



Australian Indigenous
HealthInfoNet

Funding opportunities



Core funding from



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing



ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Bibdjool

by Donna Lei Rioli

Donna Lei Rioli - a Western Australian Indigenous artist - was commissioned by the HealthInfoNet in 2008 to create a new logo incorporating a gecko for the re-development of its website. The gecko was chosen because it is one of a few animals that are found across the great diversity of Australia.

Donna is a young Tiwi/ Nyoongar woman who is dedicated to the heritage and culture of the Tiwi people on her father's side, Maurice Rioli, and the Nyoongar people on her mother's side, Robyn Collard. Donna enjoys painting because it enables her to express her Tiwi and Nyoongar and she combines the two in a unique way.

Donna interpreted the brief with great awareness and conveyed an integrated work that focuses symbolically on the pathway through life. This is very relevant to the work and focus of Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet in contributing to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians.



Closing the gap in Australian Indigenous health

Australian Indigenous disadvantage in health is a central issue in Australia with 'closing the gap' becoming a national priority. Recent COAG commitments have seen around \$5 billion allocated by governments to address these shortcomings. For over 12 years the HealthInfoNet has been a 'one-stop info-shop' making information on this important subject freely accessible. Our work is guided by a high-level national Advisory Board, and national reference groups in a number of areas, and assisted by a network of honorary HealthInfoNet consultants. A recent external review commissioned by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), our 'core' funder, confirmed that we provide a unique and vital resource, which is not replicated by any other site. Therefore, our role in helping to inform practice and policy by providing the evidence base in Indigenous health is a vital one. We seek your assistance to increase our support for those who work or study in this area.



Neil Thomson

We are a 'neutral' not-for-profit organisation with no political agenda and we facilitate knowledge utilisation/translation and its dissemination, and facilitate knowledge sharing among people involved in Indigenous health. Our national audience is wide and diverse including Indigenous community-controlled services and their representative bodies, government agencies, non-government organisations, other health service agencies, health professionals and their associations, researchers and tertiary students. The fact that we provide a wide body of free quality material across many disciplines makes us very effective and allows us to make significant contributions, which in turn support those working in Indigenous health.

We look forward to working with you and value your support and involvement to assist us broaden our reach nationally, keep content up to date and ensure this vital evidence base is fully utilised. Our website provides details of those who endorse and support us already. I encourage you to take a tour of the many features and services we offer (www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au), and welcome the opportunity of meeting with you.

Neil Thomson

Professor Neil Thomson

Director



About us

The Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet* is an innovative national Internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making the evidence base readily accessible. The Health*InfoNet* is helping to 'close the gap' in health between Indigenous and other Australians.

It is a 'one-stop info-shop' for people interested in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. The Health*InfoNet* makes published, unpublished and specially-developed material about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health available to people involved in the area to enhance their knowledge and skills, and improve their practice and/or policy work. Access to all information on the site is free and available to everyone.

Headed up by Director, Professor Neil Thomson, the Health*InfoNet* has been operating since 1997 when it was known as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Clearinghouse. In recognition of its 'value-adding' as well as literature clearinghouse functions, it was re-named in 2000. The work of the Health*InfoNet* is undertaken by a small team based in Kurongkurl Katitjin, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research at Edith Cowan University in Perth. Deputy Director Associate Professor Richard Midford, a nationally regarded specialist in the drug and alcohol area, supervises the research team of 10. The Health*InfoNet*'s research activities are supported by management, IT, library and administrative staff.

Core funding for the Health*InfoNet*'s work is provided by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), with the Department's Drug Strategy Branch funding sections devoted to substance misuse. Health*InfoNet* is a not-for-profit organisation.

A recent independent review commissioned by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing (our major funding body) found the Health*InfoNet* to have a 'different and unique role' with no other sites fulfilling the same function. It provides 'important, relevant high quality up to date knowledge... is widely known and widely used among its target audience', and is 'accessible to people working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander'.

The Advisory Board comprises 13 members, 11 of whom are Indigenous. Key stakeholder organisations are represented on the Board, which provides expert strategic advice to the Director and Executive Group of the Health*InfoNet* to assist in optimising its contributions to 'closing the gap'.

www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au

Funding opportunities

The 'core' funds provided by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's OATSIH enable good coverage of many areas, particularly those within the direct responsibility of the health system. The *HealthInfoNet* is able to provide better coverage of some areas - such as road safety, substance misuse, and ear health and hearing - because of the availability of extra resources for these areas. On the other hand, coverage of other areas, particularly those outside the direct responsibility of the health system, is much less than desirable.

The core funding allows us to provide quite a good level of coverage to most health topics, but there is more that could be done to expand the knowledge base to support those working and studying to close the gap in Indigenous health. There are many avenues for funding – from specific projects to promotional activities, and printing of key documents to reach a wider audience. Some of these are listed below and we are very happy to discuss what is the best fit for your organisational mission.¹

1. Nominate a specific health topic listed below you would like to fund.
2. Donate an amount of your choosing and let us allocate the funding to an area we know is a high priority for Indigenous health.
3. Work in consultation with us as we suggest an area that needs support. For example, development of a *ChildInfoNet* section with a dedicated online yarning place to connect people working in this area nationally.
4. A 12 month donation to an established health topic to expand and update the content and provide an online yarning place – from \$35,000.
5. Develop a new section that is not currently on the site from \$55,000 in first year and from \$35,000 each year there after.
6. A yarning place for a health topic from \$10,000 per annum.
7. Sponsor a workshop to healthcare professionals in a rural or remote area – \$10-\$25,000.
8. Fund airfares and accommodation for our staff to attend a relevant health related conference and run a *HealthInfoNet* café where we take delegates through our website.
9. Fund the printing and distribution of promotional material (e.g. brochure on health topics, posters, pens, which are handed out at conferences and used for mail out purposes).
10. Fund the printing and distribution of the highly regarded annual publication *Overview of Indigenous Australian health status* sent to Indigenous community-controlled health organisations government departments, universities, libraries and used nationally by health professionals.
11. Fund the printing of the annual *Summary of Indigenous Australian health*, a shorter version of the Overview handed out at conferences and sent to stakeholder organisations nationally.
12. Become a partner and assist us in seeking funding by endorsing our work.

The funds needed to expand an existing health topic area or develop a new one depend on: (1) the complexity of the topic; (2) the level of coverage required; and (3) associated options (such as yarning place, reference group, and training workshops). We can tailor a package to meet your needs.

¹ All figures shown are for 2010. Amounts for later years would be slightly higher.

Level of coverage of health topics

The HealthInfoNet's 'core' resources enable it to provide a 3-gecko coverage for most major health areas. Achievement of 4 or 5-gecko coverage, which includes a detailed, up-to-date review of the topic and support of a yarning place, is only possible if specific, extra funds are available. The HealthInfoNet's current funding mean that some areas of importance to Indigenous health - including many outside the direct responsibility of the health sector - do not reach the 3-gecko coverage.

A summary of the availability of specific, extra funds at July 2010 follows:

Main health topics with specific, extra funds

- Ear health and hearing
- Diabetes
- Kidney health
- Respiratory health
- Alcohol
- Illicit drugs
- Volatile substances

Other topics with specific, extra funds

- Road safety
- Indigenous Health Workers
- Indigenous Environmental Health workers
- Offender health
- WA Indigenous health
- Nutrition

Health and related topics without extra funds

- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer
- Dementia
- Eye health
- Sexual health
- Oral health
- Family violence
- Child protection
- Gastrointestinal
- HIV/AIDS
- Injury
- Health promotion
- Infants and adolescents

- Men
- Women
- Palliative care
- Immunisation

States and Territories

- South Australia
- Northern Territory
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- Australian Capital Territory
- Queensland
- Tasmania

What your organisation receives

1. National acknowledgement of being a financial supporter of a vital web resource that is committed to 'closing the gap' in Australian Indigenous health by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy.
2. Acknowledgement and logo on our website in the 'funders section'.
3. A news item on the home page where we acknowledge and thank you as a supporter and a brief description of your organisation and which area you are contributing to.
4. A news item in the online *HealthBulletin*.
5. Acknowledgment on the health topic (if applies), your logo on this section's home page.
6. Logo on the brochure for that health topic.
7. Email to all members of the e-message stick to acknowledge nationally your organisation's support.
8. A framed certificate thanking you for your valued contribution, which you can display in your office.
9. Some information on our organisation that can be used to advise your customers/ stakeholders that you are funding our organisation.

Your organisation ?



Frequently asked questions

Are you a charity?

We are a not-for-profit organisation, a non-government organisation. We are not incorporated. Your donation is tax deductible and we have DGR status.

What if I want to fund an area you haven't listed?

If it is a relevant health issue for Indigenous Australians then we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you.

Can I donate without selecting an area?

Yes you can - we may then allocate it to a key health topic that is a high priority for Indigenous health. We may use it to attend conferences or run workshops in rural and remote areas or to other relevant stakeholder groups.

Can I have a tour of your organisation and see what you do?

Yes. Please contact us on the details below. We are located in Perth at Kurongkurl Katitjin Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research at Edith Cowan University's Mount Lawley campus.

Who uses the site?

Our national stakeholders are diverse and varied.

The *HealthInfoNet* defines its target audience broadly as all people working, studying or interested in Indigenous health. It is a useful resource for many groups including:

- » Indigenous community health services and their representative bodies
- » government departments of health and Indigenous affairs

- » non-governmental agencies
- » professorial associations and health service providers (including Indigenous health practitioners, doctors, nurses and other health providers)
- » research agencies and bodies
- » students in health-related courses and their teachers

How many people visit the site?

HealthInfoNet traffic has consistently grown each year. We currently get more than 35,000 visits and 140,000 pageviews per month. Some of our most visited content are *Overview of Australian Indigenous health status*, *Summary of Australian Indigenous health*, and the section on social and emotional wellbeing (including mental health) and 'close the gap'.

I am interested in funding the HealthInfoNet. How do I contact you?

Director: **Neil Thomson**

Email: n.thomson@ecu.edu.au

Ph: (08) 9370 6062

Development and Marketing Manager:

Tara Hoyne

Email: t.hoyne@ecu.edu.au

Ph: (08) 9370 6109

Web: www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au

Who guides the HealthInfoNet?

The Advisory Board comprises 13 members, 11 of whom are Indigenous. Key stakeholder organisations are represented on the Board, which provides expert strategic advice to the Director and Executive Group of the HealthInfoNet to assist in optimising its contributions to ‘closing the gap’ in health between Indigenous and other Australians.

Members in alphabetical order are:

Dr Mick Adams

Former Chairperson of NACCHO; expert in the health of Indigenous males

Professor Ian Anderson, Director

Director, Centre for Health and Society and Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit and Research Director, Lowitja Institute (Proxy: Ms Jenny Brands, Research and Development Manager, Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health)

Dr Kerry Arabena

Chief Executive Officer, Lowitja Institute (and Co-Chair, National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples)

Dr Alex Brown

Head, Centre for Indigenous Vascular Research, Baker IDI, Alice Springs, NT

Professor Jonathan Carapetis

Director, Menzies School of Health Research

Mr Mick Gooda

Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission

Ms Sally Goold

Chair, Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses (CATSIN)

Ms Haylene Grogan

Chair of NATSIHON (is the NATSIHON representative). The Senior Director of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit (ATSIHU) Queensland Health.

Ms Kathy Malera Bandjalan

CEO and Editor, Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal

Mr Justin Mohamed

Chair, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Dr Peter O’Mara

President, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA)

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver

Director Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, University of New South Wales, Sydney

Professor Ian Ring

Professor of Public Health and Professorial Fellow-Academic Development, Centre for Health Services Development, University of Wollongong

Professor Cindy Shannon

Director of the Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Queensland



Our consultants

One of the major issues that exists for any information-based Internet site - such as the *HealthInfoNet* - is that of ensuring the quality of materials. Any individual or organisation can place material on the Internet and, unlike the case with refereed journals, there has been no way of assuring users of the quality of material on a site. The *HealthInfoNet* is the first site of its type - that we are aware of - to have addressed this issue through the establishment of a network of honorary Consultants.

HealthInfoNet Consultants are leading experts within various areas of Indigenous health. A key role of Consultants is the formal peer-review function, which ensures users of the quality of our specially-developed summaries, overviews and reviews. The *HealthInfoNet* Consultants serve as an informal reference group by providing guidance in their individual areas of expertise. They assist also in the identification and collection of other materials.

Awards

The *HealthInfoNet* has achieved recognition for its innovative approaches to the generation and sharing of knowledge. This recognition includes being chosen as a finalist in the prestigious Stockholm Challenge Award (the international award that highlights the benefits that information and communication technology can bring to people and society) and winning the Public Health Association of Australia's inaugural Eberhard Wenzel Online Award.

Our funders and partners

Funders

Major funder



Australian Department
of Health and Ageing

Other funders



Government of
Western Australia



Variety, the children's
charity



enHealth Council



Consortium of
government road
safety authorities

Partners



Australian Research
Centre for Population
Oral Health



HealthInsite



Kulunga Research
Network



Menzies School of
Health Research



National Inhalants
Information Service





www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au

Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

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