

# PUBLIC HEALTH INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION (PHILE) NETWORK

## BIANNUAL BULLETIN

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### PHILE NETWORK WELCOME

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Public Health Indigenous Leadership in Education (PHILE) Network Biannual Bulletin. In this edition we are pleased to provide information on current PHILE Network activities, which aim to *'build capacity in Indigenous public health teaching and learning programs nationally'*. Our member profile this month features our Chairperson: Heather D'Antoine.

### ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

2013 has been a busy year for the PHILE Network leadership group. Our work conducting the National Curricula Reviews of Core Indigenous Health Competencies Integration in Masters in Public Health Programs has almost been completed, with eight reviews conducted in all including the pilot. Three of these reviews have recently been published. All published reports are available on our website. The remaining four reports are in the final stages of revision and are expected to be published by early 2014.

In addition, the PHILE Network is committed to knowledge transfer activities. Several journal articles are currently being written to share the findings and learnings from these reviews. These will be posted on our website as soon as they are accepted for publication.

The Network also co-hosted its third Teaching and Learning Workshop at the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australia (CAPHIA) Teaching and Learning Forum in September 2013. This workshop outlined several models being used to integrate Indigenous health content in the programs reviewed.

The important work of the PHILE Network and the need to build on these knowledge transfer activities has been acknowledged by its funding body, with a three-year extension of funding to further this work granted through to June 2016.

PHILE Network Secretariat

**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**

The key activity of the PHILE Network is to build capacity of Master of Public Health (MPH) programs nationally by reviewing integration of Indigenous health content and disseminating learnings from these reviews. To date, the PHILE Network has reviewed eight MPH programs, including a pilot at the University of New South Wales. The other review sites included the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, Menzies School of Health Research at Charles Darwin University, the University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, the University of Western Australia and Deakin University.

Three of these reviews are now published reports, and were launched at the CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forum (see overleaf). These reports are from the reviews conducted at the University of Adelaide, the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. All three reports are available on our website at: [www.phile.net.au](http://www.phile.net.au) in the publications section. The four remaining reports are also close to publication and are expected to be available in early 2014.

### **LEADER PROFILE: HEATHER D'ANTOINE**

#### **PHILE NETWORK CHAIRPERSON & ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS FOR THE MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH**



Heather is a Bardi woman from the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. She trained as a registered nurse in Perth in the mid 1970s and as a midwife in Scotland in the mid 1980s. Heather has a Bachelor of Applied Science and Masters Health Economics (Aboriginal Health) from Curtin University.

Heather has over 20 years of clinical experience in rural, remote and urban areas, and five years of managing health services. She entered into health research with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth and worked there for 8 years in the area of Aboriginal child health.

Heather moved to the Menzies School of Health Research just over three years ago to take up the position as Associate Director for Aboriginal Programs for the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin.

## COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PUBLIC HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AUSTRALIA (CAPHIA)

### INDIGENOUS HEALTH TEACHING & LEARNING FORUM

The PHILE Network was pleased to co-host their third Indigenous Health Teaching and Learning Workshop on 20 September 2013 at the annual CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forum, as a vehicle for disseminating learnings from the Review of Core Indigenous Public Health Competencies Integration in MPH Curricula.



This event provided the ideal opportunity to launch the three published reports from the reviews, with representatives of each of the institutions present to receive their reports.

The models of integration being used at the reviewed institutions were presented, with five distinctly different models identifiable. A SWOT analysis of each of these models was workshopped with participants at the event. Implications for the implementation of each of the models was also discussed. The content and outcomes of this workshop form the basis of one of the journal articles currently being written by members of the PHILE Network as part of its knowledge transfer agenda.

Several participants later commented that the Indigenous workshop was one of the most informative sessions in the Forum program.

### REVIEW OF PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COMPETENCIES

One of the common recommendations emerging from the curricula reviews relates to the need to review the core competencies expected of all MPH graduates, including the Indigenous health specific competencies. This will ensure that the competencies are still relevant and reflect workforce need.

CAPHIA has acknowledged the need to review the graduate competencies and recently formed a working group to progress this piece of work. The PHILE Network is delighted to partner with CAPHIA on this project and has nominated one of its members, Dr Priscilla Robinson who was involved in development of the original MPH core competencies, to represent its members on this working group.



## PHILE NETWORK

The PHILE Network is hosted by the *Onemda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the University of Melbourne, as part of the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project which is co-managed by the Institute of Koorie Education at Deakin University. The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Current members of the leadership group include:

Heather D'Antoine (Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University)  
[PHILE Network Chair]  
Vanessa Lee (University of Sydney)  
[PHILE Network Deputy Chair & CAPHIA Representative]  
Leanne Coombe (University of Melbourne)  
[PHILE Network Secretariat]  
Professor Dennis McDermott (Flinders University)  
Associate Professor Geoffrey Marks (University of Queensland)  
Associate Professor Jenny Baker (University of Adelaide)  
Assistant Professor Craig Allen (University of Western Australia)  
Dr Hassan Vally (La Trobe University)  
Dr Priscilla Robinson (La Trobe University)  
David Sjoberg (Flinders University)  
Janice Jessen (Deakin University)  
Melody Muscat (James Cook University)  
Ray Mahoney (Queensland University of Technology)  
Wendy Anders (Deakin University)

For more information on the PHILE Network or to become a member please visit the website: [www.phile.net.au](http://www.phile.net.au)

The Biannual Bulletin is intended as a collaborative publication that encourages information sharing between PHILE Network members. If you have a story, idea or an event that you would like to highlight, we would love to hear from you. We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin and encourage your contributions for future publications.

