

Poche Centre for Indigenous Health



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

School of Indigenous Studies
and the Faculty of Health and
Medical Sciences



The end of this year will mark five years since the establishment of The University of Western Australia's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, which was made possible by the generous gift of leading philanthropists Greg Poche AO and Kay Van Norton Poche. The continuing support and commitment of Greg and Kay Poche, along with Reg and Sally Richardson, have underpinned the success of the UWA Poche Centre.

Earlier this year, the team at the Poche Centre were pleased to host Reg Richardson, Sally Richardson and Tom Calma at UWA to discuss our progress and plans for 2018. It was also an opportunity for Reg, Sally and Tom to catch up with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater, the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Professor Wendy Erber and Professor Helen Milroy, who recently returned to the Faculty after completing her role as a Commissioner on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Highlights 2018

The Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention (CBPATSISP) was established in 2017, after a successful funding bid by the UWA Poche Centre to the Commonwealth Department of Health. Under the leadership of Poche Research Fellow, Professor Pat Dudgeon, the CBPATSISP team works with a number of partners and health organisations. www.indigenous.uwa.edu.au/indigenous-research/Centre-for-Best-Practice

CBPATSISP is organising two major conferences in Perth in 2018: The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention conference will be held from the 20–21 November, leading into the second World Indigenous Suicide Prevention conference held from 22–23 November. Visit the conference website at ispc2018.com/. The conferences will provide unique opportunities to share and collaborate on solutions that work in suicide prevention for indigenous peoples nationally and globally. Speakers include Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, Nishawbe Aski Nation, Professor Malcolm King, all from the University of Alberta; Professor Keri Lawson-Te Aho, University of Otago; Dr Linda Nikora, University of Auckland; Professor Helen Milroy, National Mental

Health Commissioner; Ms Pat Turner, NACCHO; and Professor Tom Calma, Poche Indigenous Health Network. An estimated 350 delegates are expected to attend the conferences. The Poche team have been fortunate to secure external sponsorship to fund a number of Aboriginal community delegates.

Dawn Bessarab and Kate Smith at the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health are working with a team of researchers on a Poche Network-funded project: *Good Spirit, Good Life: Validation of the first quality of life package for older Aboriginal Australians*. The quality of life tool for older Aboriginal Australians is being developed to enable service providers to identify the quality of life of older Aboriginal clients and specific wellbeing needs; inform care plans and strategies to enhance the quality of life of the older person; and inform and evaluate programs and policies for older Aboriginal Australians. The project also aims to validate the tool with Aboriginal Australians with cognitive impairment, and build the number and capacity of researchers in the field of Aboriginal ageing.



**2nd National Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander
Suicide Prevention**
20–21 November 2018

**2nd World
Indigenous Suicide
Prevention**
22–23 November 2018

Conferences

Rendezvous Hotel Perth
Scarborough, Western Australia

Building a stronger tomorrow: Connecting our communities through culture.

NAIDOC Week

The UWA Poche team was involved in a number of NAIDOC events to support Aboriginal women, and the 2018 NAIDOC Week theme: ***Because of Her, We Can***, which celebrates the invaluable contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made and continue to make in our communities and in our families. This included:

- The Chevron Human Energy IQ: NAIDOC Week Panel on July 10, with panellists Jill Milroy, Rishelle Hume and Robyn Walley, which attracted an audience of 200 people.
- As part of the Waarda Series for Indigenous Authors, Sabrina Swift provided reading sessions and educational activities for children aged between 5–12 years old.
- UWA Poche is part of the Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute's special NAIDOC event on the 17 August for over 300 Aboriginal women.

Poche Leadership Development Awards

Congratulations to our seven Indigenous medical and health science students who have received Poche awards so far this year, to build their leadership skills, knowledge and health networks at national and international levels.

- Health students, Aurthur Pitt, Master of Clinical Exercise Physiology, Tony White Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Honours) and Jack Murphy, Bachelor of Science, Psychology attended the *9th University Scholars Leadership Symposium*, 1–7 August at United Nations, Bangkok, Thailand. The conference's purpose was to instill social responsibility and social development in young leaders, with this year's theme, Inspiring Confidence, Inspire Change.
- Medical students, Heather-Lynn Theano Kessarar, Tamika Ponton, Ashlee Bence and Shauna Hill attended the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress (PRIDoC) 2018, from the 12–17 July in Hawaii. PRIDoC is a unique opportunity for our students to engage with leading healthcare professionals to discuss health and wellbeing issues among Indigenous communities across Australia and the Pacific.



UWA currently has 15 Indigenous students in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) and 4 Indigenous students in the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD).

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