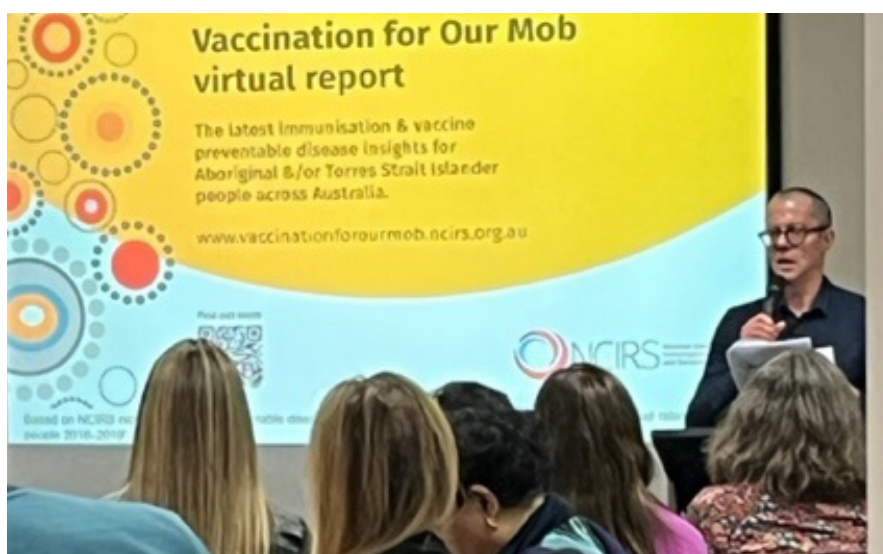
Sydney Roundtable



Roundtable presenters L-R: NCIRS Associate Director, Frank Beard, ASHM CEO, Alexis Apostolellis, Neil Drew, Alex Swain from Asthma Australia and ASHM Indigenous Health Engagement Advisor, Edan Campbell-O'Brien

COVID curtailed our engagement activities in Sydney for some years, but a full week in June this year allowed us to catch up more fully with key organisations and some of our NSW based partners. In addition to individual meetings, we held a Roundtable which brought together many organisations. As well as updating everyone on our work, we invited some of our NSW partners as guest speakers to talk about their work. As always, it was a valuable networking opportunity not only for us but for all participants.

Our guest speakers were some of our NSW based partner organisations - The Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM), Asthma Australia and National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS).



Frank Beard from NCIRS promotes the new Vaccination report at the Roundtable

Call for papers for the Journal of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet



The Journal of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (formerly the HealthBulletin Journal) has been published online since

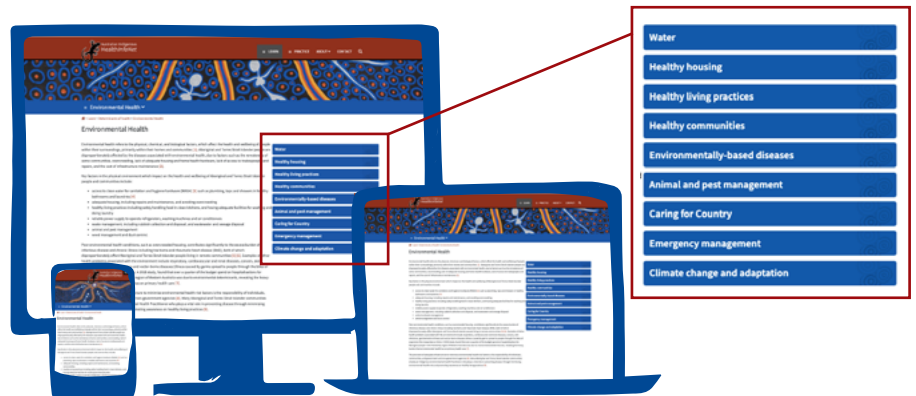
2020. In that time, it has received over 15,800 downloads in 88 countries and 463 institutions around the world. We invite you to submit an article to this rapidly growing publication.

We are seeking papers from researchers and practitioners that address key issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

health. Our goal is to provide high-quality information that is timely, accessible and relevant to support the everyday practice of those in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector workforce. Visit our journal [here](#) to submit your work. All submissions are subject to double-blind peer review.

New subtopics enhance Environmental Health Portal

The **Environmental Health Portal** located within the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website has undergone a refresh, including a revision and update of all subtopics and a tightening of the inclusion criteria for content on the portal. In 2022/23, the Environmental Health team at the HealthInfoNet consulted with the Expert Reference Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health (ERPATSIEH) to assist in fine tuning the key focus areas of the Portal. Feedback from a user survey also informed our revisions.

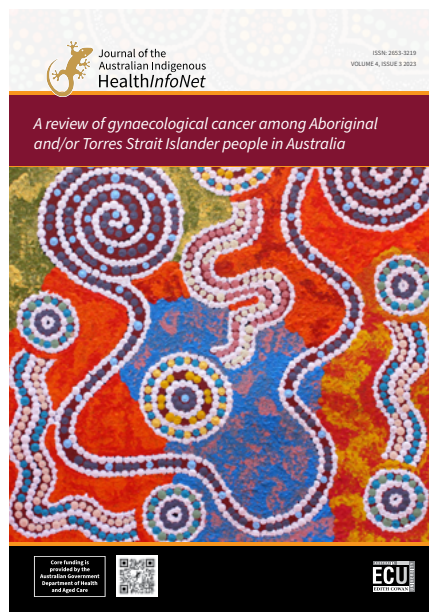


New review confirms little progress in gynaecological cancer outcomes among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women

Our latest **Review of gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia** shows that Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women are still disproportionately burdened by gynaecological cancers, impacted by increased exposure to risk factors as a direct result of colonisation.

Senior author, Associate Professor Lisa Whop, says that ‘Providing effective cancer prevention by risk reduction and participation in cancer screening programs for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people requires improved access to both high quality primary health care services and tertiary specialist services. This will also enable earlier diagnosis, management, and care for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women at all stages.’

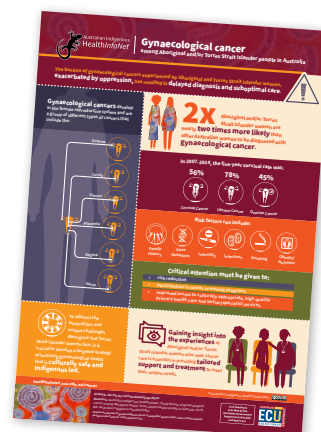
The review highlights that culturally safe, accessible and patient-centred care are key components to decreasing the burden of gynaecological cancers on Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women and their communities. It further notes that without equitable resourcing to implement effective prevention, management and care of gynaecological cancers, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women will continue to suffer. A plain language **summary**, **video** and **factsheet** are also available.



A review of gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia



Summary of gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia



Factsheet: Gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia



Video: Gynaecological cancer among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in Australia



Tackling Indigenous Smoking news

Ashleigh Parnell from our team attended the National Best Practice Unit - Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) planning days which included staff from the NBPU TIS, National Coordinator TIS Professor Tom Calma, staff from the Department of

Health and Aged Care, and staff from the TIS Program evaluators at ANU and CIRCA. The meeting was held on 6-7 July on Kurna Country (Adelaide). View the [Tackling Indigenous Smoking \(TIS\) program website here](#).

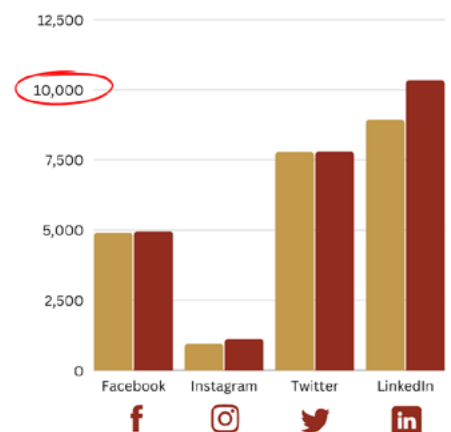
Advisory Board member news

National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) CEO and HealthInfoNet Advisory Board member Karl Briscoe has completed a Masters of Indigenous Business Leadership from

Monash University. Congratulations Karl. I also met Taylor Bliss one of our young representatives on the Advisory Board at our Sydney Roundtable and after many zoom meetings it was lovely to meet her in person.



HealthInfoNet Advisory Board member Taylor Bliss and Neil Drew at the Sydney Roundtable



Social media news

Our key focus these past few months was to grow our engagement and audience on LinkedIn, where our target users are most active.

In May, we reached a milestone of 10,000 followers on LinkedIn, where we continue to see the most activity on our posts.

Our Instagram account hit a milestone of 1,000 followers in March, and since then continues to grow in followers and maintain a steady level of engagement.

Partner news

National Rural Health Alliance one of our partners have produced their latest **podcast** featuring Timmy Duggan from Darwin.

Conferences

We exhibited at the following conferences:

- AADANT – Excellence in
- Indigenous AOD Programs Award
- WANADA, Perth - exhibited
- APNA, Perth – presented
- ACRA Perth – exhibited
- Allied Health Professions Australia – presented and exhibited
- Notre Dame University Nursing & Midwifery student event, Perth - exhibited
- Australian College of Nursing - exhibited.



Heidi Sturk, Director of e-Mental Health in Practice (eMHPrac) at Queensland University of Technology, visiting our stand at the 15th National Allied Health Conference in Perth.



Courtney King and Marianne Durbin at the ACRA Conference



Joanne Hoareau presents hamper to winner Fabian Yarran at WANADA conference



ACRA prize winner with Hannah Tarrant



Tara Hoyne at the Notre Dame Nursing and Midwifery student event

AADANT AOD award winner



Our congratulations to Jocelyn Dhu (left) of Drug and Alcohol Service Australia (DASA) who won the 'Excellence in Indigenous AOD Programs Award' for the Alternative

to Custody Program. We were delighted to again sponsor the prize for this category. Katie Flynn of AADANT (centre) and DASA CEO Eloise Page (right).

The runner up was the Red Dust and Salvation Army Intergenerational AOD Program for Men.



Kate Cresswell

Staff news

In February, we welcomed Admin casual Kate Cresswell to the team. Kate will be assisting in keeping stakeholder lists up to date as well as helping staff with conference requirements. Kate is completing a law degree.

We also welcomed back a former staff member Andrea McCrae. Andrea was the principal architect and led the internal

team that developed our customised cloud based project management system. The system has been a godsend enabling us to manage our workflows and activities from anywhere in the world. It has also significantly enhanced team communication and transparency. Andrea is undertaking a quality review of our management systems.