

AH&MRC

Newsletter



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Inside this issue:

From the Chair	2
From the CEO	2
History Page	3
Appear in our Newsletter	3
The Aboriginal Health College	4
Safe Homes— Safe Kids	5
Tamworth AMS	6
Safe Sex Campaign	6
STI & BBI	6
Tanya King Award	7
Sexual Health Update	8
AH&MRC Staff Changes	8
Chronic Disease Workshops	9
MERIT Program	10
Health Promotion	10
CCAHP	11
AH&MRC AGM	12
AH&MRC	12
Support Us	12

The First National Aboriginal Lupus Workshop

The first National Aboriginal Lupus Workshop was held in Sydney on Friday, 15th February 2007. This meeting was convened by the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health, a partnership between the AH&MRC and the Sax Institute, in response to Aboriginal community concerns about lupus and its impacts on individuals, families and communities. Lupus is a chronic auto-immune disease, most commonly diagnosed in women of child bearing age; its impact on health can range from mild to severe.

The workshop was attended by more than 100 people from all States and Territories, including Aboriginal people living with or affected by lupus, health care providers, and researchers. Following welcomes from Professor Sally Redman (Sax Institute) and Sandra Bailey (AH&MRC), the workshop opened with powerful personal stories from Julie Andrews from Victoria and

Jacqui Katona of the Lumbu Foundation. They talked of family and personal experiences of being diagnosed and living with lupus. Other speakers were Professor Graeme Stewart and Dr Jan Vaile, who gave clinical and specialist information about lupus; Keren Dando who presented from both personal and natural therapies perspectives; Ken Latham from WA who talked of his family's experiences; and Dr Jenny Hunt and Marline Squance who discussed lupus research possibilities and practice. The program also included a lunchtime session about self-management for people living with lupus, and opportunities for Aboriginal people affected by lupus to share their stories, raise issues and make recommendations.

Many issues were raised, including:

- the major impacts of lupus on Aboriginal people
- the lack of understanding of lupus in Aboriginal communities, and the lack of culturally relevant resources
- the problem of late diagnosis of lupus and the need for GP education
- difficulties with accessing specialist care because of "up front" fees
- the need for research to find out more about the numbers of Aboriginal people affected by lupus

If you would like a copy of the workshop proceedings and recommendations for action, please contact the Sax Institute (Ph: 02 9514 5950) or check the AH&MRC website. 🙌



L-R: Julie Andrews and Jacqui Katona
photo by Jeremy Piper

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From the Chair

Yamma! Readers will be aware that Mr Frank Vincent wrote the foreword for the first Newsletter of the AH&MRC in September 2006. At the Annual meeting of members of the AH&MRC in October 2006, Frank advised the members that he did not wish to stand for re-election. I was one of the contenders for the Chairperson's position. Much to my surprise the members voted me in to this very responsible role.

I would first like to recognize the enormous contribution of Mr Frank Vincent as the Chairperson of the AH&MRC. I have always known Frank to be a man of high integrity, devoted and dedicated in the promotion of all aspects of Aboriginal Affairs. He has left behind a huge pair of shoes to fill. Secondly, I would like to thank the members for believing that I would be suitable as their Chairperson. I shall endeavour to be the advocate for our members, and will be guided by the issues that they raise from the community.

To introduce myself – I am a Gamilaraay woman; my mother's family is from Collarenebri. My father's family is English. My heart has lived and

breathed Aboriginal Affairs since 1975, working with the Aboriginal Legal Service (Walgett branch) for eleven years, and working with Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service for twenty years.

I have visited the new premises of the AH&MRC at Wentworth Avenue, closely located to Central railway station, so we bushies don't get too lost! The offices are all located on one floor which allows for better communication with each other, and easier access and visibility. As we move into a new year, the AH&MRC are working on many projects during 2007, with much enthusiasm and commitment to ensure Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services are seen as leaders in all aspects of Aboriginal life. It is with this excitement that I look forward to ensuring my role as Chairperson is a voice and a vehicle for people in the communities from which the AH&MRC draws its members.

Christine Corby, Chairperson ☺



Christine Corby
AH&MRC Chair

From the CEO

Welcome to the second edition of the AH&MRC newsletter. The AH&MRC Secretariat has settled into our new "home"

in Surry Hills – the move was a big change for some of us, after being located in Redfern for the past 14 years. However, we are still within walking distance to Redfern, our staff are all located on the one floor, and we now have disability access.

In this issue we highlight courses available through the Aboriginal Health College (p 4), and it is a pleasure to announce that there has been significant progress towards building the College at Little Bay. Construction is expected to commence in mid 2007.

Another project the AH&MRC has been working on is the national development of the Secure Aboriginal Medical Service Information System (SAMSIS) through NACCHO affiliates in each state and territory. The SAMSIS is a secure and confidential web-based resource designed for Aboriginal Medical Services, and it will assist with the management of non-clinical information on health services, workforce, community and population profiles. Participating AMSs

will be able to make better use of available data to meet operational, planning and reporting needs. All AMSs will have complete control over their own information.

The AH&MRC Ethics Committee commenced operation in 1996. Last year the AH&MRC Board initiated a review to address operational aspects of the Ethics Committee. The Review's report was endorsed by the AH&MRC Board at the November meeting, and work is currently underway to implement recommendations for ongoing improvement in the vital area of evaluating Aboriginal health research in NSW.

It has been a very busy time at the AH&MRC Secretariat with a number of workshops and projects being conducted for AMSs throughout the state – some of these are highlighted in this issue.

I hope you enjoy catching up on the news in this second edition, and look forward to any comments or suggestions you may have for future editions of our newsletter.

Kind regards, Sandra Bailey,
Chief Executive Officer ☺



Sandra Bailey
AH&MRC CEO

History Page

The AH&MRC plans to acknowledge the history and development of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations in Australia, through profiling people who have made a significant contribution. One such person is pictured below—can you guess who it is?



The answer can be found on page 11. 🙌

Appear in AH&MRC Newsletter

We want your stories for future newsletters! Stories can be up to 200 words and might be about your service, your project, coming events, conference reports or anything else to do with Aboriginal health.

Remember to include a story title

and who you are. We'd love to have photos to accompany your stories (ideally in .tif format - please contact us to discuss alternatives).

Stories and questions can be e-mailed to newsletter@ahmrc.org.au. Please note that your story may be edited, depending on space etc. 🙌

Suggest a name for our newsletter. Email ideas to: newsletter@ahmrc.org.au

Aboriginal Health College

The Aboriginal Health College (AHC) is now in full swing for 2007 with a series of training programs underway and other product development about to begin. Terry Smith was appointed to the position of Manager Education and Training in December 2006. Terry comes to the AH&MRC after 20 years of working in community services, including 10 years experience in vocational education and training. He has recently completed a Masters of Education in Adult Education.

February will see the roll out of pilot training in **Certificate IV Frontline Management** for supervisors and team leaders. This training will be based around three, five day residential blocks spaced out over the year. This will be complemented by tutor support, learning materials and workplace projects. The initial response has been very positive. There will be further opportunities to enrol once the first program gets underway.

The AHC has proudly added five **Eye Care Skills Set** graduates to its graduate base (Alumni). This number will increase as other students complete their self-paced assessment activities. Feedback on the course and the International Centre for Eye Care Education's (ICEE) involvement in the technical training components has been excellent. The AHC is looking forward to playing a continuing role in training in the Eye Care area, both in NSW and interstate.

The AHC will be delivering the **Certificate III Community Services (with a focus on Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug work)** throughout 2007 with two cohorts of 12 students. The first training block begins in February. A second intake will follow in July with residential blocks spread over twelve months.

This follows on from the highly successful Foundation Skills set in Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Work course. This course run in association with TAFE NSW achieved great results with 49 people successfully completing the course.

The **Certificate IV in Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Work and the Diploma of Community**


Services (Case Management) with a focus on Aboriginal dual diagnosis, are in the design and development stages with learning and assessment resources on the drawing board. The Certificate IV will focus on specialist skills sets to complement products being developed in Western Australia and will feed into the Certificate III and Diploma qualifications.

The **Diploma of Community Services (Case Management)** (with a focus on Aboriginal Sexual Health) continues in 2007 with both continuing students and some new enrolments.

The AHC is also set to deliver **Aboriginal Health Worker Traineeships** and is working on developing learning and assessment materials for a Heart Health skills set, which will be similar in structure to the successful Eyecare Skills Set materials. Population Health Traineeships are also on the agenda as are training and assessment materials around Cardiovascular health and Diabetes.

All of the above is set to be supported by a new online learning platform purchased from Janison toolbox. The online site will help to keep students connected between workshops, provide e-learning links and lead to useful discussions on learning topics.

The AHC staff are excited about this year's program and look forward to working with you in delivering quality educational outcomes in Aboriginal health.

Course enquiries are always welcome and the AHC team encourage you to give us a call on 9212 4777 and talk to us about your education needs either as an organisation or as an individual. 

"The new online learning platform will help to keep students connected between workshops, provide e-learning links and lead to useful discussions on learning topics"



The Eye Care Training Participants

Safe Homes – Safe Kids: Home Safety Checklist

Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service (AMS), has launched a new child safety resource book titled "Safe Homes – Safe Kids: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Home Safety Checklist".

The book has taken a different approach in trying to get information about child safety in the home across to families. While the book contains plenty of written information, it also contains clever cartoons depicting many safety messages. This information is great for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. The book is also a great colouring-in book for kids, with the idea that kids should be involved in learning about safety around the home, and should be encouraged to be responsible for ensuring their home is a safe environment for the whole family.

Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service received funding for the book from Families First (a NSW Government initiative) and the Aboriginal Child, Youth and Family Strategy. The illustrations

were provided by Illawarra artist Paul Dorin.

The book is a response to the incidence of child accidents and injuries occurring in the home environment, and the belief that with more information, many of these could easily be prevented.

Illawarra AMS are in the process of sending a copy to each AMS across Australia, and are currently investigating funding opportunities to enable distribution of larger quantities.

Family Support Workers at Illawarra AMS are using the resource in conjunction with a series of home visits. Families with young children are provided with the resource, and a kit of simple home safety equipment. The home visit provides an opportunity to identify other potential home hazards, and develop possible solutions.

If you would like to know more about the Safe Homes – Safe Kids book, please email Terri Farrelly on ph: 02 4229 9495 or email: tfarrelly@illawarraams.com.au

"While the book contains plenty of written information, it also contains clever cartoons depicting many safety messages" that allow "kids to be involved in learning about safety around the home"



L-R: Terri Farrelly, Greg Potts and Shirley Lehossin with the Safe Homes – Safe Kids: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Home Safety Checklist

Member Profile: Tamworth AMS

Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service (TAMS) opened its doors in February 2005.

Currently TAMS employs a Coordinator, two Aboriginal Health Workers, a Registered Nurse, a fulltime General Practitioner and receptionists, and a Boys and Men's Health worker will be appointed soon. There are a number of services that provide outreach through

TAMS and we are always actively developing partnerships.

TAMS also auspices the Yaamanhaa Men's Group who provide a range of programs and support for Murri Men in the Tamworth community. TAMS success stems from the commitment of a supportive Executive Committee and dynamic staff. TAMS looks forward to continued growth and the provision of holistic health services to Tamworth and the surrounding areas.

TAMS can be contacted on 67665211 or by e-mail at coordinator@tams.org.au



Safe Sex Campaign

Recently the NSW Minister for Health announced a \$300,000 grant to the AH&MRC to develop a state wide, multimedia, social marketing, campaign addressing HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Aboriginal Communities.

The key objectives of the campaign are to:

1. Increase NSW Aboriginal communities' awareness and knowledge of:

- HIV and STIs;

- the importance of the use of condoms with casual sexual partners; and
- testing and management issues and services for HIV and STIs.

2. Improve the quality of Aboriginal HIV and STI health promotion programs through community engagement, strengthened planning, and workforce development.

This is an exciting opportunity for the AH&MRC and CCAHP who will oversee the campaign.

"AH&MRC awarded \$300,000 for State wide safe sex campaign"

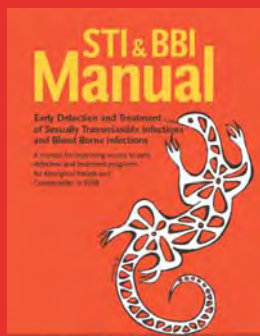
STI & BBI Manual

The AH&MRC recently launched the *STI & BBI Manual: Early Detection and Treatment of Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Infections*. The manual is designed as a practical tool to improve access to early detection and treatment programs for Aboriginal communities in NSW.

The *STI & BBI Manual* has been distributed to a wide range of key services including; Aboriginal

Community Controlled Health Services, Aboriginal Sexual Health Workers, sexual health services, Area Health Services and other key organisations. The AH&MRC is planning workshops across NSW to ensure best use, and implementation of the strategies in the Manual.

If you require further copies of the *STI & BBI Manual*, or have any queries about this resource, please contact James Ward jward@ahmrc.org.au, P: 9212 4777.



Award Named After Tanya King



Tanya King

The late Tanya King was a strong, young Aboriginal woman committed to ending violence against women and children. Tanya was well known through

her work as the Maternal Health Worker at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation in Airds, a suburb of Campbelltown NSW, and was instrumental in securing funding for the Tharawal Antenatal Home Visiting Program.

Tanya was elected as a Regional Councillor with the former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, and was also a dynamic member of the Aboriginal Housing Office. Tanya always strived to make a difference to her community.

Tanya took up the position as the Regional Violence Prevention Specialist in Broken Hill to be closer to her family, and to work on something she was passionate about.

Tanya was a very proud Nyampa woman from Menindee who worked tirelessly with victims of sexual assault. Tanya had a personal experience as a victim of child sexual abuse, and was taking legal action. Sadly she was killed in a tragic car accident and died before she could have closure.

Recently, during White Ribbon Week, the Violence Against Women Unit, announced that an award will be named in Tanya's honour.

The Award was presented in Sydney by Tanya's daughter, Jeda Sloane.

The recipients were Dr Michael Flood, Postdoctoral Fellow with La Trobe University, and Ms Kristin Dawson, from the Sydney Women's Counselling Centre.

You can visit Tanya's website at <http://tanya-king.memory-of.com>.

The Tanya King Award
 Recognises the outstanding efforts and contributions of individuals on the lives of victims and survivors and/or to the field of prevention of violence against women.
 This category is a newly created category in honour of the late Tanya King, the Regional Violence Prevention Specialist for Broken Hill, who died in an accident in 2005 while at work.

"Tanya King was a very proud Nyampa woman from Menindee who worked tirelessly with victims of sexual assault"



L-R: The Hon. Morris Iemma, Jeda Sloane presenting Dr Michael Flood with the inaugural Tanya King Award

HIV, STI & Hepatitis C Strategy: Implementation Days

On the 30th and 31st of October 2006 NSW Health held implementation days for the HIV, STI and Hepatitis C Strategy: Implementation Plan for Aboriginal People in NSW and the NSW Hepatitis C Strategy.

The AH&MRC assisted in the planning and facilitation of both days, and Sandra Bailey, Chief Executive Officer, was a key note speaker. Sandra highlighted the importance of the

NSW Strategies in reducing the rates of HIV, STIs and hepatitis C in Aboriginal communities.

There was significant representation of Aboriginal health workers from a range of disciplines on both days. Aboriginal Sexual Health Workers and AH&MRC staff had key roles in facilitating breakout sessions on both days.

Each of the strategies can be accessed through the AH&MRC website (www.ahmrc.org.au). 🖱️

Free Blood Borne Virus & Sexual Health Updates

The AHMRC are able to offer free updates on Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses and how they impact on Aboriginal communities, to health workers. The sessions can range from half a day to a full day,

depending on your services' needs. If you would like more information, or would like to book a session for your service, please contact Nicole Alexander P: 9212 4777, E: nalexander@ahmrc.org.au or Sallie Cairnduff P: 9212 4777, E: scairnduff@ahmrc.org.au. 🖱️

AH&MRC Staff Changes

The AH&MRC would like to farewell John Williams, Steve Ella, and Miriam Cavanagh. John worked at the AH&MRC as a Senior Policy Officer for 10 years, in a wide ranging mix of roles including providing technical advice and support to member organisations in the areas of incorporation, partnerships, data and information, memberships and taxation. He also provided secretariat support to the AH&MRC Ethics Committee since its inception. Steve Ella was seconded to the role of AH&MRC Drug and Alcohol Policy Officer for twelve months, and has coordinated the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network (ADAN), and facilitated the successful Fundamental Skills course. Steve will have an ongoing role at the AH&MRC, providing

input through ADAN. Miriam Cavanagh worked at the AH&MRC as the Gambling Project Officer, and left to take up a position at the University of Wollongong.

Ben Thomson started as the Human Resources Project Officer in February 2007, and will be working to enhance AH&MRC member support in the areas of resourcing and planning, employment conditions, employee care, performance management and review.

Rick Welsh has recently been appointed as the NSW Aboriginal Men's Health Project Officer, to work collaboratively with Aboriginal Men's Groups throughout NSW. Other recently appointed AH&MRC staff are: Jude Page, Merit Project Officer (see page 10); and Terry Smith, Education and Training Manager, Aboriginal Health College (see page 4). 🖱️



L-R: Ben Thomson & Steve Ella

AH&MRC Chronic Disease Workshops

In 2006, the AH&MRC worked with the Alliance of NSW Divisions of General Practice and Medicare Australia to develop and run a series of regional workshops for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs). The workshops were focused on building organisational capacity of ACCHSs to implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Adult Health Checks, and building productive partnerships between ACCHSs and Divisions of General Practice.

Adult Health Checks (Medicare Item 710) were included in the Medicare Benefit Schedule in May 2004 for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between the ages of 15 – 54; with the aim of improving health. The AH&MRC developed workshops to address a range of barriers ACCHSs identified as contributing to slow uptake of Adult Health Check and other Medicare items. Workshop sessions were designed to provide information about chronic disease, Medicare item numbers, successful models from ACCHSs around Australia (particularly Illawarra AMS), barriers to implementation and ways of overcoming them, and action planning.

The workshop was piloted in Dubbo on 1-2 May 2006. After additional funding was secured, further workshops were conducted in: Port Macquarie: 4-5 September; Armidale: 7-8 September; Wollongong: 28-29 September; Wagga Wagga: 2-3 November.

Feedback from the pilot workshop indicated that a practical skills session aimed at Aboriginal Health Workers would be beneficial for staff with limited skills or confidence in conducting Adult Health Checks. An additional half day session was included in the program for the remaining workshops.

In all, there were 143 workshop participants from 31 ACCHSs and 9

Divisions of General Practice. These include 43 Aboriginal Health Workers, 25 nurses, and 17 doctors, as well as CEOs, managers, administrative and program staff. Workshop evaluations have been very positive.

The AH&MRC would like to thank all those people who made these workshops successful. Special thanks go to Elders: Mark Rutherford, Elva Taylor, Clarice Brunker, Dorothy Williams, and Val Weldon. Also, thanks to: Leah Stevenson and Tasia Malinowski, from the Alliance of NSW Divisions; Colin Phillips of, Medicare Australia; Sue McPaul, Clinical Nurse and Chris O'Brien, Aboriginal Health Worker from Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service; and ACCHS staff from the host organisations (Thubbo, Durri, Illawarra, Riverina and Pat Dixon clinic in Armidale).

Further funding is being sought to allow the AH&MRC to conduct workshops and other chronic disease support activities for member services in 2007.

If you want to know more please contact Dr Jenny Hunt, Medical Policy Officer or Sid Williams, Chronic Disease Workshop Coordinator on 02 9212 4777. 🙌

"The workshops focused on building organizational capacity to implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Adult Health Checks"



Workshop participants in Wagga Wagga

“AH&MRC has commenced a new project that will develop strategies to improve opportunities for Aboriginal participation in the MERIT program”

Improving Aboriginal Participation in the MERIT Program

The Magistrate's Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) Program is a voluntary program for people on bail from Local Court who want help with their drug problem. Developed in response to the NSW Drug Summit, the three-month intensive drug treatment program is aimed at breaking the cycle of crime by addressing the underlying factors associated with criminal behaviour and tailoring a program for each person. On completion of the program, defendants return to court for sentencing. MERIT is a joint initiative between the criminal justice and health sectors.

Evaluation of MERIT shows that defendants who completed the program were less likely to re-offend in the following 12 months compared to defendants who do not complete the program.

In most regions, Aboriginal clients are less likely to complete MERIT. In order to address this difference, the

AH&MRC has commenced a new project that will develop strategies to improve opportunities for Aboriginal participation in the MERIT program.

A steering committee has been formed to oversee the project with representatives from: NSW Attorney General's Department, Crime Prevention Division; NSW Health's Centre for Drug and Alcohol; The Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council; The National Alcohol and Drug Association (NADA); AH&MRC; Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Network (ADAN); and MERIT staff.

Currently, consultations are being conducted with Aboriginal Communities and Area Health Services across NSW to inform the direction of the project.

Jude Page recently started work at the AH&MRC as the MERIT Project Officer. Jude has a background in health promotion and drug & alcohol. You can contact her to find out more about the MERIT program on P: 9212 4777 E: jpage@ahmrc.org.au

NSW Aboriginal Health Promotion Community Grants

The Honourable John Hatzistergos, Minister for Health, recently announced funding of \$496,896 for the 2006/2007 New South Wales Aboriginal Health Promotion Community Grants Scheme.

Eleven innovative health promotion projects will be funded. The funded projects are:

Aboriginal Adolescent Healthy Lifestyle Cine-literacy project – Durri AMS

Nyinhi Gurrar: Live Long – educating children about Type 2 diabetes – Durri AMS

Better Teeth for Bellbrook mob – Durri AMS

Pit Stop in the Park – Galambila AMS

Marang Yirrang means Good Teeth (Wiradjuri) – Thubbo AMS

Healthy Lifestyle Program – Griffith AMS

Better Antenatal Outcomes for At Risk Mothers & Babies Health Promotion Project – AMS Redfern

Better Health Stronger Communities – South Coast AMS

Butt Busters – Smoking Cessation Program – AMS Western Sydney

Good & Health Together – Cumeragunja AMS

Lets Get Fital – Bulgarr Ngaru AMS

The NSW Aboriginal Health Promotion Community Grants Scheme is administered by the Collaborative Centre for Aboriginal Health Promotion and aims to enhance the capacity of local services and communities in identified areas of health promotion

CCAHP Happenings

The Collaborative Centre for Aboriginal Health Promotion (CCAHP) has been established as a Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal Health Promotion and is a business unit of the AH&MRC. The CCAHP is responsible for building the capacity of the Aboriginal Health Promotion workforce; administering the Aboriginal Health Promotion Grants Scheme; promoting Aboriginal health and safety; gathering, reviewing and disseminating information about Aboriginal health promotion; and supporting Aboriginal Health Promotion research.

Current activities of the CCAHP include:

2006/2007 Aboriginal Health Promotion Forum Series

Following on from the success of the first forum on Smoking Cessation and Tobacco Control in October last year, the second forum will aim to develop a coordinated approach to Nutrition and Physical Activity in Aboriginal Communities. The second forum will be held on the 28th February and 1st March 2007 at Australian Technology Park (Redfern).

CCAHP plans to hold a further two forums in this series. These will focus on Child & Maternal Health Promotion on the 19 April and Safety Promotion & Healthy Communities on the 9 and 10 July 2007. Both events will be held at Australian Technology Park. Further information about any of these workshops can be obtained by calling the CCAHP on 9212 4777 or emailing info@caahp.org.au.

Aboriginal Health Promotion Grants Scheme

The Promotion and application process of the 2006/07 Grants Scheme has been completed. The Grants Program Managers were busy promoting the Scheme to communities across the state and have worked with staff from interested Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) to ensure applications meet the grant guidelines. An independent assessment panel met on December 13th to review the applications and a brief was sent to the Minister for Health recommending a number of projects receive funding.

CCAHP Website Upgrade


The CCAHP has a new website located at www.ccahp.org.au. The new site provides us with more flexibility to share relevant and up to date information that will help you with your health promotion activities. We will be constantly uploading new information to ensure the site has all the information you require to work within Aboriginal health promotion.

Network Newsbytes

Network Newsbytes is CCAHP's electronic newsletter that is distributed to members on a monthly basis. To become a member go to <http://caahp.org.au/index.php?page=9> or email us at info@caahp.org.au. Newsbytes focuses on developments in Aboriginal Health Promotion, particularly within NSW.

Strategic Developments

During the last quarter of 2006 CCAHP has formed strong partnerships with: the National Heart Foundation; the Cancer Council; and the Cancer Institute NSW; These partners are supporting CCAHP's Forum Series and other activities are being planned with these partners.

A number of directional papers have been recently finalised including the CCAHP Strategic Plan; CCAHP Workforce Development Strategy and CCAHP Communication Strategy. More information about these documents can be found on our website. 

“CCAHP will host a Nutrition and Physical Activity in Aboriginal Communities Forum on the 28th February & 1st March 2007”



CCAHP Web site www.ccahp.org.au

AH&MRC Annual General Meeting



L—R: Marion Hampton, Marline Howard,
Fred Briggs & Pat Delaney

The AH&MRC Annual General Meeting was held on 24-26 October 2006 in Penrith.

Christine Corby was elected as the Chairperson, and Ray Dennison as Deputy Chairperson.

Regionally elected Directors were:

Central Coast – Cathy Sinclair; Central Tablelands – Ray Dennison; Central West – Lillian Eames; Far West – Danny Kelly; Illawarra – Rodger Williams; Lower Central West – Val Keed; Metropolitan – Sol Belleair; Murray River – Rochelle Patten; North Coast – Gerald Hoskins; North West – Yvonne Howarth; Riverina – Val Weldon; South Coast – Matilda House ☺

The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of NSW

The Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council of New South Wales (AH&MRC) is the peak organisation for Aboriginal health in NSW and is comprised of over 50 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations throughout the state. Since 1985, the AH&MRC has been providing support and assistance to member organisations to provide culturally appropriate holistic primary health care for the improvement of Aboriginal health.

The AH&MRC is the NSW affiliate of the National Aboriginal Community

Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) - the peak national Aboriginal health organisation representing over 130 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across the country. As the peak body for Aboriginal health in NSW, the AH&MRC plays a vital role in directly assisting Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services; supporting Aboriginal Community Controlled health initiatives; liaising with non-Aboriginal agencies and developing, evaluating and advising on a wide range of health programs, policies, strategies, research and educational courses in Aboriginal health. ☺

Support Us

The AH&MRC is a non-profit organisation which is registered as a Public Benevolent Institution by the Australian Taxation Office. The organisation relies on public support from individuals, community groups, corporations, trusts and foundations, as well as government funding to continue to improve the health and well-being of Aboriginal people within NSW. All donations provide direct health and health related services to redress ill health within Aboriginal communities.

There are countless ways that you can help the AH&MRC. The choice is yours.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Make a donation
2. Arrange a fundraiser
3. Leave a bequest
4. Remember someone by making an in memoriam gift
5. Mark a significant occasion by making a celebratory gift

If you would like further information on how you can help please contact the AH&MRC P:02 9212 4777, F:02 9212 7211, E: ahmrc@ahmrc.org.au ☺

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Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council
of New South Wales

