

# Director's Communiqué

Issue 17:  
July 2018

## Director's welcome

Welcome to my July Communiqué. Since my last communiqué we have celebrated NAIDOC Week. It is always a wonderful celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture. This year's theme was 'because of her we can' an acknowledgement of the leadership and contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. I have had the great honour and privilege to meet some remarkable women in my 30 something years of working in the field. I want to pay my respects and gratitude for their presence in my, indeed all our lives. In this communiqué I want to publicly acknowledge and express my sincere thanks to the wonderful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women that have worked at the HealthInfoNet during the last 20 years. To our current staff, Michelle, Sandra, Mikayla, Monique, Emma and our PhD student Charmaine, thank you for all

that you bring to the HealthInfoNet, it is truly because of you we can... because without you we simply cannot.

In June we also tried a new approach to our Roundtable series. In addition to inviting as many of our partners and friends as we could muster in Melbourne we also invited our formal partners to speak and tell us a little about what they have been up to lately. It was an outstanding success. Thanks to everyone who attended and in particular our partners who presented; Rom, Alana, Amanda and Hugh. We look forward to many more Roundtable events.

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on our new responsive designed websites. Your feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and supportive. But you also haven't been afraid to poke us in the ribs when you have found aspects

that haven't worked as well as we would have liked. In the spirit to co-design, co-construction and co-production please keep the feedback (both bouquets and brickbats) coming so that we can insure that the evolving new site continues to meet your needs in every possible way. We've already seen positive results on our new website. Making content easier to find was an important goal for the web redesign. We have seen a 35% increase in the number of pages viewed as well as a 17% increase in the average session duration.



Professor Neil Drew

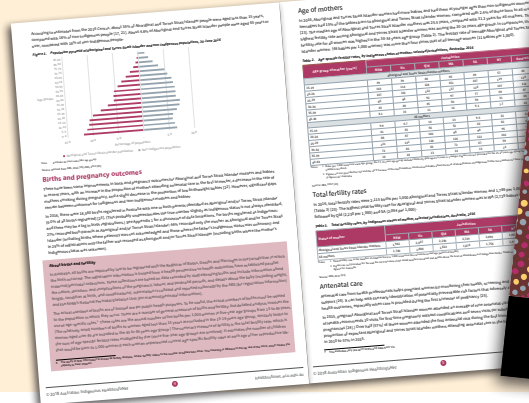


## Our Overview

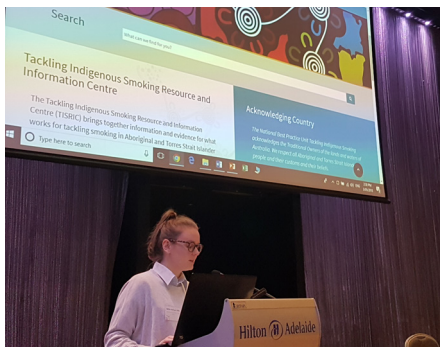
The most recent indicators of the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are documented in our authoritative annual publication, the *Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2017*.

In an increasingly data rich world the Overview 'cuts through' the enormous amount of information to provide a succinct, brief and evidence based review of key issues that will assist in everyday practice and policy. It summarises the current status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities on a number of health indicators.

<https://healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-facts/overview-aboriginal-torres-strait-islander-health-status/?id=35094&title=Overview+of+Aboriginal+and+Torres+Strait+Islander+health+status%2C+2017>



## Launch of the new Tackling Indigenous Smoking website



Millie Harford Mills presenting

Kathy Ride and Millie Harford Mills attended the National Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Workshop in early May to launch the new TIS website.

The HealthInfoNet is part of the National Best Practice Unit Tackling Indigenous Smoking (NBPU TIS) which provides support to the workforce funded under the Australian Government's TIS program.

The National TIS Workshop is an opportunity for the CEOs and senior representatives from each TIS-funded organisation to get together to reflect on the successes of the previous year, discuss initiatives going forward, and yarn with others in the sector. We were proud to launch the new website at this event, and we have already received some great feedback about it.

Visit the new TIS website at:  
<https://tacklingsmoking.org.au/>

## AOD webinars – recordings on our website



The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre hosted two more webinars. If you

missed these you can watch the recordings on the website.

In May, guest presenters Associate Professor Ken Pidd and Allan Trifonoff from the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA) gave a webinar titled, Drug testing: issues and implications for Indigenous workers.

In June, guest presenters Dr Mandy Wilson and Ms Ngaire Pigram spoke about young Aboriginal women, violence, substance use and the criminal justice system. The webinar described three interconnected research projects looking at the experiences of Aboriginal girls and incarcerated women around the issues of violence, substance use and contact with the criminal justice system.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCftVbk\\_1fVQz2i\\_9TyQ1E2Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCftVbk_1fVQz2i_9TyQ1E2Q)

## HealthInfoNet Cafes

### April

- WANADA Perth
- AHCWA Perth
- AADANT Darwin
- NRHA 6th Rural and Remote health symposium (provided bags)
- ARMS Close the Gap conference Canberra (provided bags)



Delegate at the Australia New Zealand Addiction conference



Avinna Trzesinski presenting Know Injury WA seminar

### May

- APNA Brisbane (we also presented)
- DAA Sydney
- Addiction conference Gold Coast (we also presented)
- Australia New Zealand Nurse educator's conference Melbourne



We held a workshop in Brisbane at Diabetes Queensland

### June

- Native Title Conference Broome
- PHAA (provided inserts)

### July

- Rural Health West Aboriginal Health conference Perth (we also presented)
- Mental Health Nursing Perth

### August

- PHCRIS Melbourne (unmanned table)

## Melbourne Roundtable



Presenters L-R: Romlie Mohak, Alana Killen, Neil Drew, Amanda Lawrence and Hugh Taylor

We held a Roundtable meeting in Melbourne in June. I had the opportunity to showcase our new responsive design websites and share some of our knowledge exchange products with organisations and peak bodies from around the state. Four of our Victorian based partner

organisations were invited to speak about their work which really enriched the Roundtable.

### Our partners:

• Professor Hugh R Taylor AC, Founder - Indigenous Eye Health Unit at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

- CEO Alana Killen - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)
- CEO Romlie Mohak - The Lowitja Institute
- Director Amanda Lawrence - Analysis & Policy Observatory

## Visitors to the HealthInfoNet



HealthInfoNet staff and Sinead Denny (second right)

In June, we welcomed Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Coordinator, Sinead Denny from Lions Outback Vision who told us about the amazing work they do in WA. In July, Jaki Barton the Regional Associate Director of the Australasia Fred Hollows Foundation and her son Jack joined us for a morning tea.



Jaki Barton (second from right) and son (far left)

## HealthDirect partners forum Melbourne

**healthdirect**

We are a Healthdirect information partner and in May our Development & Marketing Manager Tara Hoyne attended a partner forum. The focus was using multichannel in health and included presentations from the health sector about what's new in technology as well as technologies other organisations are using. Messaging and voice technology as an information channel is the growth area here and overseas. It was also an opportunity to meet other information partners.

## We welcome three new research staff



Research Officers, Emma Neil, Tamara Swann and Vilma FitzGerald

Emma Neil and Tamara Swann joined us in May and are both working on the HealthInfoNet core project.

Vilma FitzGerald followed closely after in June and is working on the AOD Knowledge Centre.

## Primary research news



Uncle Mick Adams meeting with some of the Fred Hollows team in Darwin.

Uncle Mick Adams, our Senior Research Fellow, is working on a number of research projects including an ICE toolkit (Curtin University), stroke, speech pathology (ECU) and valuing young men's health projects (Lowitja). In addition he featured in a 'Leader in research' film series produced by the NHMRC which was launched in May

<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/nhmrc-in-focus/features/leader-research>

His artwork also featured on the cover of AHPA (WA Branch) Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) <https://www.healthpromotion.org.au/wa-documents/1135-wa-branch-reconciliation-action-plan>

## HealthBulletin covers budget news

As we do each May we provided a repository with links to all the budget news relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health as well as media releases and responses from the sector. This makes it easier for our users to access the information in one place.

A screenshot of the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet website. The page features the HealthBulletin logo, a navigation menu with 'Current issue', 'Just in', 'Topics', 'About', 'Contribute', and 'Contact us', and a 'Current topics' section. The main content area highlights 'Budget 2018-19: Information of relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health', including a post date of 9 May 2018 and a list of related budget details and expenditure items.

## New advisory board member

It is with both sadness and gladness (apologies for a rather cheesy rhyme) that I must announce on the one hand my sadness that Professor Alex Brown has resigned from the Advisory Board and gladness that Professor Caroline Finch, Pro Vice Chancellor Research at Edith Cowan University has accepted my invitation to join the Board. Alex has been a staunch supporter of the HealthInfoNet almost from its inception. I have truly appreciated his advice and guidance.

He will be sorely missed but of course will always remain a member of the HealthInfoNet family and community.

Caroline has recently taken up her role at ECU. In addition to her many talents and achievements she has published widely in the area of knowledge exchange so I will be seeking her support and advice as we continue to journey to become a centre of excellence in knowledge exchange research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.



Professor Caroline Finch

Caroline joined ECU from Federation University where she was the Executive Dean of Graduate Studies. Professor Finch is a highly accomplished academic, who is the author of 411 peer-reviewed journal articles and 25 book chapters, and has earned over \$22m in research funding, including from NHMRC

and ARC, during the course of her career. Professor Finch has been ranked as one of the 10 most highly published injury researchers of all time, and is recognised as one of the most influential sports medicine researchers internationally.

## New partner organisation



We welcome Kidney Health Australia, the national peak body for people living with kidney disease, and their families and carers. They promote good kidney health through the delivery of programs in education, advocacy, research and support. They do this by developing and driving initiatives to 'Prevent, Detect, Support'. Their advocacy is focused solely on their vision – to save and improve the lives of Australians affected by kidney disease. This is achieved through their mission - to promote good kidney health through education, advocacy, research and support.

## PATSIMS workshops

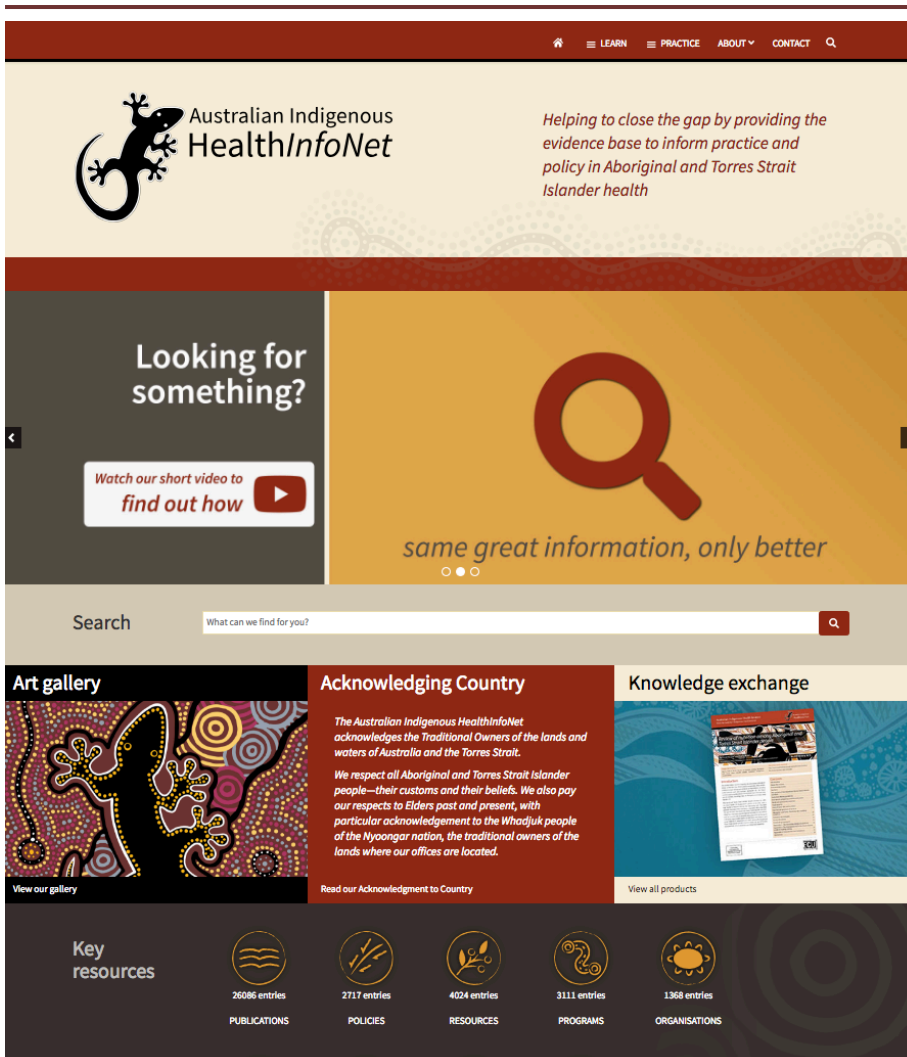


We conducted the last in our series of workshops in June at the Cancer Council SA in Adelaide and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service in Melbourne (pictured above) for the Preventing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Smoking project (PATSIMS). These

have been held around the country and have given participants a greater understanding of the resources that can assist them in their work.

<https://aodknowledgecentre.ecu.edu.au/learn/health-impacts/preventing-maternal-smoking/>

## Website redesign feedback



### **We've received a lot of positive feedback. Here are a few comments.**

The changes are fantastic – the information on this site has been critical in advocating for culturally safe practice in the mainstream service sector. Thank you for the thought given to the communication

*Looking for information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health. Couldn't suggest anywhere better to start your search. Loving the new look*

I really like your new website – it very clearly displays the options

*I can see that you've put a lot of thought into this, as well as the amount of work. You should be very proud of yourselves*

The new website looks fantastic! Can't believe you were able to do it in house – impressive!!

*We are going to use this as our main feature in this week's newsletter. The website is looking so good and it's so easy to use. Well done to the team*

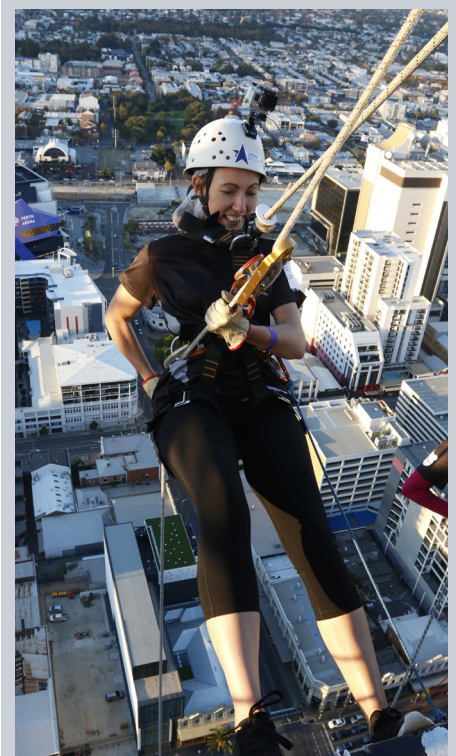
Wonderful! Thanks for sharing, as always. I always have and always will follow your site with interest

*Looking good Team! Well done*

I have had a play around on the new website, and think that it is fantastic – please pass on my congratulations to the team.



## Research staff raise much needed funds



Caitlin Gray - Research Coordinator

Two of our research staff were involved recently in fundraising projects. Jesse Fleay signed up for the 'Act for Peace Ration Challenge' eating the same food rations as a Syrian refugee for one week. Proceeds go towards food and medical supplies for Syrian refugees.

Caitlin Gray bravely abseiled down the QVI building in Perth to raise funds for the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation with proceeds going towards state-of-the-art equipment, medical experts, ground breaking research and much more. It's a cause close to her heart, with her young son receiving ongoing treatment for a rare disease.