



NHMRC

CREATE

The Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Chronic Disease Knowledge Translation and Exchange

CREATE Bulletin

Issue 9, 30 April 2015

Welcome to Issue 9 of the CREATE Bulletin, our second for 2015. In this bulletin you will find brief overviews of the priority projects that were introduced earlier this year, as well as specific activities associated with each. We have also provided information about how you can be actively involved in or receive regular updates on any of these priority projects.

General News

The **CREATE Leadership Group** met for the first time this year on 13 March 2015. Representatives from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector who attended were provided with information about current priority projects and the goals for 2015. The group discussed opportunities for information sharing between CREATE and the sector, and requested that an electronic portal be made available on the CREATE website in order to share information more efficiently. The website is currently being updated – *we will let you know as soon as it goes live*.

The Leadership Group also requested that a list of all current projects and their associated activities be made available so that members are able to identify the projects that most interest them. This Bulletin provides an opportunity for you to signal your interest in either being directly involved with or receiving regular updates about each of the current priority projects.

Funding Domain

The Funding Domain has three priority projects.

Funding Projects One and Two will begin by providing two discussion papers regarding ways in which the Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) can work for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and one discussion paper regarding government expenditure. These projects will also develop spreadsheet tools to accompany relevant

related topics. Opportunities for you to be involved may include:

- Contributing to Medical Benefits Schedule Discussion Paper (May-June 2015)
- Contributing to Fund-pooling/ Block-funding Discussion Paper (May-June 2015)
- Contributing to Government Expenditure Discussion Paper (June-July 2015)
- Reviewing the spread sheet tools that accompany these projects (June-December 2015)

To register for regular updates or to find out how to contribute to the work of the Funding Domain projects one and two, please contact Brita Pekarsky at: Brita.Pekarsky@sahmri.com

Funding Project Three utilises a systematic review methodology to draw together quantitative, qualitative and economic evidence on the unique contribution that Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services make to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health. This work aims to inform government policy and budget allocations as well as Aboriginal healthcare sector data collection priorities. Opportunities to be involved in this project may include the following:

- Reviewing the studies and evidence to be included in the systematic reviews



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- Reviewing and providing input into the qualitative review of people's experiences of care
- Reviewing and providing input into the quantitative review of the effects of primary health care service provision
- Reviewing and providing input into the mixed-methods review of costs and options for improving efficiency
- Partaking in a workshop regarding reforming funding mechanisms

For further information or to find out how to contribute to the work of the Funding Domain project three, please contact Judith Gomersall at: Judith.Gomersall@adelaide.edu.au

Health Promotion Domain

The Health Promotion Domain has two priority projects.

Health Promotion Project One involves a scoping review to map the existing literature on health promotion programs and activities that focus on reducing chronic disease risk and improving care management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples via Primary Health Care services. This review hopes to inform topics which could benefit from a synthesis of knowledge to inform health service delivery or policy. Opportunities for you to become involved in 2015 may include:

- Reviewing draft scoping review and providing advice on implications and recommendations (May/June 2015)
- Reviewing results of the scoping review to identify priorities of the Aboriginal Health Sector (June 2015)
- Providing advice and support around subsequent systematic reviews (June-December 2015)
- Leading a review supported through CREATE Capacity Strengthening program (June-December 2015)

Health Promotion Project Two will develop an evaluation framework to assist the Aboriginal Health Sector to evaluate their health promotion activities. This project will involve consultation and collaboration with health promotion practitioners, and will include capacity strengthening activities to support the sector to use the framework, evaluate their activities and share their learnings with others. Opportunities for you to become involved in 2015 may include:

- Providing examples of current evaluation frameworks/tools being used (May 2015 – July 2015)
- Providing practical advice on the needs of the sector regarding evaluating their health promotion programs and activities (May 2015 – July 2015)

If you would like any further information or are keen to be involved in the work of the Health Promotion Domain, please contact Karla Canuto at: Karla.Canuto@sahmri.com

Best Practice Domain

The Best Practice Domain is presently focusing on the development of a best practice model of service delivery. Involvement within this study could involve the following activities:

- Reviewing the initial synthesis report
- Reviewing the draft systematic review
- Circulating information to potential case study health services
- Participating in a case study of best practice service deliver
- Providing feedback on the draft service delivery framework

If you would like any further information or you are keen to register your interest in being involved in the work of the Best Practice Domain, please contact Stephen Harfield at: Stephen.Harfield@sahmri.com.



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New Faces at CREATE

We are very excited to announce the first CREATE PhD candidate, **Summer Finlay**! Also, we are sad to announce that Heath White is no longer the Program Manager for CREATE. A Program Coordinator role will be advertised soon. In the meantime, **Leda Sivak** is assisting with CREATE program management activities.

Ms Summer Finlay



Summer is a Yorta Yorta woman who grew up in Lake Macquarie near Newcastle. Summer has a Master of Public Health Advanced majoring in social marketing, from the University of Wollongong and a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in linguistics from Macquarie University. She also has a Certificate 4 in Training and Assessment.

Summer currently works at National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) in a policy and research capacity. Prior to NACCHO, Summer worked at the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples in Policy and Communications roles. She spent two and a half years at the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW and at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation respectively. Summer also has four years' experience as a youth and children's worker.

Ms Leda Sivak



Leda was born in Pennsylvania in the USA then lived in New Zealand for fifteen years before moving to Australia in January 2006. Her academic background is in neuroscience and anthropology. For the five and a half years prior to joining Wardliparingga Aboriginal Research Unit at SAHMRI, Leda worked as a consultant anthropologist in the field of Aboriginal cultural heritage management with many groups in urban, regional, rural and remote South Australia and Western Australia.

Leda will be assisting CREATE with program management activities until the new CREATE Program Coordinator is appointed. Her previous role within Wardliparingga was Program Manager for the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration, which developed a Wellbeing Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living with chronic disease. Leda can be contacted at: Leda.Sivak@sahmri.com



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