



**Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (AIH)  
Advisory Board  
Communiqué from telemeeting 26 February 2013**

The Board was welcomed to the first Advisory Board telemeeting for 2013.

Neil updated the Board on recent AIH research activity. The 2012 *Overview of Australian Indigenous health status* is complete and is now being prepared for publication. The *Review of cardiovascular health among Indigenous Australians* is complete and several reviews are in the final stages of preparation including rheumatic heart disease, kidney health, physical activity, ear health, eye health, illicit drug use and social and emotional wellbeing. The Board suggested the review topics range could be widened to cover those planned by the ABS. Neil explained that Australian Government funding does not extend to all health topics so the number or reviews that AIH can produce is limited. It was agreed that the Board would have a role in the priority and choice of future reviews.

The DoHA-funded Healthy lifestyle project is now complete. The workshop program, which was funded by Healthway (WA's health promotion foundation) and is being conducted throughout WA is progressing well. The workshops increase access to the HealthInfoNet web resource and build the capacity of the frontline health workforce. The workshops commenced in May 2012 and have been held in Kalgoorlie, the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the Gascoyne and Mid-West, the South West and are ongoing in Perth. Workshops in the Great Southern (Albany) are scheduled for March and the final workshops will be held in the metropolitan area in March/April, with an expected total of 70 workshops and attendance of approximately 500 health practitioners. The program provides a model for similar training programs in other jurisdictions.

Use of the HealthInfoNet (comprising the main web resource, the Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin and the yarning places) continues to increase with visits to the resource increasing by 15% and page views increasing 11% in the five-month period compared with the same period in the preceding year.

The yarning places continue to grow and develop. There are now 15 yarning places with a total of 2,973 members. The feedback provided to the AIH confirms the new on-line chat facility is a very helpful tool in communication, with a specific group mentioning they are utilising the facility for their weekly group meeting.

Web resource improvements in the period since the last Board meeting include: developing the National Indigenous Cancer Network (NICaN) website and yarning place; setting up the Lowitja CQIconnect yarning place; adding the completed CVD review; the addition of instructional videos on use of the health promotion resources database and the bibliography; and the addition of short films on some of the key resources on the HealthInfoNet web resource.

The HealthInfoNet currently has 19 Memorandums of Understanding/Letters of Agreement in place. Since the last Board meeting, there have been two new agreements finalised: with Indigenous Allied Health Australia and the National Rural Health Alliance.

In December, the HealthInfoNet made a submission to inform development of the new National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan.

The next meeting – a telemeeting – is scheduled for June 2013.