NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

ALICE SPRINGS CONVENTION CENTRE, ALICE SPRINGS, NORTHERN TERRITORY
5–6 MAY, 2016
Artwork by Jade Dolman. The circles and dots represent water holes and the lines represent the movement of the river.
### WEDNESDAY 4 MAY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Conference Registration open</td>
<td>Foyer</td>
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</table>
| 9.00am – 3.00pm | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP  
Workshop: LGBTQI meeting                                          | Boardroom         |
| 9.00am – 3.00pm | PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING  
National Empowerment Project meeting                                | Ellery C          |
| 1.00pm – 4.00pm | PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP  
Art Workshop: Sponsored by IAHA                                     | Ellery A          |
| 5.00pm – 7.00pm | Welcome to Country  
Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation  
Welcome Reception – Alice Springs Convention Centre  
MC: Professor Tom Calma AO  
Co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group  
Cultural Activities – local entertainment  
Facilitator: Adele Cox | Alice Springs Convention Centre                                      |

### THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.00am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Youth Breakfast</td>
<td>Tali Restaurant, Lasseters Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Conversations with Commissioner Helen Milroy (invitation only)</td>
<td>Boardroom</td>
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### THURSDAY 5 MAY 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>7.30am</td>
<td><strong>REGISTRATION</strong></td>
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<td>8.30am</td>
<td><strong>Conference Opening</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony</td>
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<td>Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Address</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Welcome to Delegates</strong></td>
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<td>Professor Tom Calma AO</td>
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<td>Co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group</td>
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<td>William Tilmouth</td>
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<td>Chairperson, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress</td>
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<td>1 minute’s silence to acknowledge those who have gone</td>
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<td>10.00am</td>
<td><strong>MORNING TEA</strong></td>
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<td>10.30am</td>
<td><strong>Update from the ATSISPEP Project</strong></td>
<td>Conference Room</td>
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<td><strong>Professor Tom Calma AO</strong></td>
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<td>Co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professor Pat Dudgeon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Project Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Richard Weston</td>
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<td>CEO, Healing Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Rosalie Kunoth-Monks</strong></td>
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<td>Keynote speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td><strong>QUESTIONS</strong></td>
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<td>12.00pm</td>
<td><strong>LUNCH</strong></td>
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<td>“Soul Hunter” film by Yolgnu youth and Elders</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm – 1.25pm</td>
<td>Nothing for us, without us. Themes, Challenges and Solutions</td>
<td>Ellery A</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.25pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>Caring for Country, Caring For a Each Other</td>
<td>Ellery B</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.50pm – 2.15pm</td>
<td>Lighting the Dark – Preventing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide</td>
<td>Ellery C</td>
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<td>Culturally Safe Practice – Suicide Story</td>
<td>Ellery D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Domestic Violence, Suicide and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTQI</td>
<td>Outside</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.15pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Questions, Discussions and Recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.30pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Feedback from concurrent sessions</td>
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<td>3.00pm – 3.30pm</td>
<td>AFTERNOON TEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30pm – 4.30pm</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Racism and Suicide</td>
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<td>4.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Conference Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Adele Cox</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am - 9.45am</td>
<td>Stan Grant &lt;br&gt;Keynote Speaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.45am - 10.00am</td>
<td>Questions</td>
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<td>10.00am - 10.30am</td>
<td>MORNING TEA</td>
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<td>10.30am - 11.30am</td>
<td>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</td>
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<td>DATA AND STATISTICS &lt;br&gt;PRISON AND ITS IMPACT &lt;br&gt;STOLEN GENERATIONS &lt;br&gt;INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS NZ &lt;br&gt;YARNING CIRCLE</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROOM</td>
<td>Ellery A &lt;br&gt;Ellery B &lt;br&gt;Ellery C &lt;br&gt;Ellery D &lt;br&gt;Outside</td>
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<tr>
<td>FACILITATORS</td>
<td>Donna Murray &lt;br&gt;Tom Calma &lt;br&gt;Benny Hodges &lt;br&gt;Dion Tatow &lt;br&gt;Kelleigh Ryan</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am - 10.45am</td>
<td>Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC) &lt;br&gt;Indigenous Suicide and Incarceration &lt;br&gt;Mervyn Eades &lt;br&gt;#JustJustice &lt;br&gt;Summer May Finlay</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.45am - 11.00am</td>
<td>Vicki O’Donnell and Professor Murray Chapman &lt;br&gt;Stolen Generations – Panel Discussion &lt;br&gt;Florence Onus – The Healing Foundation &lt;br&gt;Lionel Quartermaine – Chair, National Stolen Generations Alliance &lt;br&gt;Te Runanga o Ngati Pikiao Trust &lt;br&gt;Michael Naera and Te Pae Fitzell</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.00am - 11.15am</td>
<td>Update on ATSISPEP project &lt;br&gt;Roz Walker/ Glenn Pearson &lt;br&gt;Teledon Kids Institute &lt;br&gt;Justice Issues &lt;br&gt;Heather Agius &lt;br&gt;Granny Group Member &lt;br&gt;Ngaree Ah Kit - Darwin Region &lt;br&gt;Indigenous Suicide Prevention Network &lt;br&gt;James Morrison - Consultant &lt;br&gt;Tjalaminu Mia - Sister Kate’s Home Kids’ Aboriginal Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15am - 11.30am</td>
<td>Questions, Discussions and Recommendations</td>
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<td>11.30am - 12.00pm</td>
<td>Feedback from concurrent sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00pm - 1.00pm</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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## FRIDAY 6 MAY 2016 continued

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Description</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSIONS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>EMPOWERMENT</strong></td>
<td>Ellery A</td>
<td>Tom Brideson</td>
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<td>Ellery B</td>
<td>Erin Lew Fatt</td>
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<td>Ellery C</td>
<td>Dion Tatow</td>
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<td>Ellery D</td>
<td>Dameyon Bonson</td>
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<td>Outside</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm – 1.25pm</td>
<td>Kimberley Empowerment Healing &amp; Leadership Program</td>
<td>Ellery A</td>
<td>Vicki McKenna and Brendan Cox KAMSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm – 1.25pm</td>
<td>Yiriman Keeps Country Good so Young People are Healthy</td>
<td>Ellery B</td>
<td>Tanya Prizmic, Sylvia Shovellor, Jana Rivers and Dr Dave Palmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.00pm – 1.25pm</td>
<td>Empowering Aboriginal Men and Women to Break Their Cycles of Abuse and Expressions of Lateral Violence</td>
<td>Ellery C</td>
<td>Cheri Yavu-Kama-Harathunian</td>
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<td>1.00pm – 1.25pm</td>
<td>Yarning Circle Session</td>
<td>Ellery D</td>
<td>Rosalie Green</td>
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<td>1.25pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>Blank Page Summit – Baton of Life</td>
<td>Ellery B</td>
<td>Mary O’Reeri</td>
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<td>1.25pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>Dadirri and Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) in Redfern: Deep Listening, Urban Peace</td>
<td>Ellery C</td>
<td>Ken Zulumovski</td>
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<td>1.25pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>LIGHT Ponds</td>
<td>Ellery D</td>
<td>Kanat Wano</td>
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<td>1.25pm – 1.50pm</td>
<td>Strengthening Cultural Transition and Cultural Identity</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td>CASSE Team/Royal Flying Doctor Service</td>
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<td>1.50pm – 2.15pm</td>
<td>First Peoples Disability Network Australia</td>
<td>Ellery A</td>
<td>Scott Avery</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.50pm – 2.15pm</td>
<td>National Empowerment Project</td>
<td>Ellery B</td>
<td>Glenis Grogan</td>
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<td>Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation</td>
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<td>Ellery C</td>
<td>Professor Ted Wilkes</td>
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<td>and Professor Dennis Gray</td>
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<td>1.50pm – 2.15pm</td>
<td>Alcohol and Other Drugs</td>
<td>Ellery D</td>
<td>Hopelessness, Helplessness, Homelessness</td>
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<td>Cynthia Deeble</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.15pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Questions, Discussions and Recommendations</td>
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<td>2.30pm – 3.00pm</td>
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<td><strong>AFTERNOON TEA</strong></td>
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<td>3.30pm – 5.00pm</td>
<td>Panel Discussion: Solutions and Future Directions</td>
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<td>Conference Room</td>
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<td>5.00pm</td>
<td>Ngangkari Healing Session – Men’s and Women’s healing sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.00pm</td>
<td>BBQ</td>
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<td>Double Tree Hotel</td>
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<td>LGBTQI Talking Together – Shared Yarning Space</td>
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<td>Double Tree Hotel</td>
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CARING FOR COUNTRY, CARING FOR EACH OTHER
JUNE MILLS AND DUWAN LEE FROM THE LARRAKIA HEALING GROUP

June Mills and Duwan Lee are founding members of the Larrakia Healing Group (LHG), based in Darwin, NT. LHG is a group of all Larrakia people committed to working together on country towards healing and recovery from intergenerational trauma for our families and our community. Our members practice a range of alternative and traditional healing techniques within the community.

We have developed a ground-breaking resource, Caring for Country, Caring for Each Other, which conveys the holistic nature of our social and emotional wellbeing and how historical impacts have effected our families and communities within a localised context.

LIGHTING THE DARK – PREVENTING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUICIDE
DION TATOW

In 2013, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC) in collaboration with the Titans 4 Tomorrow, received funding from the Australian Government under the Supporting Communities to Reduce the Risk of Suicide (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Component) initiative to produce a DVD and facilitate community forums to raise awareness of and prevent suicide.

The DVD, “Lighting the Dark, Preventing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide” includes personal stories from a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (including current and former Gold Coast Titans players). The stories highlight how these individuals dealt with depression and attempts of suicide and other mental health issues as a means of providing other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with coping mechanisms to address their own mental health issues.

The DVD was used to facilitate discussion around suicide prevention in a series of ten community forums conducted through Aboriginal and Islander Community Controlled Health Services (AICCHS) throughout Queensland. Social and Emotional Well Being (SEWB) staff employed at these AICCHS were responsible for facilitation of these community forums.

To ensure the forums were run in a culturally appropriate manner and not cause further harm to participants, SEWB staff participated in two professional development activities to assist them in facilitating the forums. The first workshop focused on identifying and responding to risk indicators to prevent suicide. SEWB staff then participated in the Indigenous Facilitator Training Short Course.

The community forums were conducted during August – December 2014.

An evaluation of the whole initiative was undertaken by an external consultant and a final report produced in June 2015.

QAIHC will provide a presentation on the whole initiative, however as the DVD goes for 22 minutes, we will not have time to show it. We will focus on the process, outcomes and recommendations regarding future suicide prevention activities.

NOTHING FOR US, WITHOUT US. THEMES, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS
DAMEYON BONSON/JAY DELANEY

In 2015, the federally funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP) team hosted the first of six thematic roundtables across Australia. In March of that year, and in a national first, a roundtable of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders diverse in gender and sexuality came together to discuss suicide. They were brought together to identify what was needed to prevent suicide and to share first-hand community experiences with suicide; what was needed in suicide prevention programs; and programs to help identify what works, and why.

In Australia there is very little to no research in this area of preventing suicide. What we know from the diligence of our Native American brothers and sisters is that Indigenous Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBQT) people experience far greater prejudice and discrimination than any other group. They have recorded higher rates of suicide deaths, attempts, and ideation than heterosexual Native American and LGBQT people of any other racial/ethnic backgrounds in the United States. This too is the same narrative coming out of Canada, Alaska and New Zealand.

In 2014, a National Advisory Committee was brought together to provide expert advice to ATSISPEP. Dameyon Bonson was invited to participate and imbed knowledges of issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders diverse in gender and sexuality (LGBQT) for ATSISPEP. The themes of the roundtable report, current challenges and issues, plus solutions as well work toward preventing suicide will be presented by Dameyon during this session.
RESTORING THE CIRCLE – CULTUREGERATION
NOLA TURNER-JENSEN AND CRACKERJACK EDUCATION
Discover the Ancient core values of this continent and the wide ranging impacts they have when working and building relationships with the Indigenous people of Australia and the rest of the world.
Parents from Indigenous backgrounds, historically were made to feel that to help their child adapt to the dominant/progressive culture of their countries colonists, they should drop their cultural practices and values. However, we now know the reverse is true. Having a strong cultural identity is a protective factor in the prevention of mental health issues in young people, homelessness and crime. This means that children who understand and are proud of why the family does things the way they do (e.g. the core values and traditions behind cultural practices) will be less susceptible to these problems.
In our sessions comparisons between both traditional and new ways are explored to assist Indigenous participants to understand their values and beliefs and why we are who we are.

CULTURALLY SAFE PRACTICE – SUICIDE STORY
JODY KOPP AND NATASHA ABBOTT
Suicide remains the leading cause of death for Australians aged 15 to 44. In 2012, the suicide rate for Indigenous people aged 15-24 in the Northern Territory was 50.9 deaths per 100,000 people.
Today, indigenous leaders and advocates across Australia are highlighting cultural connection as the missing link in current suicide prevention programs. This echoes wisdom from the 2013 Elders’ Report, “The only way forward is to adopt a ‘community centered’ approach to healing led by local Elders…”
Suicide Story is a 3 day workshop grounded in both ways learning. Developed in partnership with Aboriginal leaders from the NT, the program is delivered by a group of trained Aboriginal Facilitators, to build the capacity of remote Aboriginal communities to identify and respond to crises and prevent suicide in a culturally safe and accessible way. The program centered on combining the specificities of Aboriginal protocols with evidence-based practices. Suicide Story has been delivering culturally safe suicide prevention workshops throughout the NT for the past 4 years. Post workshop evaluations in 2015 identified that 100% of participants reported they felt both ‘strong enough to support someone thinking of suicide’ and ‘the workshop strengthened their emotional spirit (fire)’. Clearly, future suicide prevention practice needs to centre on culturally relevant and safe programs to end this tragic cycle of Aboriginal suicide in Australia.

DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ABORIGINAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SKILLS PROGRAM
FIONA LIVINGSTONE AND NATHANIEL BLACKLOCK
The Farm-Link Project is a rural suicide prevention program, funded by the Commonwealth government and operating since 2007 throughout the New England North West Region of NSW. The project is managed by the University of Newcastle – Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH). The project aims to prevent suicide, primarily through gatekeeper suicide prevention training at the community level. In 2012, Farm-Link developed and piloted a 4-hour Suicide Prevention Skills workshop (SPSW), specifically for the rural community. Since its inception, it has been delivered to 24 different communities, and to over 1400 participants. Farm-Link’s primary SPSW facilitator has a lived experience of suicide, which has forged her strong commitment to the work. During the delivery of SPSW, a need was identified for a culturally appropriate suicide prevention program for Aboriginal people. No such community training was found to be available in the area covered by Farm-Link, however a demand for such training was apparent. With considerable consultation with Aboriginal Elders, community leaders and health workers and using an iterative process, a culturally sensitive Aboriginal SPSW (ASPSW) was developed from our standard SPSW. Key changes were made to both content and mode of delivery. It was recognised that an Aboriginal co-facilitator was pivotal to achieve authenticity and effectiveness. ASPSW is an evidence-based suicide prevention program that is founded on health-related protective factors that are tailored to Aboriginal people. The aim of this program is to increase and inspire changes around health, to encourage help seeking, and to provide participants with the skills and confidence required to assist someone in need. This presentation will discuss the strategies used to create and deliver this workshop in its pilot form. Additionally, it will provide an overview of the workshop’s content. Lastly, it will discuss the basic evaluation that is attached to the program, and the direction and future of the ASPSW.
PROGRAMS THAT WORK – STANDBY WEST KIMBERLEY
MICKLO MCKENZIE AND JACOB TYNDALL

Working with suicide loss within Aboriginal Communities in the West Kimberley, highlighting the positive work done with Mowanjum Community members, as a case study:

- As part of the crisis response service extended by StandBy, promote conversations that change the language around suicide.
- Challenging myths, beliefs and values pertaining to suicide in a supportive environment.
- Highlight the importance of ‘back to country’ as a healing initiative and cultural tool and in doing so canvass the concept of Liyarn.

- Encourage community participation in activities addressing issues identified within community through role play, bush camps and other culturally inclusive exercises.
- Within a strength based approach, utilise existing service providers and available agencies to promote and coordinate a holistic service.
- Actively engage established community groups such as Ranger Groups and Women’s Centers etc to identify strong and committed community members, to train and reinforce the positive message about after suicide support for local community members, in the handover to local communities following StandBy’s initial crisis response.

UTI KULINTJAKU
NGANGKARI HEALER GROUP

The Uti Kulintjaku (UK) Project is an innovative, Aboriginal-led mental health literacy project initiated by NPY Women’s Council (NPYW) in 2012. Senior Anangu (Aboriginal) women were concerned about the wellbeing of the young people in their communities and wanted to take action. Mental health issues affect many families, and all communities, in the NPYW region in Central Australia.

‘Uti kulintjaku’ is a Pitjantjatjara phrase that means ‘to think and understand clearly’. The UK Project takes a strengths-based approach to building bi-cultural mental health literacy for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health professionals. The group does this by coming together in a series of workshops that open up mental health concepts from both Aboriginal and Western perspectives – building the capacity of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal participants. The knowledge that comes out of these workshops is then shared with western health professionals as well as Aboriginal families and communities in the area – largely through resources.

Innovative resources: A series of language-based, novel resources have been developed including graphic posters, emotional literacy animations and magnets, and the Uti Kulintjaku App. These resources are being used in a wide range of settings and are supporting frontline workers and families to more easily and effectively talk about mental health and wellbeing within communities.

The UK Project is highly regarded by a range of stakeholders, including Aboriginal families, for the integrity, authenticity and relevance of its work and its resources. In 2015 the UK Project won the NT Administrator Medal for Excellence in Primary Health Care and the CRANAplus Collaborative Team Award.

ANALYSIS OF RISING INDIGENOUS YOUTH SUICIDE IN THE KIMBERLEY
VICKI O’DONNELL/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MURRAY CHAPMAN

This presentation draws on data compiled by KMHDS, the WA Kimberley Police and Standby Response over a 10 year period, representing the most comprehensive dataset for both reported suicide and also suicidality related behaviours throughout the region. The mechanism by which this collaboration was made possible, and an outline of the inter-service processes developed will be covered. Results of our preliminary analysis will be presented, including detailed descriptions of the distribution of these behaviours by age, sex, location and season. What will become evident is a profoundly worrying pattern, and a serious worsening of the situation. These results will also be contextualised nationally and internationally, and there will be a focus on some of the likely driving forces and the local responses.

#JUSTJUSTICE
SUMMER MAY FINLAY

#JustJustice is a crowd-funded campaign that has been producing a series of articles at the social journalism project Croakey.org. The campaign highlights the wide-ranging health impacts of over-incarceration upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, families and communities, including social and emotional wellbeing. The campaign seeks to add balance to the often negative mainstream media coverage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues.

The project developed out of conversations with Aboriginal health leaders, including Dr Tom Calma and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda. #JustJustice takes a solutions-focused approach, and identifies ways that politicians, policy makers and the wider community can tackle over-incarceration.

The #JustJustice project is informed by a decolonising methodology. Since its conception #JustJustice has published over 50 articles with contributions from a range of different non-government organisations, lawyers, researchers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, health professionals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice advocates.
from across the country. It has also published YouTube clips and internet memes, one of which had more than 1,000 shares via NACCHO’s Facebook page. The campaign is also contributing to the development of an online community with a shared interest in tackling this issue. Twitter analytics sourced via the Symplur site show that between the project launch on 1 April 2015 and 16 March, there were almost 74 million Twitter impressions for #JustJustice, and that 3,321 participants have been contributing to #JustJustice discussions and helping to disseminate some of the key themes. The campaign has also generated wider publicity and media coverage of #JustJustice themes.

JUSTICE ISSUES
HEATHER AGIUS
I have been dealing with justice issues for the last 20 years and recognising the injustices with the Aboriginal community. I have seen the unjust results of a failed system that are the incarceration of my people within that failed system. I have become involved as a grandmother and as a visiting inspector who visits the prisons and writes reports about complaints and issues around health and mental health, identifying people who may be at risk of suicide. I am also a visitor for the Aboriginal Legal Rights movement and visit Aboriginal people who have been arrested and need cultural support.

Having had two sons in jail for the past 20 years, I thought they were at risk of suicide, hence my involvement in justice issues. I just want to add that I have 50 Grandchildren and great grandchildren whom I don’t want to see in prison. I want to leave a legacy to my grandchildren and great grandchildren so they know that I made a bit of a difference. I do this for them and for my community so they don’t end up in a system that fails.

MAORI APPROACHES TO CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE POSTVENTION SUPPORT
MICHAEL NAERA AND TE PÆE FITZEL (TE RUNANGA O NGÁTI PIKIAO TRUST)
The impact of suicide on Maori communities has a devastating effect on the health and wellbeing of tribal members and its community. Current postvention programmes are there to provide pathways to wellbeing but are they culturally appropriate? This presentation will enlarge the cultural factors required to address this question, as well as, provide indigenous solutions for supporting whānau (tribal family entities) through grief and loss.

WHANAU ORA PATHWAYS TO POSITIVELY SUPPORTING WHANAU THROUGH GRIEF AND LOSS
MOEWAKA TROTMAN AND PIP NEWTON
Whanau ora (tribal health) is a concept that has been around way before the arrival of pakeha (European settlers) to Aotearoa New Zealand. Yet in 2010 the New Zealand Government adopted the concept as a way of supporting Maori families via wellbeing frameworks rather than a deficit model of health. Therefore centralising efforts on strengths based approaches. Te Runanga o Ngāti Pikiao Trust’s Whanau Ora Pae Arahi (Navigator) and iwi (tribal) education programme will present on the current programme they are delivering to support whanau who have experienced grief and loss from suicide; associated suicidal behaviours; and non-fatal suicidal attempts. This essentially is based on a collective response to supporting whanau to achieve their goals and aspirations.

KIMBERLEY EMPOWERMENT HEALING AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
VICKI MCKENNA AND BRENDAN COX
Consultations across the region to stimulate self-awareness of Aboriginal people resulted in the ‘Hear Our Voices’ report, published in 2012. This guided the SEWB unit to develop culturally appropriate and locally responsive strategies to assist participants in identifying opportunities and provide them with the tools to make more informed decisions to make their lives better and strengthen families and communities.

The program is delivered 2 days per week over 4 weeks and comprises modules on Self, Family and Community with topics and sub-topics such as Who am I and Where Do I Come From?, positive parenting, the change process and how to address lateral violence in the community. A train-the-trainer workshop is offered to participants to enable them to deliver the program on their community.

Since 2012, the program has been delivered in towns and remote communities across the region with a high degree of success. I have witnessed a significant number of people whose lives have changed dramatically after engaging in the program.

YIRIMAN KEEPS COUNTRY GOOD SO YOUNG PEOPLE ARE HEALTHY
The Yiriman Project was set up in 2000 and initially based in Jarlmadangah Burru Aboriginal Community. The program is currently run out of Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia and sits under the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC).
DADIRRI AND DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY (DBT) IN REDFERN: DEEP LISTENING, URBAN PEACE  
KEN ZULUMOVSKI

Gamarada creates a safe, supportive environment through Indigenous protocols of acknowledgement, exploring strengths and sense of purpose, and community development. The team at Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources (GUIR) are developing programs and workshops that explore parallels between Indigenous methodologies for healing and the work of Marsha Linehan, founder of Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), ‘dialectical’ meaning the practice of holding opposites together to integrate tension, emphasising both validation and change. DBT is internationally recognised as an empirically supported treatment for people at risk of harm to self and others, and treatment takes place within the community through skills training, focussing on self-management and training families and carers in skills to manage crisis and find a way forward. Non-reaction and wisdom practices are common to both DBT and the Gamarada programs. In 2010 Gamarada was awarded the NSW Premiers Excellence Award for Leadership, Building Indigenous Communities.

NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT, NGOONBI CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY  
GLENIS GROGAN

Ngoonbi, in partnership with Queensland Mental Health Commission (QMHC) and the University of Western Australia (UWA), School of Indigenous Studies, delivers the National Empowerment Project (NEP) Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing (CSWEB) program to members of the Kuranda and Cherbourg Queensland Communities. Ngoonbi has a key role in the development of the NEP as a universal strategy to promote cultural, social and emotional wellbeing and assists in reducing community stress and suicide in Aboriginal Communities.

EMPOWERING ABORIGINAL MEN AND WOMEN TO BREAK THEIR CYCLES OF ABUSE AND EXPRESSIONS OF LATERAL VIOLENCE  
CHERI YAVU-KAMA-HARATHUNIAN

Lateral Violence is the silent, hidden, uncovered and unconscious Violence that has been passed down in the oral histories of many of our people. So many of our people do not know it exists and in many instances it lies dormant in a person’s psyche. More than likely, if Lateral Violence is not firstly understood, recognition of the cultural nuances of violence in people’s daily life will be ignored. Addressing the cultural nuances of Lateral Violence in Aboriginal families has to be recognised so that as a people we look into our cultural ways of healing to find an answer. Otherwise we will see violence such as suicide, domestic and family violence escalate into the next generation. Because of the colonial past, and how our ancestors were taught to survive the traumas of first contact, Lateral Violence, began to entangle itself within other forms of violence. Because it is not recognised, understood, or acknowledged and it is only now being documented by courageous Aboriginal academics, professionals, and researchers we are beginning to understand it from an Aboriginal perspective. Uncovering Lateral Violence enables Elders, grassroots community people, victims and perpetrators to talk about it and a picture is emerging as to just how powerful the manifestations of Lateral Violence are.

LIGHT PONDS  
KANAT WANO

Giving hope and prosperity to our First Nations peoples’ families and communities from a universal lifestyle of approaches and activities. Creating opportunities for light (loving individuals giving hope together). The greatest love being the love of self of who we are and where we come from to live life for ourselves and others. A universal approach to reduce suicide in our communities.

SUICIDE, HARMFUL SUBSTANCE USE AND THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DETERMINANTS  
EDWARD WILKES AND DENNIS GRAY  
NATIONAL DRUG RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Suicide is a leading cause of death among First Australians. Both research and administrative data demonstrate that a significant proportion of those deaths are related to the harmful use of alcohol and other drugs (aod). However, both are socially determined. We review the available evidence and conclude that what is lacking is knowledge of how to address these problems but the political will to do so.
**WARRINGARRI**

**CAROL HAPKE AND REGINA SEBASTIAN**

Carol Hapke is the Coordinator of the Community Action Plan (CAP) of the Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation. Through her connections as a local woman she uses her family networks to work as a link to connect her people with the appropriate services in Kununurra.

CAP is a program that works directly with Aboriginal people who are either at risk of suicide or with those families who have lost members through suicide. One of her main focus is to BREAK THE SILENCE ON SUICIDE and to pass on preventative techniques and adapt and provide education sessions on suicide prevention.

**STRENGTHENING CULTURAL TRANSMISSION AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.**

**CASSE/RFDS - JAMIE MILLIER TJUPURULLA, MARTIN JUGADAI**

Suicide is about emotional pain, a cry for help, a not belonging, feeling alone, alienated, uncontained and a wish to die to obtain peace and solutions. There is a very high suicide rate among young Aboriginal men. Suicide is preventable.

Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment (CASSE) has facilitated the emergence of the Men’s Tjilirra Movement in collaboration with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS). The Tjilirra Men’s Movement is an innovative program which facilitates emotional health. The heart of the Men’s Tjilirra Movement lies in Australia’s remote central and western desert region, in the communities of Haasts Bluff (Kuntj), Mt Liebig (Watjawanu), Kintore (Woranguru), Papunya (Warumpi) and Kiwikurra. Tjilirra are 60,000 years old. Tjilirra are traditional tools of ancient ceremony, Aboriginal dreamtime and law. The men of the western desert, many who were the last to cease living a nomadic lifestyle in the 1970s say “they are strong and proud” when they make them. Re-establishing a cycle that was on the brink of destruction, the elder men are again passing on their knowledge of making Tjilirra to the younger generation in recognition of the importance of Tjilirra to cultural, community and emotional wellbeing. Tjilirra symbolise being, continuity in being, affirmation of cultural worlds, kinship relationships, differences, identity, transmissions and transformations. With over 300 men variously engaged, tools are being made, large men’s meetings are being held talking about “the problem life” and community pularpa bringing families together singing and dancing the protection songs of country (in the face of suicide) and strengthening the kununa mwarre spirit inside themselves. Tjilirra are tools for living in two very different worlds. Tjilirra are tools for empowerment, belonging, community connection and self-determination.

CASSE is a psychological not-for-profit organisation with the vision to change minds in order to save lives. CASSE aims to promote safe, supportive environments through psychoanalytic awareness. We focus on empowering people and communities to understand and work through their trauma (manifest by suicide, depression, violence, substance usage) by preserving and strengthening cultural life and capacity between the generations in a self-determining way. We have developed a mentalisation framework for presentations on violence and suicide.

**HOPELESSNESS, HELPLESSNESS, HOMELESSNESS**

**CYNTHIA DEEBLE**

The expectation is that participants will gain a better understanding of skills to manage individual’s anxiety when experiencing helplessness and hopelessness when faced with their most basic needs not being met according to Maslow’s hierarchy with cultural understanding of Aboriginal Australians and begin to examine and reflect on their own practices to achieve better outcomes with their Aboriginal patients/clients.

The workshop will explore the importance of understanding anxiety disorders and behaviours, the role of family and community and explore the historical perspective, trauma and identity and their relevance of a holistic approach.
NATASHA ABBOTT
Natasha Abbott is a Western Arrernte woman from Wallace Rock Hole. She has worked extensively in remote locations in Central And Western Australia, which gives her a deep understanding of the issues and complexities that face Aboriginal people living in remote locations. She has been a business woman of considerable repute and has helped Aboriginal people into employment through education, training and support. Recently she has been working in the mining sector engaging Aboriginal people to work in the mines. She has worked in Community Development with Central Land Council, working with community to develop projects funded by Royalty monies that would benefit the community. She is number 4 in a family of 6 siblings of the Abbott family and has 3 sisters and two brothers.

SCOTT AVERY
Scott Avery is the Policy and Research Director at the First Peoples Disability Network (Australia), a Non-Government Organisation constituted by and for Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples with disability. He has an extensive career in public policy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, health, disability, justice and education. He is a passionate and active advocate for social justice working within the non-government sector.

DAMEYON BONSON
Dameyon Bonson is a First Nation Australian of both Indigenous and Caucasian heritage. Dameyon is a Social Warrior (Social Work) with an interest in decolonising the academy. He is a contributing author at The Good Men Project, Aboriginal Service Officer (men’s health) at WA County Health Service, Male Health Reference Group Member at Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples with disability. He has been a Board Member at Men’s Outreach Service, SEWB WSU Officer and Projects Coordinator at Kimberly Aboriginal Medical Services Council Inc.

PROFESSOR TOM CALMA AO
Professor Calma is an Aboriginal elder of the Kungarakan tribal group and Chancellor of the University of Canberra. He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, territory, national and international level and worked in the public sector for 38 years. Respected for his inspirational and inclusive advocacy for human rights and social justice, Professor Calma has dedicated his life to improving the lives of all Australians and particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. For the past four decades he has championed the importance of empowerment – a passion that runs through his work in education, training, employment, health, justice reinvestment and development.

INDI CLARKE
Indi Clarke is a proud 23-year-old Muthi Muthi and Lardil man, currently employed with Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) in Mildura as a Youth and Community Engagement Facilitator. Within his role, he works on a range of MDAS projects including the MDAS Cultural Program, Mentor Program, the Volunteer Program and also on specialist events. Achievements and highlights of his life and career so far, include participating in the indigenous performance of the 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony, participant of the 2009 Kokoda Youth Mentoring Program, Koorie Youth Council Member and awarded the 2016 Mildura Young Citizen of the Year as part of the Mildura Australia Day awards.

ADELE COX
Adele Cox is a Bunuba and Gija Woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She has spent the majority of her early working life in The Kimberley region in media and in suicide prevention and since 2001 has been in Perth. She has worked at the Telethon Kids Institute as a senior Research Officer on numerous projects including Indigenous Suicide Prevention and Maternal and Child Health Research. She is a current member of the WA Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention, and the newly established National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health group.

TANIA DALTON (JONES)
Tania Dalton (Jones) is a Gunditjmara/Wathaurong women from Warrnambool and now Geelong in the southwest region of Victoria. Tania is a registered psychologist with a Masters of Behavioural and Health Science from Sydney University. Tania has contributed to Indigenous issues at local, state and national levels through membership of a variety of Boards and reference groups. Tania is the current Chair of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Assoc (AIPA) since 2013, National Coordinator of the AIPA Cultural Competence Project since 2010 and a member and advisor of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women’s Alliance (NATSIWA).

CYNTHIA DEEBLE
Cynthia Deeble has been an Aboriginal mental health practitioner and therapy facilitator with Peel and Rockingham, Kwinana (PaRK) for more than 5 years. Her work for PaRK included the redevelopment of a new program for Dialectical Personality Therapy (DBT). In addition, Cynthia Deeble has more than 16 years’ experience in the education sector and currently is involved in presenting mental health session to Aboriginal students pursuing careers in mental health. Her academic background is in health science, and education, currently she is pursuing her PhD.
PROFESSOR PAT DUDGEON

Professor Dudgeon is from the Bardi people of the Kimberley. She is a research fellow and psychologist known for her leadership in Indigenous higher education and mental health. Currently she is a Research Fellow at the School of Indigenous Studies, University of Western Australia. Her roles include Commissioner, National Mental Health Commission; co-chair with Dr Tom Calma, of the National Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group; and chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group from State and National Mental Health Commissions Australia.

MERVYN EADES

Mervyn was born in Cranbrook, in the South West of Western Australia. Mervyn was in and out of Western Australian juvenile detention facilities and prisons from the age of 13 and until he was 31. At 44 years of age, he now runs Ngalla Maya in an effort to help ex-offenders successfully reintegrate into society.

JOSIE FARRER

Elected to State Parliament in March 2013, Josie is the first local female Kimberley Aboriginal MP to represent the region. Her maiden speech was exceptionally powerful as she spoke about the high rates of suicide, economic development, housing and job creation in the Kimberley. Josie resides in Halls Creek with her husband Mario Jazyk where they raised their 13 children. They now have 52 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Josie has been an active member of numerous regional boards including, director of the Kimberley Land Council, Kimberley Language Resource Centre and Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, Deputy Chair of the Kimberley Development Commission, Chairperson of the Regional Road Group, Halls Creek Shire Councillor and Halls Creek Shire President.

TE PÆE AKURANGI FITZELL

Te Pae is a Suicide Prevention Project Leader in Rotorua New Zealand. Te Pae has a passion for working with our youth, to empower them to lead the way in Suicide Prevention. This year, she is co-ordinating the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference alongside colleague, Michael Naera.

CAROL HAPKE

Carol Hapke is a Miriwoong woman from the East Kimberley where she was born and raised. She has worked all her life to improve conditions for her people. Carol was primarily educated in Kununurra and secondary educated in Perth.

In 1985 she was recruited as a trainee with the Department of Employment Education and Training and continued to work with the department for a further eight years. From 1993 to 1998 she worked with the Department of Child Protection as a Child Protection Officer. She then spent the next five years working with her people in preparing for the Miriwoong and Gadjerong Native Title trials. Carol worked with her Elders in establishing the Gawooleng Yawoodeng Women’s Refuge, which is now Aboriginal owned, managed and staffed by Aboriginal women. Carol now works with the Kununurra Waringarri Aboriginal Corporation as the Coordinator of the Community Action Plan (CAP).

SUMMER MAY FINLAY

Summer is a Yorta Yorta Woman who grew up in Lake Macquarie near Newcastle. She has worked in Aboriginal affairs at the national level and has strong professional connections across the country in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service sector. She specializes in health policy, qualitative research and communications. Summer is a writer with Croakey and is the Co-Convener of the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group an Associate Consultant with Cox Inall and Ridgeway and is an Honorary Associate at Sydney University.

STAN GRANT

Stan Grant is a multi-award winning current affairs host, author and adventurer. Stan Grant’s Aboriginal heritage shaped his dynamic, resilient personality. Born in Griffith in south-west New South Wales, in 1963, Stan Grant’s mother is from the Kamlilaroi people and his father is of the Wiradjuri. Stan spent most of his childhood on the road living in small towns and Aboriginal communities across outback NSW. His father was an itinerant saw-miller who worked when and where he could. Stan moved so often he attended 12 different schools before he was in his teens. Stan is passionate about justice and humanity. His years of international reporting has given him a deep understanding of how the world works. He is deeply immersed in the politics and history of Asia and the Middle East. He can link the importance of leadership and the impact of history and above all believes in the power and resilience of people. Stan is married to ABC Sports Broadcaster, Tracey Holmes and has four children. He lives in Sydney.
PROFESSOR DENNIS GRAY
Professor Dennis Gray is a Deputy Director at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University, and a leader of the Institute’s Aboriginal Research Program. He is an eminent researcher in this area and has a long history of conducting collaborative research with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Professor Gray has published extensively on Aboriginal alcohol and other drug issues and has been invited to give presentations on his research in various national and international forums.

GLENIS GROGAN
Glenis Grogan is a Kuku Yalanji woman from the Kuranda Aboriginal community in far north Queensland. She also has strong connections to the Djabugay Dirri and Takalaka people. Glenis is the coordinator of the National Empowerment Project, Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing program in Kuranda and Cherbourg.

A descendant of the Mona Mona Mission (approximately 45 kms from Kuranda) and current Deputy Chairperson of the Mona Mona Bulmba Aboriginal Corporation, she was part of the group’s successful reclamation of the mission and its surrounding land and they now hold 1610 hectares on behalf of all descendants. Working as a private consultant, Glenis’ experience is mostly in the areas of Aboriginal health and education and she is currently working with several Aboriginal Corporations and Native Title prescribed body corporates.

TRACEY JERRI
Tracey is a transgender woman from the community of Charters Towers. I recognise myself as a Gudjala woman. I have fostered children from many backgrounds and cultures. I have received recognition by the former Queensland premier Peter Beattie and the Minister for Child Safety for my ongoing work as a foster parent. I have spent many years working in the homeless sector, with work focused on domestic violence. I am actively involved as a community member.

MARTIN JUGADAI
Martin Jugadai is a Ngangkari (traditional healer) and a Cultural Consultant with the Royal Flying Doctor Rural and Remote Mental Health Service and also attends the Batchelor Institute. Based in Haasts Bluff, he also works with the communities of Papunya, Mt Liebig and Kintore. Martin was recognised as a Ngangkari at the age of 14 and has been under the guidance of his teachers ever since, constantly increasing his knowledge and skills to treat Aboriginal people with physical and mental health issues. The Tjilirra Project was an idea that Martin had for some time as a way to engage young men. “It is important for our young men to learn about traditional culture and skills, to keep our culture alive and strong into the future”.

JODY KOPP
Jody Kopp is a Traditional Owner of the Arrente people of the Alice Springs Region. She is happily married and is the proud mother of three absolutely gorgeous children. Jody is very passionate about suicide prevention and has been involved in Suicide Story since 2013. She is the current Chair of the Suicide Story Aboriginal Advisory Group that oversees and supports the implementation of the Program on behalf of the Mental Health Association of Central Australia. Jody has immense knowledge and skill in working with Aboriginal communities in Family Wellbeing, drug and alcohol, education and suicide prevention.

ROSALIE KUNOTH-MONKS
Rosalie Kunoth-Monks is an Amatjere and Arrernte woman born in 1937 in the heart of the continent, at Arapunya. Rosalie came to international attention at age 18, in the lead role for the 1955 film Jedda. Rosalie has dedicated her life to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights struggle. She spent ten years in Melbourne working with the fledgling Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Subsequently Rosalie returned to Alice Springs to work with the Aboriginal Hostels and then the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and thereafter with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. In 2014, Rosalie was awarded the Dr Mandawuy Yunupingu Human Rights Award at the first ever National Indigenous Human Rights Awards. In 2015, Rosalie was a finalist for Australian of the Year after being awarded Northern Territorian of the Year. Rosalie is the incumbent NAI DOC female Person of the Year.

DUWAN LEE
Duwan Lee is a traditional healer, who has spent his life learning a wide range of healing modalities. He works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients, supporting them to heal from trauma. As a community worker, he has worked in remote communities, and as a founding member of the Larrakia Healing Group, he is training organisations to become more traditionally and trauma informed. He is also a successful artist involved in many public art projects.

JAMIE MILLIER TJUPURULLA
Jamie Millier Tjupurrulla is the Program Manager for the Men’s Tjilirra Movement. Jamie has lived and worked in the communities of the western desert in the Luritja-Pintupi region for over 16 years, speaks the local language and has worked with men on making cultural tools, establishing strong connections while spending much of his free time learning from the Elders woodcraft techniques and cultural expectations around how traditional tools are used.
JUNE MILLS
Gunluckiinimul June Mills is a Larrakia Elder, artist, musician and social worker with a long history of advocacy and involvement in advancing social justice and wellbeing for Larrakia and other Indigenous peoples. She has an extensive knowledge and experience as an Elder working in the field of healing and trauma recovery work in her community. June is a lore woman who is called in on matters of cultural importance, eg, funerals and family issues. She has been accepted into the Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Trauma Recovery at Wollongong University, where she also will be co-presenting the Caring for country, caring for each other resource to over 70 students from across Australia.

WINTHROP PROFESSOR JILL MILROY AM
Professor Milroy is from the Palyku people in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Professor Milroy is Dean of the School of Indigenous Studies and Executive Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Western Australia. She has more than 30 years experience in Indigenous higher education developing university pathways, programs and support services for Indigenous students as well as a range of Indigenous curriculum and research initiatives. She has served on a number of national policy advisory bodies including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Council. Her key research interest is in Aboriginal knowledge, story systems and the rights of Aboriginal children to be born into stories. In 2011 Professor Milroy was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to Indigenous education.

PROFESSOR HELEN MILROY
Professor Helen Milroy is a descendant of the Palyku people of the Pilbara region of Western Australia born and educated in Perth. She studied Medicine at UWA, worked as a General Practitioner and Consultant in Childhood Sexual Abuse at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children for several years before completing specialist training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Helen is a Royal Commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse which is being conducted for the next three years. Until February 2013, Helen held the positions of Winthrop Professor and Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at UWA.

MICHAEL NAERA
Michael has made significant contributions for improving mental health services and suicide prevention strategies and activities for Maori across Aotearoa. Michael is also coordinating the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference, 2016 in Rotorua,

VICKI O’DONNELL
Vicki is an Aboriginal woman born and raised in Derby. Vicki was the CEO of the Derby Aboriginal Health Service for 12 years and is now the CEO of the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, the regional health body for the Kimberley region providing support to its member services. Through this position, Vicki has excelled in advancing and advocating for Aboriginal people throughout the Kimberley. Her passion for Aboriginal Health has been noted at the regional, state and national level.

GLENN PEARSON
Glenn Pearson, a Noonygar man from Western Australia and father of five, is the Manager of Aboriginal Health at the Telethon Kids Institute. He is also a member of the Health Consumer Council of WA, Curtin University’s Human Research Ethics Committee and the Institute’s Community and Consumer Participation Advisory Council. His area of research interest includes Aboriginal Health and Emotional Wellbeing, Aboriginal Research Methodologies and Policy and Advocacy.

MĀPIHI RAHARUHI
Mapihi is the programme lead and Te Rau Matatini who has been funded to deliver the Waka Hourua National Maori & Pasifika Suicide Prevention programme for vulnerable communities. Over an eight year period Mapihi has worked with families, communities, elders, decision makers, both government and non-government on developing community strategies, initiatives and activities that promote family and community focused solutions and safe responses to suicide and the impacts of suicide.

TAUTO SANSBURY
Tauto is a proud Narungga man from South Australia’s Yorke Peninsula. He has more than 35 years’ experience as an advocate for Aboriginal people across all areas. He worked closely with Elliott Johnston, QC, on the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and led both the National and South Australian Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees for more than 10 years, monitoring the implementation of the RCIADIC recommendations across Australia.
**WILLIAM TILMOUTH**

William Tilmouth was born in Alice Springs and is of Arrernte descent. A member of the stolen generations, William was taken to Croker Island where he lived and attended school with many other children sent there as a result of Government policy of that era.

In 1967 he was moved off the mission to Darwin, and in 1969 returned to Alice Springs. He attended the Aboriginal Community College in Adelaide in 1974 and worked in many jobs in South Australia. He returned to Alice Springs in 1980. William has worked in various Government and Aboriginal organisations and was elected to the Central Australian ATSIC Regional Chair in the 1980s. William is now the Chairperson of the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, an Aboriginal community controlled primary health care service located in the heart of Alice Springs and also provides primary health care services in partnership with local leaders in six surrounding remote Aboriginal communities.

**NOLA TURNER-JENSEN**

As a proud Wiradjuri (Wiradjuri) Australian woman, Nola is committed to positive change for all Australians. After a career as a community based Youth and Social Worker she witnessed firsthand how a loss of culture is a loss too much to bear for many young Aboriginal men and women and their families.

Nola and a committed team have undertaken research for the past 5 years to try and develop practical models or frameworks to capture, maintain and pass on traditional knowledge and values to all Australian future generations.

**ROZ WALKER**

Associate Professor Roz Walker is a Senior Researcher at the Telethon Kids Institute. She has a PhD in critical social science, “Transformative Strategies in Indigenous Education: Decolonisation and Positive Social Change”, and was a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the Curtin Indigenous Research Centre at Curtin University for seven years. Associate Professor Walker’s principal areas of investigation involve research in Indigenous health and social mental health and wellbeing, and early intervention and prevention initiatives to strengthen Aboriginal capability and capacity building across the life course.

**KANAT WANO**

Kanat is a direct descendant of the San Sep Clan of the MERIAM Nation (aka Murray Islands Torres Strait Islands) and her waters. He proudly wears the tribal Dhari (headress) of the Komet tribe. A traditional custodian & owner of Kerwaid lands & villages. He is accepted by the local Townsville and wider Queensland Indigenous community. Strongly advocating & representing de-colonised attitudes and values as himself, a colonised man.

**RICHARD WESTON**

Richard is a descendant of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait and has worked in Indigenous affairs for more than 20 years, 14 of these in Indigenous controlled health services in Far West NSW and Queensland.

As CEO of the Healing Foundation since September 2010 Richard has overseen the strategic development of the organisation which has supported more than 135 culturally strong, community led Indigenous healing projects around Australia.

**DION TATOW**

Dion Tatow is Aboriginal (Iman and Wadjia) and South Sea Islander (Ambrym Island, Vanuatu). Dion is currently the Senior Policy Officer – Mental Health with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council. Dion has a Bachelor of Business degree and a Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management. Dion has worked in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health for 20 years for both the Commonwealth (OATSIH) and State Governments (Queensland Health) and for the past 9 years at QAHI/C. His roles have focused on policy and program development, implementation and evaluation, with a particular focus on social and emotional wellbeing/mental health and sexual health/blood borne viruses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**GRACELYN SMALLWOOD**

Associate Professor Gracelyn Smallwood has been a tireless advocate for improved outcomes in Indigenous Health for over forty years.

One of the few employment options open to Aboriginal women in Townsville in the early 1970s – Gracelyn has championed the improvement of health, in particular Indigenous Health and HIV-AIDS prevention. Associate Professor Smallwood currently works at the largely Indigenous Cleveland Youth Detention Centre as nurse and mentor, and at Townsville Hospital as a nurse and midwife. She is an Associate Professor and Indigenous Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor at James Cook University.

**SENATOR THE HON. NIGEL SCULLION**

Senator the Hon. Nigel Scullion, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, is an Australian politician. He has been a Country Liberal Party member of the Australian Senate for the Northern Territory since November 2001. He sits with the National Party in the Senate, and has been the Leader of the Nationals in the Senate since 2013: having previously served in that role between 2007 and 2008; and as Deputy Leader of the National Party between 2007 and 2013. Minister Scullion has been the Minister for Indigenous Affairs since 18 September 2013, first in the Abbott Government and then the Turnbull Government.

**NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE PROGRAM**
TED WILKES
Ted Wilkes is a Nyungar man from Western Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science and his professional background includes working for the Western Australia Museum, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University of Technology, and sixteen years as the Director of the Derbarl Yerrigan Aboriginal Health Service in Perth. He is currently employed at the National Drug Research Institute at Curtin University where he is a leader of the Aboriginal Research Program and plays an active role in Aboriginal capacity building, and research and its application.

JOE WILLIAMS
Joe is a proud Wiradjuri Aboriginal man born in Cowra, raised in Wagga NSW, Australia. Joe played in the National Rugby League for South Sydney Rabbitohs, Penrith Panthers and Canterbury Bulldogs before switching to professional boxing in 2009. Joe is a 2x WBF World Jnr Welterweight champion and recently won the WBC Asia Continental Title. Joe now spends his time working to inspire youth and individuals through motivational speaking and running his charity, The Enemy Within. He has had his own battles, struggles and setbacks, which culminated in his own suicide attempt in 2012.

DR MARCUS WOOLUMBI WATERS
Dr Marcus Woolombi Waters is a Kamilaroi First Nation Aboriginal Australian who over the last three years has become one of the most read Indigenous social commentators in Australia. In 2014, Dr Marcus Woolombi Waters won the Australian Multicultural and Indigenous Media Award for Best Editorial Reporting, while writing for the National Indigenous Times.

His writing focuses on traditional ceremony, cultural maintenance and he often writes in his own Kamilaroi First Nation Aboriginal language. This has created a body of work that documents surviving Kamilaroi epistemologies essential to cultural maintenance and trans-generational pedagogy over tens of thousands of years old as a resistance strategy to neocolonialism.

His writing remains critical of neoliberal policy and austerity politics that continue to have devastating effect on Aboriginal peoples and their communities across the world. A published playwright, screenwriter, journalist and academic, Dr Waters is the Convener of Open Learning and teaches Sociology at Griffith University in Brisbane Australia. He is a past winner of the Griffith University Excellence in Teaching Award.

CHERI YAVU-KAMA-HARATHUNIAN
Cheri is a traditional Australian Aboriginal Elder of the Terabalang Bunda, Gooreng Gooreng and a Senior Elder of the Kabbi Kabbi clan/family to which she belongs. She has achieved professional success in business, education, academia, and cultural portfolios. In her professional career, her achievements include developing an Indigenous Research Model with a colleague, developing and implementing a Transformational Management Model, writing and publishing articles and papers on Aboriginal Australian issues, and being a sought-after conference, seminar and colloquium speaker. She is a gifted inspirational speaker who brings clarity to issues under discussion. The 50,000 Years Project is the result of this research and the team are ready to start to effect positive change based on sound practical solutions focused on the education and training systems of this country. Nola is a multiple published Aboriginal writer of children’s stories and books.
COUNSELLOR BIOGRAPHIES

BRENDAN COX
Brendan is a Yawuru man from Broome who has been employed at Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Limited for the last 17 years in Broome. He was first employed as a Health Promotion Officer delivering health messages and activities to all the Aboriginal Medical Services throughout the Kimberley region. Brendan currently work in the SEWB Unit as a trainer delivering the Youth Mental Health First Aid, Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid, Kimberley Empowerment Healing and Leadership Program and various men’s programs such as Hey Dad. Brendan is also a Counsellor providing Brief Intervention and has recently completed the Train the Trainer in Trauma and will be delivering the program in the Kimberley region.

PATRICIA COUNCILLOR
Patty is a Yamaji Naaguja nyarlu from Midwest of WA. Patty completed her Bachelor Health Science Mental Health in 2013 after working at the Fremantle Hospital social work department and the state mental hospital Graylands. Patty then returned back to her home of Meekatharra to work with her countrymen and after several years returned to Perth to be with her daughter who requires care and work full time in mental health.

VANESSA EDWIGE
Vanessa is a Kamilaroi woman from Inverell, NSW. Vanessa is a registered Psychologist and a member of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) and the Indigenous Allied Health Association (IAHA). Vanessa has been involved in the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for the last 16 years through the provision of psychological support, advocacy, and facilitating and developing both Government and non-Government projects that address intergenerational trauma and grief and loss in communities.

GRAHAM GEE
Graham Gee is an Aboriginal man, also with Celtic heritage, born and raised in Darwin. He has been a registered psychologist since 2008 and has worked at the Family Counseling Services unit of the Victorian Aboriginal Health Services in Melbourne for over 8 years. Graham recently successfully completed his PhD thesis, “Resilience and Recovery from Trauma among Aboriginal Help Seeking Clients in an Urban Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation” and holds a combined Masters/PhD degree in Clinical Psychology at Melbourne University. Graham has been a past steering committee member of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association, and was a founding board member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation.

TANJA HIRVONEN
Tanja is one of Australia’s Aboriginal psychologists and the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team Leader at Danila Dilba Health Service in Darwin. Tanja has a Master’s in Clinical Psychology and is currently completing her Clinical Psychology endorsement. Tanja has a passion for rural and remote practice. Tanja’s passion for working in health and wellbeing is attributed to the tireless work of her own family who have always worked in health or in agencies geared to improving outcomes for our people.

VICKI MCKENNA
Vicki is a Yawuru woman “Nagula Jarndu” of Garimba skin, tribal group of Broome, WA. In Vicki’s current position as the Regional Manager within The Workforce Support & Development / SEWB Unit at KAMS Ltd, she has a responsibility to coordinate and provide training, mentoring & SEWB Support to all Aboriginal Medical Services staff, peers, community members and service providers within the Kimberley region.

BRONWYN MURRAY
Bronwyn Murray lives in Cherbourg and currently works delivering the National Empowerment Project, Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing program to community. Bronwyn’s passion in life has always been to help her people from all walks of life in any challenges they encounter on their journey. Bronwyn is a multi-skilled individual who wants to set great examples for her kids, family, friends and community with a motto to never say never and to get her people to come together and unite in one spirit, one mind and one body – whether it be at social, community or family events.

KELLEIGH RYAN
Kelleigh Ryan is a descendant of the Kabi Kabi people of South-East Queensland and the Australian South Sea Islanders with connections to the people of the Loyalty Islands. Kelleigh is a registered Psychologist and a member of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association (AIPA) and sits on the AIPA Steering Committee. Kelleigh is serving her second term as the Co-chair of the Australian Psychological Society’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Psychology Interest Group.
STACEY VERVOORT
Stacey is a descendant of the Gamilaroi people of the Goondiwindi/ Moree region of Queensland and NSW. Stacey’s educational qualifications include a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) and Masters in Organisational Psychology.

Stacey specialises in providing Indigenist focused employee assistance services and programs within both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous organisations, cultural capacity training and development, and culturally appropriate social and emotional wellbeing and holistic support for adults, children and communities.

CONFERENCE STAFF

DR ABIGAIL BRAY
Dr Abigail Bray was born in North Wales and travelled all over the world when young, living on beaches, tents, barns, and communes. Her mother is from Perth, Western Australia. She is Professor Pat Dudgeon’s research assistant. Abi is an interdisciplinary social scientist, has worked in the area of mental health for over a decade and published numerous books and articles. She is an inaugural inductee in the U.N-sponsored Western Australian Women’s Hall of Fame. She has one child — Dylan.

Dr Bray has a wealth of experience in public health, with particular interests in Indigenous health, chronic disease prevention, and equity of access to healthcare. She has been Vice President of the Public Health Association of Australia and is currently a Board member and the Co-Convenor of PHAA’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group, and deeply values her long involvement in the Close the Gap Steering Committee.

CHRISIE EASTON
Chrisie is the coordinator of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference and works at the University of Western Australia. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Edith Cowan University and is a qualified financial planner. Her experience in public relations and events management spans a 25 year period working in both government and non-government fields. She previously worked as the coordinator of the Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing grant at the Telethon Kids Institute.

GERRY GEORGATOS
Gerry Georgatos is a life-long human rights and social justice campaigner and multi-award winning investigative journalist. In 2011, he left a management background and the tertiary sector and found himself called upon to contribute as a journalist and researcher predominantly for the National Indigenous Times and the National Indigenous Radio Service. He is working on a documentary and completing a book on the crises and prevention care. In 2008, he was recognised by the WA Government Department of Communities – Outstanding Individual Contribution – for his work in the tertiary sector, his work with the homeless and for his work alongside First Peoples communities. He is a regular traveller to remote communities Australia-wide.

CAROLYN MASCALL
Carolyn has been working with the National Empowerment Project with Professor Pat Dudgeon at the University of Western Australia for three years. Carolyn has a background in health promotion, education and community liaison and has worked in the health industry for many years, raising awareness of cultural appropriateness and supporting community access to primary health care. She has also supported international aid sponsored students in a university setting and worked with young students participating in vocational education training in schools.

TOBY HUNTER
Toby is a Kutjala/Birrigubba man from Charters Towers in Queensland. He has lived in Perth for 6 years now and is studying Law at Deakin University in Melbourne. Toby has recently come on board at UWA to support in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference.

DR YVONNE LUXFORD
A professional with 20 years’ experience in the health sector, Yvonne interacts and collaborates with all levels of government, health professionals, service providers and advocacy bodies to achieve high quality, accessible and culturally appropriate health care.

As the Executive Officer of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project (ATSISPEP), Yvonne values the opportunity to assist Indigenous leaders in the development of strength based solutions to the excessive suicide rates. She has a wealth of experience in public health, with particular interests in Indigenous health, chronic disease prevention, and equity of access to healthcare. She has been Vice President of the Public Health Association of Australia and is currently a Board member and the Co-Convenor of PHAA’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Special Interest Group, and deeply values her long involvement in the Close the Gap Steering Committee.

She has qualifications in philosophy and higher education, and her doctoral thesis explored a mixture of policy and medical issues with a focus on child oral health.

COUNSELLOR BIOGRAPHIES continued
CONFERENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Professor Pat Dudgeon  
(Chair) UWA
Dion Tatow  
NACCHO
Brendan Gibson  
PM&C
Richard Weston  
Healing Foundation
Sue Murray  
Suicide Prevention Australia
Erin Lew Fatt  
AMSANT
Dameyon Bonson  
Black Rainbow

Donna Murray  
IAHA
Donna Ah Chee  
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