**ANNOUNCING THE NEW NAME FOR THE SAHMRI ABORIGINAL RESEARCH UNIT**

The SAHMRI Aboriginal Research Unit is pleased to announce a new name and logo.

The new name for the unit is the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit. Wardliparingga is Kaurna language and literally translates to “house on the river.”

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**Featured image:** Yuendumu Door #17, Ngatijirrikirli (Budgerigar) by Paddy Japaljarri Stewart. Image courtesy of the Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation of Yuendumu and the South Australian Museum.
On Tuesday, 23 July the South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Network held a meeting to consider the process of knowledge translation from research into policy and practice. Approximately 50 network members gathered at Taunton College to hear from five panellists on their experiences and insight of knowledge translation.

Following on from the practical and interesting panel discussion, groups shared experiences and learnings around knowledge translation. These were interesting conversations that have hopefully started some reflection and consideration about how we can all make sure that research conducted in South Australia translates to better informed practice and policy to improve Aboriginal health.

A pair of black gloves was found at the end of the meeting. If they are yours, please contact karen.laverty@sahealth.com to have them returned.

### EXPERIENCES AND INSIGHTS FROM THE PANELLISTS

#### Dr Judith Streak (nee Gomersall), Joanna Briggs Institute

Judith set the scene for the meeting, discussing what knowledge translation means to individuals and the importance of clearly defining knowledge translation. She spoke about the process of building evidence from basic discovery, developing interventions and the actual delivery of interventions. Judith discussed the need for systematic engagement of service users, health practitioners and clinicians, and not just a focus on the outputs of research. Judith presented an overview of the model utilised for evidence-based health care by the Joanna Briggs Institute.

#### Jackie AhKit, Women’s and Children’s Local Health Network

Jackie provided an overview of the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Care model, which used evidence for program development and implementation. She discussed the Aboriginal Families Study, which is building the evidence in relation to Aboriginal women’s experiences of antenatal care in the South Australian context. The early findings of this qualitative study have shown that providing services for Aboriginal families via the Aboriginal Family Birthing Program has improved engagement of Aboriginal women with antenatal care services. This evidence has the potential to inform policy and practice. The study has also highlighted the need to address the social determinants of health through specific models of care through Aboriginal community programs with integrated community engagement and education. The challenge is sustainability of programs based on sound evidence across the system in a challenging economic environment with many competing priorities.

#### Dr Annapurna Nori, Public Health Medical Officer, Nunkuwarrin Yunti

Annapurna spoke about the importance of building and strengthening the capacity of service providers in understanding the concepts of research. Annapurna believes that it is important to be able to critically appraise research proposals presented to Aboriginal community controlled services to ensure that research will have a positive benefit to the service and clients. Nunkuwarrin Yunti has focused on undertaking research while supporting and mentoring Aboriginal staff to develop research skills as a critical element of the work. The service is developing a research policy which provides clear guidance to its staff, but also to external researchers wanting to engage with Nunkuwarrin Yunti. A complementary aspect of the policy includes the development of a research template aligned to the strategic directions of the organisation and incorporating the key elements of the NHMRC guidelines in conducting ethical research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Nunkuwarrin Yunti’s policy also focuses on the appropriate methodologies of cultural specificity and cultural validity of the projects being undertaken in partnership with the organisation. Annapurna argued that projects must always be considered and developed with the end point in mind, ensuring knowledge translation elements are considered from the beginning of the process, and continue throughout.

#### Dr Janet Kelly, Managing Two Worlds Project Leader, Flinders University

Janet presented the experience of knowledge translation from the perspective of the participants and researchers in the Managing Two Worlds Project which focused on Aboriginal patients journeys within and across the health system. To support knowledge translation, the project involved Aboriginal people in all stages of the project, and developed a set of patient journey mapping tools to assist with ongoing implementation of the findings. The partnership with Aboriginal people included contextualisation of the findings for translation into practice. The project has identified ways of working together to create flexibility in responding to the needs of Aboriginal people via practice and policy.

#### Katrina McLachian, Stories Well Told

Katrina discussed how researchers can utilise the media to gain better traction of research. It is important to consider and identify ways of connecting science to the public using a variety of means. In Katrina’s view, the media is a rapidly changing discipline with messaging and communication processes undergoing significant transformation with the emergence of digital media. There are new opportunities emerging for utilising the media in a proactive way to share findngs through social media and online media sources, allowing rapid postings and enabling research to be published on multiple platforms.
OUTCOMES FROM DISCUSSION GROUPS

Within small groups, we discussed enablers and challenges to knowledge translation.

Enablers and facilitators of knowledge translation:

- Research driven by community needs and supported by community.
- Community engagement and knowledge exchange from the beginning: engagement and exchange should occur at multiple levels, including with: community, representative Aboriginal organisations, health professionals, and non-health stakeholders; different levels within government, and; the wider research community.
- Research questions which address systems-level change.
- Participatory action research approach: action research supports engagement with and ownership by those involved, and supports implementation of the program.
- Recognition and acknowledgement of the political, social and local context of the research.
- The inclusion of knowledge translation in funding agreements: the process of knowledge translation should be recognised and incorporated into funding agreements and performance indicators. The translation and utilisation of knowledge should be a two-way process, recognised by both researchers and policy makers.
- Advocates with passion and commitment: advocates, particularly those who have the ability to influence your intended target, are important to have throughout the life of the research and knowledge translation process.
- Communication at the level of the audience(s): all communication should be targeted at a specific audience with understanding of that audience and their needs. Often, there will be multiple audiences, and communication must be specific to each audience. All messages must inform the audience at a level at which they have the ability to control and change, this is particularly important when making recommendations.
- Tools for dissemination: support translation and exchange.
- Utilising an opportunistic approach to knowledge exchange: recognising that it is important to pick the time and battles.

Challenges to overcome when engaging in knowledge translation:

- Funding: including sourcing funding in a tight economic climate and when there is competition, and overcoming siloed approaches to funding.
- Ignorance of context and needs by the research partners.
- Having policy makers who find value in the research and have the ability and capacity to implement recommendations.
- The continually changing scene of governments and policy.
- The complexity and time required to convert a research idea into findings, and then to communicate this to the appropriate audience.

Other factors to consider when engaging in knowledge exchange:

- The cost and cost-effectiveness of programs are often considered by policy makers.
- Knowledge exchange can be supported by sharing your knowledge within your groups. Providing Aboriginal researchers with a safe place to do this is important.

ABORIGINAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF SA HEALTH AWARDS

At the AHCSA NAIDOC Week Open Day, the inaugural Aboriginal Health Council of SA Health Awards were presented to role models in Aboriginal health in South Australia to recognise their often ‘unsung’ efforts.

Congratulations to the recipients:

- Outstanding Leadership Excellence Award: Eileen McHughes
- Aboriginal Health Worker Award, Female: Deanna Stuart-Butler
- Aboriginal Health Worker Award, Male: Peter May
- Outstanding Health Program/Project (AHCSA Membership): Anangu Bibi Birthing Program
PROJECT PROFILE

CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN THE SYNTHESIS AND TRANSLATION OF EVIDENCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF CHRONIC DISEASE IN INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

A collaboration of the University of Adelaide, NACCHO and Wardliparingga have recently been awarded a NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence grant for a project entitled ‘Innovation in the synthesis and translation of research evidence to inform the prevention, management and treatment of chronic disease in Indigenous populations’.

The Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) will seek to develop a program of inquiry to develop and establish rigorous and robust methods to synthesise and disseminate a broad range of evidence related to Indigenous peoples and, specifically, healthcare and social policy interventions that target chronic disease.

This CRE takes a very broad approach to evidence synthesis including, but not limited to, the synthesis of evidence of effects, prognosis and diagnosis, economic evidence, and methodologies of synthesis of mixed methods of research evidence. The program of research will focus on evidence generated about Indigenous health internationally, but will seek to ground the work in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maximise applicability. The project will make relevant, existing evidence for improving health care delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The program of research will extend beyond the synthesis of evidence, to translating the results into policy and healthcare practice and exploring the ethical dimensions of translating evidence into action in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Streams of study will include developing, piloting and establishing methods to:

- Engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the knowledge-to-action cycle;
- Implement evidence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and
- Develop an ethical framework for translational science in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE WARDLIPARINGGA ABORIGINAL RESEARCH UNIT TEAM

Elaine Kite
Elaine Kite originates from South Australia and is of Western Desert heritage; her cultural background being principally Kokatha. Elaine has worked extensively with Aboriginal communities in South Australia and Western Australia in community development, health and education. Prior to joining SAHMRI, Elaine worked as a Facilitator/Health Educator on the evaluation of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package; this was undertaken in collaboration with other researchers at Menzies School of Health Research.

Elaine is contributing to the development of the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration Chronic Care Model Study at Wardliparingga.

Dr David Johnson
Dr David Johnson is a general practitioner and active in the delivery of primary health care services to Tjuntjuntjara, a remote Aboriginal community. David has completed a Masters of Public Health and his Public Health Medicine Training Program. He is currently Medical Director, Spinifex Health Service, Tjuntjuntjara Aboriginal Community, where he oversees the development of their primary health service.

David has joined Warliparingga as a Practitioner Fellow and is focusing on research that can enhance Aboriginal primary care services.

Dr Paul Yerrell
As a social psychologist, Dr Paul Yerrell has worked in healthcare education and research for over 25 years in universities in the United Kingdom, prior to moving to Australia in 2009. His experience includes directing a Primary Care Research Network, and being group lead for National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE, UK) Guideline Development Groups. His most recent teaching has been on Masters Degrees in Public Health, Health Management and Higher Professional Education, for OBU, both in the UK and Hong Kong and PhD Research Student Supervision.

Prior to joining SAHMRI, Paul worked as a Senior Research Fellow/Consultant at Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute and at the University of South Australia (UniSA). At UniSA, the focus was on the development of a culturally-sensitive and context-specific methodology for collecting narratives of the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients with cancer and cancer services in relation to an advanced data monitoring system. Paul continues this work, now the Aboriginal Cancer Stories Study, as a member of the Wardliparingga team.
South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord
The Wardliparingga Research Unit is interested in seeking your thoughts and feedback on the development of a South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord (working title). Don’t forget to complete the SA Aboriginal Health Research Accord survey and provide your feedback. The survey aims to reflect the issues raised by the principles and the role that people play in implementing them within their daily work context, and should take you 15-30 minutes to complete. Click here to complete the survey.

Next Network Meeting: One Mob - Getting to Know Each Other
The next network meeting will be centred on network members sharing who they are. This idea was put forward by network members at the meeting on knowledge translation.

When: Tuesday, 24 September, 2pm – 5pm
Venue: Cottage A, WEA - 223 Angas Street, Adelaide
Please note change of date from announced at the previous network meeting. For more information, click here to view invitation.

Governor’s Leadership Foundation Program – Scholarship
The Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) are sponsoring the Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls and Lady Gladys Nicholls Indigenous Scholarship program in 2014. This scholarship provides a unique opportunity for aspiring Aboriginal leaders in the South Australian public sector to participate in the Governor’s Leadership Foundation Program (GLF), which is run by the Leaders Institute of South Australia.

This scholarship is open to Aboriginal staff from all state government departments and agencies. Recruitment for the 2014 program has commenced. Applications close 5pm on Monday, 9 September 2013.

The Leaders Institute is holding two information sessions for interested parties. Further information on the program, the GLF 2013 Prospectus and the 2013 application form can be found at www.leadersinstitute.com.au, or from Sam Fletcher, Program Leader, DPC (08 8204 9982 or sam.fletcher@sa.gov.au)

Indigenous Knowledge Symposium: ‘Protecting Country and Connecting the Expertise’
The David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research would like to invite you to the Indigenous Knowledge Symposium on Protecting Country and Connecting the Expertise.

Indigenous peoples have a long tradition of meeting to share ideas, consolidate knowledge and collectively sustain natural resources. In keeping with this tradition, Kaurna Elder, Uncle Lewis O’Brien, is leading an Indigenous knowledge symposium on protecting country and connecting knowledge about many related aspects of water and land sustainability.

When: Monday, 30 September, 9am – 5pm
Venue: Bradley Forum, Hawke Building, UniSA City West campus
For more information and to register, click here. Please note, spaces are filling quickly!

The 2013 State Population Health Conference provides a key public health/population health networking opportunity and a supportive environment for presentations by students, Early Career Researchers and practitioners.

When: Saturday, 26 October, 9am – 5pm
Venue: The Education Development Centre, Milner St, Hindmarsh
Registration fee: $15 students; $25 association members; $40 non-members. To register, click here.

A Palliative Approach in Aged Care Workshop
The Palliative Care Council SA in collaboration with Leading Age Services Australia – SA, is presenting two workshops covering a range of topics around palliative care.

The workshops will be held Friday, 27 September and Friday, 22 November. To register for the first workshop, click here, or contact Teresa Onorato, Palliate Care Council SA (0415 883 275 or tonorato@pallcar.asn.au).

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