

PUBLIC HEALTH INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION (PHILE) NETWORK

BULLETIN

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PHILE NETWORK WELCOME

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Public Health Indigenous Leadership in Education (PHILE) Network 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 Deputy Chair: Craig Allen.

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

The last twelve months have seen much action 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 was completed, with eight reviews conducted in all including the pilot. All the reviews have been published and offer excellent insight into the integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health into Masters of Public Health across Australian universities. All published reports are available on our website.

The PHILE Executive Group held its Annual Strategic Meeting in October 2015. The meeting provided members with the opportunity to plan for PHILE's future. The group made some important decisions on the positioning of PHILE in the future, new terms of reference and new projects that the network would undertake.

The PHILE Network presented twice in September 2015; firstly at the Indigenous Content in Education Conference and secondly, we facilitated a workshop at the annual CAPHIA Teaching and Learning Forum. At the CAPHIA Conference PHILE members held a Teaching and Learning workshop on methods and means to embed Indigenous public health into teaching, improving cultural competency and utilising Indigenous health teaching tools.

PHILE members are in the midst of finishing several journal articles to share the findings and learnings from the MPH reviews. These will be posted on our website as soon as they are accepted for publication.

The Executive Group came together again in March to update the National Indigenous Public Health Framework Curriculum. A productive two days saw some fantastic collaboration around innovations in teaching and learning and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Public Health.

Last month, the PHILE Network Executive Group Secretariat position has transitioned to a new home at CAPHIA in Canberra.

PHILE Network Secretariat

ARTWORK by Shawana Andrews
Sharing knowledge – a community learning circle around the campfire

LEADER PROFILE: CRAIG ALLEN

PHILE NETWORK ASSISTANT CHAIRPERSON &

Craig Allen is a Yandruwandha Yawarrawarrka man, whose traditional country is located in central desert Australia. With a background in Psychology and Criminology, Craig has worked extensively throughout the country supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, their families and communities. Craig has continued to work within the philosophy of “Cultural Way First”. This philosophy has influenced his direct clinical practice and is reflected in his policy writing, consultation and advice surrounding strategic direction and reorientation of health service and health service delivery with representation at a local, State and National level.



For the last eight years Craig has been an Assistant Professor with the Centre of Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (CAMDH) at the University of Western Australia (UWA). During this eight-year period Craig has occupied a number of positions, including as Course Coordinator of the Pre-Medicine/Pre-Dentistry Program for Aboriginal students, Course Coordinator for the Aboriginal Health Major, Course Coordinator for the Aboriginal Masters of Population Health. More recently Craig was on the UWA Human Rights Ethics Committee and has been a research supervisor for undergraduate and medical students. Given the size and breadth of CAMDH scope, Craig has now developed curriculum and delivers teaching across a wide range of health service disciplines including Medicine, Dentistry, Podiatric Medicine, Population Health and the Aboriginal Health major units. He is supporting the teaching of our next generations of health practitioners the importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and how to better provide culturally safe and secure health services in order to produce better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.

In addition to Craig’s work commitments at UWA he also finds the time to give back to the community. Craig has been on the Board at Yorgum Aboriginal Counselling services for the last 10 years as well as the management committee of the YITLOAC (RNTBC). He is one of the founding Directors of Cooper Basin Enterprises (CBE) and Cooper Basin Heritage Services (CBHS) and is also the founding Director and sole owner of Dynamic Desert Discoveries - Obligations Connection Healing Research Enlighten (3D-CHRE).



Last but not least there is then Craig’s family – a majority of what Craig has achieved, and would still like to achieve, would not have been possible without their tireless and abundant support.

THE PHILE NETWORK'S NEW HOME

The PHILE Network has a new home at CAPHIA. We welcome our new secretariat, Dr Devin Knowles, who will share his time between CAPHIA, National Alliance for Action on Alcohol and PHILE. PHILE Executive Group members are excited the Network has grown to such a size where it is able to take up an independent position, aligned with CAPHIA and PHAA. The re-structuring within CAPHIA affords both opportunities to strengthen the relationship and drive public health workforce capacity building in Australia.

PHILE will continue building on its role in advocating for more focus Australia-wide on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health. We welcome Devin and are delighted to have him on board.

REVIEW OF THE INDIGENOUS PUBLIC HEALTH CORE COMPETENCIES

PHILE Executive Group members came together in March at a workshop to update the Indigenous Public Health Competencies Framework. This work is to ensure that the competencies and resources are still relevant and reflect workforce need. The Group are busy editing and reviewing the document so that it provides a range of innovative, multimedia resources, and brings the document into the current context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health teaching and learning. The document is to be released at the CAPHIA Conference in September of this year.



CAPHIA has recently reviewed its own Australian MPH graduate competencies. The PHILE Network was delighted to work with CAPHIA on this project. Dr Priscilla Robinson, a PHILE Executive Group member was involved in development of the original MPH core competencies, and actively contributed to the review working group.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

The Executive Group would love to invite interested academics or public health professionals to join the PHILE Network. Network members are updated on ways to embed Indigenous teaching and learning into Masters of Public Health programs and links to excellent resources for doing so. For those who want to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public health, this is what PHILE is all about.

Please apply at <http://www.phile.net.au/contact>.

AURORA INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS

Kassmena Birch is completing the MPH at the Institute of Koorie Education (IKE) at Deakin University in June 2016. The program at IKE is linked with PHILE in that it aims to increase the number of Indigenous MPH graduates.

Kassmena is one of over 60 graduates from the IKE MPH program. Last year Kassmena participated in the Aurora Indigenous Scholars International Study Tour (Study Tour) which takes place in October and November each year. Selected Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander scholars use the opportunity to visit leading universities in the UK and US in order for them to further their field of study in a global context.



The 2015 cohort included 19 scholars from a range of disciplines and at different stages of their study journey.

From a personal perspective Kassmena said she gained enormous knowledge and contacts with a number of world renowned academics. Kassmena started exploring her further academic directions in relation to a PhD in Human Rights and Health with a focus on the universal rights of Indigenous peoples.

‘I have always had an interest in comparing our public health interventions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to Indigenous health initiatives in other countries, so I decided to apply’ said Kassmena.

A key highlight of the tour for Kassmena was meeting Professor Sir Michael Marmot.

“Sir Michael Marmot is an international leader in public health who has proven that there are huge social and economic inequalities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared with other Australians.”

“Through his work on the social determinants of health, he claims that inequalities can be easily attributed not to differences in their genes but to differences in the conditions in which they're born, grow, live, work and age and that if Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were treated as a separate country, would rank below 100 whereas Australia is ranked second on the Human Development Index.”

The study tour aims to support an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students graduating from tertiary education to meet the growing demand for Indigenous leadership within Australia, and increase Indigenous representation in professions and positions of influence in our society today.

The study tour is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying in any discipline, with the aim of supporting students to successfully graduate to meet the growing demand for Indigenous leadership in Australia, and increase Indigenous representation in professions and positions of influence in society.

For further information on how to apply visit: http://www.auroraproject.com.au/Aurora_Indigenous_Scholars_International_Study_Tour

For more information on the IKE MPH program go to www.deakin.edu.au



*Source: Sir Michael marmot, ABC Radio, 18 May 2012.
Sir Michael Marmot and Kassmena Birch at Colombia University, New York*

PHILE NETWORK

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

Current members of the leadership group include:

Vanessa Lee (PHILE Network Chair, University of Sydney)
Craig Allen (PHILE Network Deputy Chair, University of Western Australia)
Dr Devin Bowles (CAPHIA)
Professor Dennis McDermott (Flinders University)
Dr Hassan Vally (La Trobe University)
Dr Priscilla Robinson (Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University)
David Sjoberg (Flinders University)
Janice Jessen (Deakin University)
Melody Muscat (CAPHIA Representative, University of the Sunshine Coast)
Ray Mahoney (Queensland University of Technology)
Wendy Anders (Deakin University)
Heather D'Antoine (Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University)
Lynnell Angus (University of Queensland)
Elizabeth McLachlan (University of Melbourne, Acting Secretariat)

For more information on the PHILE Network or to become a member please visit the website: www.phile.net.au

The 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.

