

PUBLIC HEALTH INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION (PHILE) NETWORK

BIANNUAL BULLETIN

January 2012



WELCOME TO THE PHILE NETWORK BIANNUAL BULLETIN

Welcome to the December 2011 edition of the PHILE Network Biannual Bulletin. The Bulletin is published twice a year in June and December. It provides an update on activities of the PHILE Network, which aims to 'build capacity in Indigenous public health teaching and learning programs nationally,' through sharing of information about innovations in Indigenous public health education.

The PHILE Network hopes to expand future issues of this Bulletin, to include information provided by its subscribers. If you are interested in being a contributor, please contact the PHILE Network Secretariat. We hope you enjoy this edition and strongly encourage you to contribute in the future.

ABOUT THE PHILE NETWORK

The PHILE Network is a coalition of leading national Indigenous public health academics formed from the National Indigenous Public Curriculum Network. The PHILE Network is part of the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project, which is funded by the Department of Health & Ageing.

During a membership drive earlier this year, letters of invitation were sent to the Heads of School for all universities with a Master of Public Health program seeking a nomination to the PHILE Network.

There are currently 18 academics who have been nominated to the PHILE Network, representing 15 institutions. Individuals with an interest in Indigenous public health education can also now subscribe to the broader PHILE Network membership by registering contact details on the website: www.phile.net.au. Subscription is open to public health educators, practitioners, students, policy makers, allied health professionals and community members.

For more information, please contact the PHILE Network Secretariat:
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ARTWORK by Shawana Andrews

Sharing knowledge – a community learning circle around the campfire

NATIONAL REVIEW OF CORE INDIGENOUS PUBLIC HEALTH COMPETENCIES INTEGRATION INTO MPH CURRICULA

A key activity of the PHILE Network is capacity building with MPH programs nationally regarding integration of Indigenous health.

At the 2006 National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Workshop in Sydney, six core Indigenous health competencies required by every Masters of Public Health (MPH) graduate were proposed and refined by subsequent consultations across the network.

The resultant “*National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Framework*”, is a guide for MPH programs to integrate these six competencies into their programs. The six competencies that are expected of every MPH graduate, are integral to the “*Foundation Competencies for Master of Public Health Graduates in Australia*”.

To further consolidate these gains the PHILE Network intend to strengthen Indigenous public health curriculum further by working with MPH programs to review the integration of the Indigenous public health competencies within their MPH programs and to disseminate the findings.

The review will look at the MPH to:

- identify what is working well in , what could be improved and how that can be achieved;
- describe key innovations to integrate and enhance Indigenous public health content; and
- disseminate examples of good practice to academic MPH programs nationally.

The first MPH Review was conducted at the University of NSW on 1-2 September 2011. The results and feedback from individuals involved in the process have been extremely positive. The draft report has been provided to the University of NSW team for feedback prior to its publication in the new year. Once published, copies of the report will be made available through the PHILE Network website.

Reviews have also been scheduled at Flinders University and the University of Adelaide during February 2012. La Trobe University and the University of Melbourne are currently negotiating dates for their Reviews which are also likely to be scheduled in early 2012. Further planning is underway to secure dates during Apr-June 2012 for several other universities.

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA (PHAA) 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

An overview of the PHILE Network and the preliminary results from the University of NSW MPH Review was presented at the PHAA Conference at the end of September in Brisbane.

Feedback from conference delegates indicated that the presentation generated intense interest in the MPH Review process. It also generated an increase in PHILE Network general membership.

PHILE NETWORK & CAPHIA INDIGENOUS HEALTH TEACHING & LEARNING FORUM

Immediately following the PHAA Conference, the PHILE Network and the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions of Australia (CAPHIA) co-hosted an Indigenous Health Teaching & Learning Forum.

Three presentations were provided at the Forum:

- Embedding Indigenous Culture and Health into an Inter-professional Faculty First Year at Curtin University (Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute).
- A Model of Institutional Collaboration for an MPH Indigenous Health specialisation (University of Melbourne and University of Queensland).
- Update on PHILE Network and the Review of Indigenous Public Health Curricula and Competencies in Mainstream MPH Programs Nationally (PHILE Network).

The last presentation was followed by a workshop discussion of the following three items:

- What do you see as the opportunities and barriers for your institution to participate in the Review of Indigenous Public Health Curricula and Competencies in Mainstream MPH Programs and the National Collaboration?
- What can we do to help support you in becoming an MPH Review site and an active participant in the PHILE Network?
- What can the PHILE Network do to support your work as public health practitioners?

A report on the outcomes of the Forum is posted on the PHILE Network website in the publications section which is accessible to members.



STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

A face-to-face workshop for the PHILE Network was held on the 5 December 2011 in Melbourne. The aim of the workshop was to reflect on and discuss the MPH Review process and plan for future MPH Reviews. Additionally, the group discussed priorities for the future directions of the PHILE Network, including feedback from the Indigenous Health Teaching & Learning Forum workshop.



SIGN UP AS MEMBER ON NEW PHILE NETWORK WEBSITE

A new website has been developed for the PHILE Network. Please visit the website and sign on as a member of our Network: www.phile.net.au.

For more information on the PHILE Network, to become a member or contribute to the Bulletin, please visit the website or contact the PHILE Network Secretariat:

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