
#IAHAConf17

Croakey is a social journalism project for health based in Australia.

http://croakey.org
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Conference preview: Focus on “Care, Cultures and Connection” at #IAHACnf17

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) held its biggest conference ever, with a focus on Care, Cultures and Connection.

Karen Wyld writes:

June Oscar AO, the Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, was one of the keynote speakers at the IAHA conference in Perth, and addressed the topic, Culture, Relationships, Health: Human Rights in Practice.

Other keynote speakers included Associate Professor Keawe Kaholokula, Chair of Native Hawaiian Health – Mauli Ola, who spoke on Connecting to Our Indigenous Cultural DNA for Health Promotion, and Damian Griffis, Chief Executive Officer, First Peoples Disability Network.

IAHA is a member-based not-for-profit organisation that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals and students, provides national leadership in the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health policy, and works collaboratively within health and education sectors to strengthen the culturally responsiveness of the Australian health workforce.
IAHA Chairperson, Nicole Turner, said this would be the organisation’s biggest conference to date.

“With a workforce development approach, the conference includes opportunities for our members, partners and stakeholders to workshop and share experiences in building a culturally safe and responsive health system to better meet the holistic needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities,” she said.

“We also focus on multidisciplinary and collaborative health care practice with speakers from across the allied health, Indigenous health and related sectors. I think the growth in attendance at our conference demonstrates the growing commitment to action in leading change and developing solutions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”

**Diverse and lively**

IAHA CEO, Donna Murray said conference participants could expect “a diverse and lively range of discussions”, and that “the knowledge, perspectives and potential of delegates is energising”.

“We hope everyone will come away from the Conference feeling stronger and with some practical strengths-based tools and actions to support them in their role and their communities,” Murray said.

On the [IAHA website](http://iaha.org.au), it states that the 2017 IAHA National Conference will provide an inclusive meeting place to:

- Value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges and perspectives
- Network culturally and professionally
- Strengthen clinical and non-clinical knowledge and skills
- Explore collaborative interdisciplinary models of care
- Build on cultural strengths and capabilities
- Challenge ways of thinking.

The conference theme, *Care, Cultures and Connection*, sits well with an Indigenous-led organisation that is supportive of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce, communities and people.

The theme is reflective of three key factors that contribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. In an allied health context, health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples needs to be culturally safe, centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities’ needs, and practitioners working collaboratively with other health professions.

The theme is reflected in the concurrent sessions that have been developed around four distinct streams: care, cultures, connection and collaboration.

Culturally-based health care was demonstrated in a few of the sessions, such as the Ngangkari healers from the Aṉangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land, and Kimberley region Bush Medicine program.

As IAHA is focused on allied health, a broad range of disciplines is represented in the concurrent sessions, such as: cancer care, living with disabilities, family health services, chronic health, occupational therapy, dementia, brain injury rehabilitation, and palliative care.
Concurrent sessions also feature two-way approaches to working with communities and delivering allied health care. These models are good examples of best-practice in culturally responsive allied health services.

The annual IAHA National Indigenous Allied Health Awards were presented on Tuesday 28 November, at a gala dinner. Awarded annually are five categories that acknowledge the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and students, and one Life Time Achievement Award.

**Team challenge**

Pre-conference workshops were held, following the annual IAHA Health Fusion Team Challenge that provided an interactive learning experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health students.

Under the guidance of mentors, inter-professional teams competed in problem-solving activities over 2-days. Two teams were then selected to compete in the Final Showdown – where they present to the conference delegates on Wednesday 29 November. The Showdown was sponsored by Flinders University NT.

Ken Wyatt, Federal Minister for Indigenous Health and Minister for Aged Care, addressed the Health Fusion Team Challenge participants on Saturday.
Justice for young people is a topic that may arise during the conference, as IAHA is a signatory to a recent open statement to the Prime Minister, Premiers and Chief Ministers. **One hundred organisations are calling for national action on youth justice**, to ensure recommendations from the Royal Commission into the protection and detention of children in the Northern Territory are adequately actioned.

Another topic is IAHA’s recently released **Cultural Responsiveness Framework**. Based around six key capabilities, this framework outlines practical ways that health practitioners can increase their cultural competency by knowing, being and doing.

Participants will also hear an update on the “refresh” of the Closing the Gap initiative from a representative of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

IAHA encouraged participants and other people to follow the conference via social media, and to join in the conversations. A social media ‘wall’ screened curated real-time content from both Twitter and Instagram.

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**Tweet reports**

**Bronwyn Fredericks @BronFredericks · 8h**

This week I’ll be following the #Indigenous Allied Health Australia Conference via #IAHAConf17, @IHA_National & @WePublicHealth.

**Dr Anita Heiss @AnitaHeiss · 13m**

It was my pleasure to intro Donna Murray CEO of @IHA_National to Amber Summers from @ROCancercare Toowoomba at #IAHAConf17 this morning. Amber talked about the naming of their latest treatment machine by local Jarowair Elders.
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.
Conference preview: Focus on “Care, Cultures and Connection” at #IAHAConf17
Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17

Social and engaged: #IAHAConf17

The theme of the Indigenous Allied Health Australia conference in Perth was Care, Cultures and Connection – and is clearly evident in the snaps and selfies below.
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17

#IAHAConf17

Croakey
“Conference News Service”
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference [here](#).

### Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17

**Sabina Knight @hwgran • Nov 27**

Northern Australia issues & common interest across UDRHs with June Oscar AO @MICRRH_ICU @BuschCatrina @tahnee_elliot & Kim #IAHAConf17

![Group photo](image)

**CATSINaM_Nursing @CATSINaM • Nov 27**

Walking group is making deadly choices @IAHA_National #IAHAConf17

![Selfie](image)

**Dr Anita Heiss @AnitaHeiss • Nov 27**

Ok all you healthy (and not so healthy) #IAHAConf17 delegates get to the gym NOW! Les is running a circuit for all you mob. #health #fitness #weights #cardio

![Gym](image)
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

**Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHACo17**

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**Tallisha Harden** @TallishaHarden · 21h
Day 1 of the #IAHACo17
Definitely feeling inspired, hopeful and motivated!

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**john** @JohnnyGilroy · Nov 27
#IAHACo17 first selfie. East coast Koori on the West coast

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**john** @JohnnyGilroy · 21h
Catching up with a wise man. #IAHACo17

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You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17

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#IAHAConf17

The beautiful Donna Murray presenting the 2017 IAHA Awards #IAHAConf17

@IAHA_National #amazingMG

Michelle Lincoln @MichelleLincoln6 · 21h

#IAHAConf17 @USydFHS at the IAHA conference dinner. Learning and laughing!

#IAHAConf17

Follow

custard_van

custard_van Boys all got the blue suit memo #IAHAConf17 nakanethelabel 6...

NATSIHWA @NATSIHWA · 19h

The beautiful Donna Murray presenting the 2017 IAHA Awards #IAHAConf17

@IAHA_National #amazingMG
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHACconf17
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHAConf17

Croakey “Conference News Service”
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference [here](#).
Dr Anita Heiss @AnitaHeiss · 7h
Day two at #IAHAConf17 and @IconGroupAU want to talk to you about #cancercare and #Pharmacy so drop by for a yarn with staff from @epic_pharmacy and @ROCcancercare and throw your business card in the bag to win my novels! #health #WA #icongroup #epic

HealthInfoNet @HealthInfoNet · Nov 27
One of our team with Renae Klimister from @NATSIHWA at the #IAHAConf17 today | If you’re there, make sure you check out the HealthInfoNet stand!

Russell Hill @hillmore · Nov 27
Great to be representing @IconGroupAU at the #IAHAConf17 with my @epic_pharmacy colleagues!
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Profiling Indigenous allied health professionals – sensational snaps and selfies from #IAHACconf17

#IAHACconf17

Croakey
“Conference News Service”
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference [here](#).
In her keynote address to the Indigenous Allied Health Australia conference, June Oscar AO stressed the importance of cultural connections, for both Indigenous health professionals and their patients.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner urged delegates to “pursue and take responsibility for your own cultural connection as a priority as it will make you better health professionals but fundamentally and most importantly, it will help you... spiritually, emotionally and physically”.

She said IAHA and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peak bodies are leaders in making culture a part of professional development. “Never underestimate the importance of this work,” she said. “Inch by inch we are changing Australia for the better as strong advocates for our knowledge and our ways.”

June Oscar also shared some of her own history of working in healthcare, including her challenging experiences as a dental nurse and in other positions. Read her full speech below, republished with permission from the Australian Human Rights Commission website.
June Oscar writes:

[Introduction in Bunuba]


I stand here today on the lands of the Whadjuk People. There are many of us that have come from afar, we come speaking different languages, and we are strangers to these lands. The ear of this land is hearing our different languages and we reassure that we gather and talk together with good feeling.

I acknowledge the Whadjuk people, their elders both past and present and I thank them for hosting us today.

I am a proud Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing just a few thousand kilometers up the road, and it gives me great pleasure to be here with you all at the National Conference for Indigenous Allied Health Australia.

Some may remember that I was at the IAHA conference in Canberra last year and it has been a big 12 months for me since we last got together – as I now stand here, as the first woman to be appointed as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission.

Strong women

I want to start by acknowledging your wonderful CEO and Wiradjuri woman Donna Murray. I work closely with Donna on the Close the Gap Campaign and in her role as Deputy Chair of the National Health Leadership Forum. Thanks Donna for the invite to come and join you here again.

I also acknowledge your board, chaired by Kamilaroi woman Nikki Turner. I know you have some talented men on the Board and working in the Secretariat, and crucially out in the health system – serving our people everyday, but it is great to see so many strong women up front and leading this important organisation in the service of our peoples.

It is particularly pleasing for me to see younger women like Tracy Hardy and Dr Danielle Dries taking steps to contribute in leadership capacities in organisations like IAHA. I hear that Dani Dries is a good chance to become our first Aboriginal Prime Minister one day!

I loved being part of your conference in Canberra last year and was so impressed with all the work that you are doing around Australia. It was a good, early reminder just before I started in this role, of the importance of health.

You should hopefully be an easy crowd to convince just how important Allied Health is specifically, to the good-working of our health system at large. I know from first-hand experience just how critical your work is to the health of our people – and the many non-Indigenous peoples you treat and care for across this country.

One of my first jobs was as a dental nurse, nowadays it would be some hybrid of a dental assistant and a dental hygienist. I worked for an older Kartiya man and he was openly racist and antagonistic.

It was a challenging introduction to the health system and, despite the cranky dentist, I enjoyed helping people as I started to learn the connections between the different elements of healthcare.
One of the big lessons from that job was that I can have a big impact in helping to improve the health and wellbeing of my people – regardless of the challenges that arise such as entrenched bigoted attitudes.

Another job I had back in those days was as an outpatient clerk at Fitzroy Crossing District Hospital. It was one of my favourite jobs and we had a team that was mostly made up of Aboriginal staff. It was great fun. Among my administrative responsibilities, I also got to take temperatures, pulses and other medical procedures as well as providing interpretation services for my people coming into the hospital.

These early experiences gave me an appreciation of the good and bad parts of our health system... and fundamentally, how critical it is that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people work in health to make things better for our people.

**Human rights for health**

Some 30 years later, in my role as Social Justice Commissioner, it is now my job to work with you all to champion a human rights-based pursuit of our health and wellbeing.

A human rights-based framework is critical to understanding how to tackle the health disparities in our communities.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the bedrock of rights internationally for the last 70 years says that:

‘Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being…’

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also speaks to the rights of Indigenous peoples, like all other peoples to enjoy the same rights to life, liberty and security. It highlights the particular need for the rights of Indigenous elders, women, children and people with disability to be protected.

These human rights frameworks are a critical starting point for all peoples. But for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we know that the reality of our existence falls far, far short of these standards.

We know that particularly in the remoter parts of the country that our peoples are living on top of each other and sometimes without the benefit of running water. We know the reality of some town camps where, cut off from basic services our people sleep outside, go hungry and struggle to keep warm.

The work of IAHA members, in all your various allied health occupations, to improve the lives of our people is essential.

I note that IAHA, since inception back in 2009, has looked to:

‘influence generational change, through national allied health leadership, building a responsive workforce, advocacy, partnerships and support across the multiple sectors that influence health and wellbeing’.

**Allied health professions – the glue**

It is an established fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals play a key role in addressing the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
When you rock up to work on Monday morning, every patient you provide care for, every connection you make, every family member you comfort – you are championing their human rights. For the students and trainees in the room – the career that you are considering is at the coalface of our collective work to close the gap in health outcomes for our people.

Many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should consider, and pursue allied health careers.

All health professions are essential and it is notable that the health system, across the board, is the largest employer of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

But my thinking about Allied Health professions in particular, is that you often provide the glue or connection to the wider health system for our peoples. Your primary role as health providers in your particular fields, from optometry to podiatry, from psychology to speech pathology or pharmacy – is closely followed by your ability to provide a culturally safe link to the other areas of health that your patients need to engage with.

When we talk about social determinants of health, your work is the epitome of understanding all the aspects of a person’s wellbeing that contribute towards their good health. I’ll talk a bit more about social determinants shortly.

But first, I mentioned earlier some of your very talented senior leaders here at IAHA and I want to quickly return to the importance of our women stepping into these leadership roles.

I have spoken in the past of the unique qualities Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women hold, they are the quite humble leaders of our homes, the healers, the ones who hold families and communities together. The ones who nurture language, traditional activities, worry for children and care for the sick and distressed.

You Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who sit here today, you are the women who wake up every day with a relentless commitment to your families, and your communities, and those around you. And you, just like me, will always protect those most vulnerable, and you will not stop fighting for what is right.

Because of this I am so inspired by the growing presence of female Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health practitioners in Allied Health. You will lead the way in creating sustainable pathways to good health for our people. Always remember, you are not only the humble leaders at home, you are the humble leaders at work, and the key agents for change and empowerment in this country.

**Elevating voices**

As I said before, I too will protect those most vulnerable and not stop fighting for change in this country. Later this year my team and I will launch a national engagement process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls – which is being supported by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Our aim will be to elevate the voices of our women, assess what their immediate needs are, and to guide and influence governments to implement policies and practices that foster agency within our communities and provide the conditions for positive change.

A key driver for this project was to acknowledge that it is now over 30 years since the landmark Women’s Business report was published in 1986. It has been too long since our collective voice was last heard at a national level.
The original Women’s Business report was conducted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and inquired into ‘the involvement of Aboriginal women in land rights, culture, health, housing, education, employment, legal aid, child welfare (with particular reference to adoption and fostering of Aboriginal children)’. Amongst other findings, the report clearly documented the desire of Indigenous women to have agency in their own lives.

**Agents for change and empowerment**

The Australian Government must invest in a strengths-based approach to community rebuilding and recovery, and recognise that our female leaders are the greatest agents for change and empowerment in this country.

There is much to celebrate when we consider the great work being done by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and also by our non-Indigenous sisters who have made changes within themselves, supported our aspirations and partnered with us in building a better tomorrow. As we begin to unlock our collective potential, I know that there is so much more yet to come.

I hope that over the next 18 months, I will be able to meet with many of you again as we go around the country speaking with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and girls about the priorities and issues we face in 2017 and beyond.

One of the pillars of our good health is the strength of our culture and our connection to our culture, our land, and our old ways.

I have already mentioned your role as champions of human rights in the workplace, but I should have started with champions of our cultural heritage. Never underestimate the value of your work in contributing to the protection and promotion of our unique cultural practice.

The IAHA ‘Cultural Responsiveness in Action Framework’ is a great example of the leadership of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peak organisations.

I commend you all for looking to embed the consideration of culture right at the heart of your practice, and it is rightly identified in your framework document which begins with ‘Respect for Centrality of Culture’. I note that respect is about identifying and valuing culture:

*…both group and individual, as central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, wellbeing and prosperity.*

This is exactly right.

While on the one hand, it is clear that racism undermines our health, it is equally true that our culture bolsters and invigorates our health.

A 2009 study by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies reported that the more people are connected to culturally activity on country, the better the outcomes for their health and wellbeing’.

We don’t need a study to tell us this, but the evidence only backs up our long stated claims of cultures central importance.
Champions of our culture

To appeal to the cold hard issue of economics which so often dictates the policy decisions of our governments – if more emphasis is given to the positive power of our culture then millions and millions of dollars will be saved every year and the disparities in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians will close far more rapidly.

You are champions of our culture.

For this reason, it is essential that you pursue and take responsibility for your own cultural connection as a priority as it will make you better health professionals but fundamentally and most importantly, it will help you… spiritually, emotionally and physically.

IAHA and the other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peak bodies are leaders in making culture a part of professional development. Never underestimate the importance of this work. Inch by inch we are changing Australia for the better as strong advocates for our knowledge and our ways.

As keepers of our culture, it is good to remember that our Customary Law and practices which have continued for millennia – leave no room for violence or abuse. We have ancient and abiding systems of law that have dealt with issues between us and leading to reconciliation and restitution.

Relationships are at the heart of our laws and customs.

One of the challenges of your work as both allied health professionals and as protectors of culture is to balance the rights and obligations of both.

We walk two worlds.

One thing that is clear about our traditional ways is that, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia have understood a truly holistic approach to health and wellbeing. We have known this for thousands of years before colonisers starting arriving a few hundred years ago.

To use government’s description of our approach to health, in the National Aboriginal Health Strategy way back in 1989, they recognised that for our peoples, we understand our health:

‘...means not just the physical wellbeing of an individual but refers to the social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of the whole community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being, thereby bringing about the total wellbeing of their Community. It is a whole-of life view and includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life.’

While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have implicitly understood that everything is connected to our health and wellbeing, it has only been in recent decades that Western thinking has started to catch up and provide language to this holistic understanding – namely, the social determinants of health.

Interestingly, it was only in 2005 that the World Health Organisation established a Commission dedicated to Social Determinants of Health.
Our Federal and State Governments have started to talk more about social determinants too but there is yet to be a thorough shift away from a siloed, body part approach to how we serve our health needs.

Pat Turner, the CEO of the National Community Controlled Health Organisations has said:

‘We have to get everything working together to make the biggest impact on health… where we live, how we learn, our access to jobs, it all has an impact on the wellbeing of our people.’

The work that you do, in all your many fields of expertise, should be taking into consideration the full picture of someone’s health.

One of the hats I have started wearing since becoming Social Justice Commissioner is the Co-Chair role for the Close the Gap Campaign’s Steering Committee. My fellow chair of the Steering Committee is Mr Rod Little, who also Co-Chairs the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples and we are ably supported by the senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health leaders from the NHLF – including Donna Murray.

The Close the Gap Campaign began with one of my predecessors, Professor Tom Calma back in 2006. It has been a world first Campaign, strongly advocating to government in Australia to prioritise closing the gap in health inequalities within a generation.

The Campaign is led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and peaks (such as IAHA) and is well supported by mainstream health and advocacy organisations. We have come a long way in the last decade, with consecutive Federal Governments committing to close the gap and having the Prime Minister provide the annual Closing the Gap Report to Parliament at the beginning of each year.

But despite the increased focus, you would be well aware that we have a long way go to close the life expectancy and other health outcomes gaps that persist.

In our 2017 Campaign report this year, Donna is quoted as saying that:

‘After 10 years of Close the Gap, we have seen and accomplished some good things. However, we are now at a critical point where the hard fought gains could be lost if government doesn’t truly commit to partnerships led by Indigenous peoples and their identified priorities.’

Donna is, of course, exactly right.

I am sure you are all aware that the Federal and State Governments, through the COAG mechanism, are currently looking to ‘refresh’ the Closing the Gap Strategy to set the targets and provide the framework for how we work to close the gap over the next decade.

This is certainly an opportunity to redouble government efforts to better serve the health and wellbeing of our people – but it must start with the genuine and meaningful partnership that Donna and others have called for.

All the machinations of government, the policies, strategies, frameworks, media releases, and announcements can all start to sound like ‘white noise’. It can also be disheartening when you see all this going on but hear that we are not making progress to close the gaps...
Never give up

This is all very understandable but I want to leave you with two thoughts.

Firstly, never give up.

From day to day or year to year, progress can seem non-existent. It can even seem like we are going backwards at times. But I find it helpful to take the long-arch view of our history. Inch by inch we are making gains.

Time and again we have shown our incredible resilience and strength. In our communities, in our workplaces, in our schools we have fought for and won changes that have a good impact.

When you step back and see how far we have come in this country, where only 100 years ago our peoples were expected to die out – and yet today we are one of the youngest and fastest growing populations in Australia. We have increasing numbers of kids finishing school, and successfully negotiating the two-worlds that we are faced with.

We have more business leaders, government leaders and political representatives.

And while we still have considerably less than one per cent of the total Allied Health workforce, today we have a growing number of social workers, mental health workers, optometrists, audiologists and podiatrists.

Taking the long-arch view, it was only three to four decades ago where there were virtually none of us working in these important fields of health. I challenge you all to recruit more of our sisters and brothers to this work.

I take hope and encouragement when I see more of our people working and leading in these areas. I know that you are all continuing to build on the foundations of those uncles and aunts that have come before us. As they were ground breakers, you are now breaking into new areas that we didn’t think possible.

My second and last point to finish on is to reiterate the importance of you all, in the work that you do every day. As I said before, you are champions of our culture and never underestimate the power of this contribution. Every day, every patient, every opportunity to serve or give care – you are championing our human rights. You are opening up a path to self-determination.

So I tell you again to never give up. Never stop turning up. If you are a young dental assistant (like I was once) or a new podiatrist and you are working with difficult people (like I did) – you defy the racism and oppression every day you turn up to serve your people. And things do change.

We live with great expectations placed upon us by our families and communities and society at large, but we are more than able to meet and exceed these expectations.

Thanks again for having me here with you this week. I look forward to speaking with many of you over the next couple of days and also engaging with you in our collaborative work to serve our people.

Thank you.

Yaninyja.

• This speech can also be viewed at the Australian Human Rights Commission website.


Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

Karen Wyld reports:

The Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) conference started with MC Adele Cox, a Bunuba and Gija woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, centring the conference theme of Care, Culture and Connections.

Nicole Turner, IAHA Chair, welcomed delegates on behalf of the Board, and announced the appointment of IAHA’s inaugural Patron, Professor Tom Calma, a previous Lifetime Achiever award recipient. He provided a recorded speech, being unable to attend the conference.
The first keynote speaker was June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and a Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing in WA, who presented on *Culture, Relationships, Health: Human Rights in Practice*.

She reminded delegates of the connections between language, culture and health, and said: “While we know racism harms our health, it is equally true that our culture bolsters and invigorates our health.”

Being able to draw on both the negative and positive experiences of her past roles within the health sector, Oscar is equipped to drive change, whilst navigating barriers, in her new role as Social Justice Commissioner.

Oscar centred health as a core element of human rights. Speaking on the gains of international rights of Indigenous peoples, she also acknowledged the multiple inequities that still exist for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in both remote and urban communities.

She spoke of the pivotal roles of strong women in family and community, and as leaders in health (as outlined further in her recent Narrm Oration, which can be read [here](#)).

### The glue

Oscar would like to see more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people considering careers in allied health work. She says that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workers are the glue that help our people engage with the health system, in a culturally safe manner.

“When health professionals show up for work with Indigenous people, they are championing the human rights of Indigenous people,” she said.

She gave strong messages of encouragement and guidance to the younger delegates in the room: “You are the champions of our cultures, never underestimate that. Despite the barriers, you turn up to serve community. Never give up.”

The next keynote speaker also spoke of the importance of culture and community. Associate Professor Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula, Chair of Native Hawaiian Health, John A Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii, provided an insight into Hawaiian historical and social determinants of health, and the strong cultural and community connections that can mitigate the harm.

He said: “Racism can kill us, but our culture can save us”, adding that, “Indigenous cultural DNA contains instructions needed for us to not only survive but to thrive”.

### Focus upstream

Kaholokula believes there is too much focus on the downstream determinants of health, when the real impact is further upstream.

A shift is needed in practitioner-client conversations, to move away from focusing on individuals’ behaviours, and instead to speak about inequities, polices and human rights.
He talked of an Indigenous model of leadership, which involves looking to the past to move forward, and shared an Elder’s words of wisdom: we must drink the bitter waters to move forward.

Another stand-out presentation from day one, which complemented the words of Oscar and Kaholokula, was from Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, a Waanyi and Jaru man, who conducted a yarning circle on *Making Self Determination Real*.

He took us through the allure and power of capitalism, prevailing whiteness, power and privilege, and institutional racism, which are factors that can distract us from self-determination, decolonisation and equity.

He explained how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can also be part of whiteness, as a result of existing in settler colonisation.

And whilst it is important to collectively celebrate the “firsts”, he said it’s okay to critique the values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within leadership roles if they operate under models of whiteness.

**Resist whiteness**

Phillips talked about knowing our own value: what we bring to the table, to the boardroom, to a program.

This will help us to resist whiteness, where the controlling of black culture on white terms takes place. It is not enough that they hang art in boardrooms, but show no interest in the important issues, such as young people abused in Don Dale.

After unpacking whiteness, Phillips gave some advice to white allies: that they need to question why they choose the work they do. To not speak over Indigenous people, or take up space that belongs to them. For it’s not white peoples’ role to lead black people. Their role is to lead anti-violence.

He used a powerful analogy of domestic violence narratives and indicators to explain First Peoples’ “sick” relationships with institutions built on whiteness. Reminding us that colonisation is violence, and it’s ongoing, but we can walk away if we need to.

At the end of the first day, these three speakers conducted a panel session on *Culturally Safe and Responsive Care*. As to be expected, this was an outstanding discussion, covering whiteness, treaty, truth, and the rights of First Peoples to have a voice.

June Oscar said: “We have policies and approaches that are far from the reality of what is on the ground. This system failure is based on crisis-approach, and is not strengths-based. Most policy makers are too removed from the realities of our mob.”
Mick Gooda awarded

These comments were reinforced during a speech by Mick Gooda, who was presented with the 2017 IAHA Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Gala Dinner and Awards. He spoke about his recent involvement in the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory.

He said it was one of the hardest things he had ever done, and that the honesty and strengths of our mob were outstanding.

Gooda said that he did not meet broken kids; he met young people who came out stronger despite what they had endured. He heard from young people who said that they chose to speak up because they wanted to make it better for the kids that come behind them.

Gooda said the very difficult stories he had heard from young people were something that he would always carry, but that he is determined those voices are heard.

It was obvious the #IAHAConf17 provided safe spaces for difficult conversations, which was appreciated by many delegates. And it offered opportunities for allied health workers to learn from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice.

Many of the outstanding and brave presentations flipped the dynamics under which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people often operate, within non-Indigenous organisations.

Instead, it provided care, cultures, and connections to reinvigorate allied health workers’ passions to work with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Crowd reports

Tweet reports

[Image of tweet and conference proceedings]
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

June Oscar’s presentation

Cheryl sanderson @Cherylau_17 · Nov 27
#IAHAConf17 We defy Racism and Oppression everytime we turn up to work - June Oscar

Peter Radoll @peterradoll · Nov 27
We live with great expectations put upon us by our ppl family and community. - June Oscar AO #IAHAConf17

Sabina Knight @nwqran · Nov 27
Every day you turn up to work you defy racism & paternalism that exists in the health system June Oscar AO #IAHAConf17

Cori Williams @SPAEBPResearch · Nov 27
I challenge you all to recruit more of our sisters and brothers to this (Allied Health) work. #IAHAConf17 @SpeechPathAus
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

#IAHAConf17

Croakey
“Conference News Service”
Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

Joseph Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula’s presentation

If we are too busy fighting for basic human rights we are not thriving
- Keawe‘aimoku Kaholokula

Dr Anita Heiss @AnitaHeiss Nov 27
The principles of Indigenous Leadership: engagement, enlightenment, empowerment, affect change. - Prof Joseph Keawe Kaholokula #IAHAConf17

MICRRH JCU @MICRRH_JCU Nov 27
#IAHAConf17 aspirations must be compatible with leadership strategies

Nā Kahua Hana
Principles of Leadership

- Ho‘opili (engagement)
  - Nurturing relationships for engagement,
- Ho‘omālamalama (enlightenment)
  - Solution focused → ma‘i ka pō a ke ao.
- Ho‘omanu (empowerment)
  - Empowered leaders, empowering people.
- Ho‘okāhului (affect change)
  - Systemic change or re-contextualizing ancient wisdom.
Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

#IAHAConf17

Working for future generations

Well done, Mick.
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Learning from Indigenous leaders in health and social justice

#IAHAConf17

“Conference News Service”
“Our future is in good hands” – Indigenous allied health students and professionals shine at #IAHAConf17

Award winners Michale Chandler (L) and Kirsty Nichols

Karen Wyld writes:

Increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in allied health roles is critical for improving Indigenous health.

Another strong theme from the recent Indigenous Allied Health Association of Australia conference in Perth was the importance of mentoring students and young professionals.

One of the outstanding features of the conference was the engagement with students and young people, with a number of conference participants commenting on social media that “our future is in good hands”.

http://bit.ly/2nsR1wr
Team challenge

The 2017 IAHA HealthFusion Team Challenge is an excellent example of mentoring future allied health workers.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from a range of disciplines participated in team challenges prior to the conference.

Sponsored by Flinders University NT, these team exercises matched students with mentors, and provided them with challenges through responding to complex case studies.

Two teams were chosen to compete in the HealthFusion Team Challenge Final Showdown on day two of the conference. After completing a series of challenges, team Curley Wurleys and team Rebel Yells received positive feedback from the judges.
Loving the @IAHA_National #IAHAConf17 Health Fusion Team Challenge! What a deadly group of students!

“Our future is in good hands” – Indigenous allied health students and professionals shine at #IAHAConf17
"Our future is in good hands" – Indigenous allied health students and professionals shine at #IAHAConf17

#IAHAConf17

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Curly Wurlys reiterating the importance of holistic care, and cultural strength in immediate responses to crisis and ongoing care! Also bringing self care for our Indigenous Professionals into the discussion!

#IAHAConf17
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

“Our future is in good hands” – Indigenous allied health students and professionals shine at #IAHAConf17

#IAHAConf17

Croakey “Conference News Service”
In addition to team winners, a HealthFusion Team Challenge Leadership Award was given to Nicola Barker.
Awards presentation

The importance of recognising the achievements of past and current leaders in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health was also demonstrated throughout the conference proceedings.

The presentation of awards at the Gala Dinner also recognised all stages of professional development, from students to lifetime achievers.

The night commenced with a Welcome to Country by Whudjuk elder Nigel Wilkes and the Mungart Yonga Traditional Dance Group.

As previously reported, the 2017 IAHA Life Time Achievement Award was presented to Mick Gooda who, on accepting the award, quoted Archie Roach: “We fight the fights, so our children can eat the fruits.”

Associate Professor Gregory Phillips was awarded the Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award. This was sponsored by Hesta. The Allied Health Inspiration Award was also sponsored by Hesta, and this year's recipient was Celeste Brand.
The Future Leader in Indigenous Allied Health was presented to Michale Chandler. This award was sponsored by the Lowitja Institute.

The Commitment to Indigenous Health Award, sponsored by Hesta, went to Kirsty Nichols.
Sponsored by Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health and James Cook University, the Indigenous Allied Health Student Academic Achievement was given to Robyn Williams.

@MillnerMaggy

NT nailed the IAHA awards last night. Celeste, Kirsty and me at the same table. Humble yet proud. Thank you! #IAHAConf17

The Gala Dinner was sponsored by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association – another example of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health peaks supporting each other to achieve common goals.

@tommy_moloney

Congrats Penelope, the lucky winner of the digi radio... play your tunes loud 🎵

What a great end to our super session! Thanks for having us @IHA_National #IAHAConf17
Indigenous allied health professionals are leading change

Karen Wyld writes:

Indigenous Allied Health Australia’s recent conference provided professional development for delegates, and opportunities to connect with others working in health, education and policy.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates, it also provided a culturally safe space for celebrating achievements and connecting with Indigenous leaders in health, enabling renewed energy.

As health and wellbeing do not exist in a vacuum, broader social and political events were woven through presentations and in informal conversations.

Topics such as cultural safety in health, community-led solutions, strength-based approaches, generational leadership, and growing the future allied health workforce were a welcome antithesis to the many challenges that workers in health deal with on a daily basis.
And, of course, some of those challenges were discussed by presenters and delegates.

These included policy constructed by non-Indigenous people who lack on-the-ground knowledge, resulting in poor Closing the Gap outcomes and continued systemic inequity.

Also discussed was the urgent need to change systems that cause harm, such as what emerged through the recent Royal Commission into the protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, so young people are better supported to achieve their aspirations.

Also clear was the harsh reality that achieving human rights for First Peoples is still a long way off when calls for a Constitutionally-recognised voice are ignored.

Cultural responsiveness

Culturally-grounded models of working were discussed throughout the conference, with a focus on cultural safety and cultural responsiveness.

Most workers in the Australian health sector would by now be familiar with cultural safety.

Numerous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations have adopted cultural safety as a standard, such as Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM) and the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA).

IAHA uses a cultural responsiveness model, and has recently published Cultural Responsiveness in Action: An IAHA Framework.

Ms Faye McMillian, outgoing IAHA Chair, states on the IAHA website that: “This capability framework provides guidance around what we need to know, be and do in order to be culturally responsive.”

The IAHA Cultural Responsiveness Framework consists of six key capabilities that detail ways of knowing, being and doing: respect for centrality of culture, self-awareness, proactivity, inclusive engagement, leadership, responsibility and accountability.

There are many similarities between cultural safety and cultural responsiveness, such as: providing guidelines to health practitioners to improve their capabilities; putting the onus on change onto non-Indigenous systems and employees; debunking the myth that culture is the ‘problem’, as opposed to racism and systemic inequity; and progressing the conversations beyond cultural awareness or sensitivity, to create real change.

Decolonising health

On the second day of the conference, Associate Professor Gregory Phillips, presented the morning keynote, titled Accreditation for Addressing Racism, which outlined a sound model for applied cultural safety in Australia.

Phillips spoke of the lingering health effects of colonisation, and the impact of racism on health and wellbeing. He reminded delegates that First Peoples’ cultures are not the problem, and that is the responsibility of non-Indigenous health practitioners to remove racism from the health system.
Using a decolonisation process might be the key to achieving this. Decolonising health means confronting the values and mindset of whiteness, which currently maintains the unfair status quo in Australia.

Like other speakers, Phillips pointed to factors that can drive change in health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – embedding cultural safety standards in health and within national law, decolonising practices on a personal and systemic basis, and understanding the essential role of Indigenous knowledge in the delivery of services.

Phillips reaffirmed that Indigenous knowledge is the intellectual property of First Peoples. And, because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are not a homogenous population, he noted that Indigenous knowledge differs across place, context, history, languages, cultures, and spiritualties.

Cultural knowledge is one of the unique points-of-value that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health professionals bring to their workplaces.

His presentation reflected key messages that had been evident from day one of the conference. MC Adele Cox opened the conference with a reminder that cultural safety results in more accessible health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

In her keynote speech, June Oscar AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, expressed the belief that Indigenous allied health professionals will lead the way for sustainable health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

And she urged delegates to never underestimate the value of their work, referring to the IAHA Cultural Responsiveness Framework as an example of best practice.

**Closing the Gap**

Phillips also said in his keynote, “If you want to Close the Gap, you have to deal with racism”, and stated that cultural safety is not a one-time achievement, but a process of continual learning.

As building on past failures is an element of continual learning, it’s positive to see that this may have been taken on board in the current Closing the Gap Refresh.

On the final afternoon of the conference, Sam Jeffries, Special Advisor for Regional Governance Indigenous Affairs, presented the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet’s current *Closing the Gap: Refresh*.

Next year, it will be ten years since the Council of Australian Governments first committed to the Closing the Gap strategy. Since then, only one of the seven targets is on track (increased completion of year 12 education).

Closing the Gap was developed with almost no input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. The Government states that the Refresh will involve a community engagement process.

A proposed prosperity framework has been developed ahead of this engagement process, with four focus areas being: economic, individual, community, and environment.
Social determinants of health

Throughout the two days, speakers presented numerous examples of the social determinants of health for Indigenous people, including from a lived experience perspective.

When introducing acclaimed musician Archie Roach as the last keynote speaker, IAHA Patron Professor Tom Calma made the connection between social determinants and good health and wellbeing.

This theme was evident in the very personal stories told in the closing address.

Roach presented *Tackling Smoking: A holistic approach to our life journey*. Combining story with song, Roach took us through the key moments of his life.

He framed the impacts of being a member of the Stolen Generations with social and emotional wellbeing, and health issues. From smoking, alcohol and drugs, poor nutrition, to family violence, poverty and homelessness, Roach provided an honest reflection of how both social determinants of health and lifestyle choices can contribute to chronic health, disease, and poor social emotional wellbeing.

Archie Roach’s story also detailed the tools that can heal: belonging, culture, justice, family, and acceptance.

Care, cultures, connect

Before the conference, IAHA CEO Donna Murray said participants could expect a diverse and lively range of discussions, and that: “We hope everyone will come away from the Conference feeling stronger and with some practical strengths-based tools and actions to support them in their role and their communities.”

It was evident from feedback that this was indeed the case.
Some sessions took people out of their comfort zones, by asking non-Indigenous delegates to reflect on the values they bring to their work, and encouraging them to trust that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can lead change.

Non-Indigenous health professionals were asked to instead take a lead role in addressing racism within health systems.

Such conversations can be confronting, but they are vital to moving forward together, as personal reflection is a core element of cultural safety in health.

The conference centred the core role of allied health workers in improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.

As June Oscar AO said, allied health workers are the glue in the health system. And, as demonstrated by many of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander speakers, Indigenous allied health workers bring with them lived experiences, community connections, Indigenous knowledge, and a passion for contributing to equitable and culturally safe health care.

The 2017 IAHA conference provided delegates with reinvigorated passion, and ideas and tools to take back to their workplaces, so they can continue to deliver health services grounded in care, cultures and connection.
Indigenous allied health professionals are leading change #IAHAConf17

You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.
Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Warm thanks to all who tweeted from the recent Indigenous Allied Health Australia’s conference in Perth. Below is a selection of tweets from the conference, profiling the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals.

Topics covered included bush medicine, palliative care, programs for strong feet and strengthening families, dementia, rehabilitation after stroke, mentoring and workforce development.

You can also read some of the participants’ reflections towards the end of the post, as well as the Twitter analytics, showing more than 600 participated in the #IAHAConf17 discussions on Twitter.
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Bush medicine

Peter Radoll @peterradoll · Nov 28
Bush medicine isn’t something you can learn about at university. It has to be learned on country. True! #IAHAConf17

Peter Radoll @peterradoll · Nov 28
Collecting the raw ingredients from their natural Pharmacy! - Bush medicine #IAHAConf17

Russell Hill @hillnurse
Great presentation on bush medicines at #IAHAConf17 takes me back to my @epic_pharmacy roots!
Palliative care

Janine Mohamad opening our #dyingtotalk workshop at #IAHAConf17 talking about our partnership to develop Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resources.

Janine Mohamad speaking on palliative care.

The importance of palliative care and its connection with culture #dyingtotalk #IAHAConf17

Why palliative care is so important & how it connects to culture.
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Moorditj Djena – strong feet

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHACo... @WePublicHealth • Nov 27

Mindit Djena (sick foot) has a huge economic cost, as well as negative impact on social emotional wellbeing. The Moorditj Djena (strong feet) program has had positive evidence-based outcomes in past 6 years. #IAHACo17
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

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"Conference News Service"
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference [here].

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Other presentations

Wulli Wulli woman, IAHA Graduate and IUIH Podiatrist @adams_maddison and Occupational Therapist Ashley Potgieter presenting - An interprofessional approach to care for adults with chronic conditions in Perth, W.A #IAHAConf17 @IUIHWorkItOut @IUIH_ @iuih_seq

Aboriginal liaison officer (ALO) - an Integral part of the patients journey - Accessing mainstream health services for Aboriginal people. #IAHAConf17
‘Our core is about our history, everything comes from what’s happened before. It’s our belonging.’ Speech Pathology Student Mitch Walley in Cultural Determinants of Health @ #IAHAConf17

Cultural safety and cultural responsiveness discussions
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

#IAHAConf17

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**Peter Radoll** @peterradoll  ·  Nov 26
Great to attend the Pre Conference workshop today. #IAHAConf17

**Cori Williams** @SPAEBPResearch  ·  Nov 27
Central Aus Aboriginal Congress Strategies culturally responsive service
Aboriginal Staff Advisory Committee; Cultural Induction; cultural supervision;
bicultural pairs practice; interpreter service; cultural protocols; Aboriginal
workforce development #IAHAConf17 @SpeechPathAus

**First Peoples Health Unit, Griffith University** @fphu_gu  ·  Nov 27
Developing a cultural responsive workforce
- Tracy Brand from the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress speaking of the
importance of ensuring all health practitioners are culturally capable and are able
to provide culturally safe services #IAHAConf17 @IAHA_National

**Kirsty Nichols** @irgul_girl  ·  Nov 27
First Peoples Health Unit Associate Lecturer Dale Rowland speaking about the
important work being done at Griffith University 👏 #IAHAConf17
#culturalcapability #ClosingtheGap

**Dr Leonie Cox** @Leoniecox444Cox  ·  20h
Replying to @MillnerMaggy
Too right @MillnerMaggy i.e. CS is not about others’ cultures but is about the
nature of culture (ie NOT ethnicity), ones own culture, the culture of
organisations, cultural dominance & racisms & about how society treats people
#IAHACONF17
Dementia

Danielle Dries @danni_dries · Nov 28
Good Spirit, Good life - Dr Kate Smith and Lianne Gilchrist discussing dementia and the wellbeing of our Elders #IAHAConf17 physical, mental, emotional, cultural and spiritual health

Good Spirit, Good Life

Lianne Gilchrist
Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, WA

Kate Smith, Kevin Taylor, Dina LoGiudice, Leon Flicker, Julie Ratcliffe, Paula Edgill, Christine Clinch, Dawn Bessarab

Danielle Dries @danni_dries · Nov 28
There are things unique to older people when you work in health. The Stolen Generation for example was 1905 to ~1970. Do you consider this in your practice when you provide care to Aboriginal people over 45? #IAHAConf17 #Elders

12 top tips in working with people with dementia

- Get to know the person
  - What do they like
  - Learn their story

- Smile
  - The person with dementia will notice
  - How you look
  - How you talk

- Slow down
  - Do one thing at a time
  - Stop and listen

- Introduce yourself
  - Tell the person who you are
  - Tell them what you are doing

- Help them understand
  - Help them see
  - Help them hear

- Stop back
  - When the person is cranky
  - Leave them and come back later
  - Work out why they are cranky

- Divert attention
  - Yarn with them
  - Do activities

- Keep it quiet
  - Take to quiet place
  - Reduce humbug

- Think Safety
  - Your safety
  - Their safety

- Don’t argue
  - Show respect
  - Try to understand

- Help them do things
  - Make it easy
  - Do it with them

- Talk with others
  - Talk together about what has happened
  - Swap good ideas

You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Strengthening families

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Next concurrent session is Culture is Healing, Healing is Culture with Rayleen Councillor, who is a Kriolrauj using Binyadi Nomore for family mediation and healing. #IAHAConf17

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Rayleen Councillor tells young ones - Never be ashamed of your culture. For that is your wisdom, love and beauty. #IAHAConf17

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Rayleen Councillor reminds us what is important: Digging toes into the earth. Practicing deep listening. Dialogue with the Elders. Sitting on country, to listen to Country and birds, animals. This is healing. #IAHAConf17

Nellie @NellieNelliepw · Nov 27
People know what they know until they know better - Rayleen Councillor #IAHAConf17

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Rayleen Councillor explains the Binyadi Nomore model (no more arguments) that helps strengthen families and facilitates healing. #IAHAConf17

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Rayleen Councillor: “People know what they know until they know better.” On choosing not to participate in lateral violence; understanding where racism comes from; and not judging others. #IAHAConf17

Indigenous Allied Health reporting #IAHAConf17... @WePublicHealth · Nov 27
Rayleen Councillor feels honoured to hear personal stories that people share with her. Stories are part of the healing process. #IAHAConf17

Danielle Dries @danni_dries · Nov 28
Kicking off the session in Preston C room - We have Sharon, Jon and Michelle talking about “Connecting Fathers-what we’ve learnt from strong Fathers program” #IAHAConf17
Rehabilitation after stroke

Meaghan McAllister @MeagMcAllister · Nov 27
Here they got @NatGlocone and Chantelle Timmins sharing the Wangi project with us #IAHAConf17

The Wangi (talking) project: a feasibility study of a culturally sensitive rehabilitation model for Aboriginal people with acquired communication disorders after stroke
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Mentoring

Abigail Lewis @AbigailVLewis · Nov 27
Duana Vickery on Mentoring, why it’s difficult! #IAHAConf17
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Workforce development

Abigail Lewis @AbigailVLewis · Nov 28
Duane Vickery gives 4 mentoring principles including having a culturally safe environment #IAHAConf17

Principles of Effective Mentoring

Four (4) Key Principles
1. The mentor understands the stages of learning
2. The mentor views mentoring through a ‘technical’ and ‘adaptive’ lens
3. The mentor provides a culturally safe mentoring environment
4. The mentor uses effective communication

#IAHAConf17

IHA @IHA_National · Nov 27
Excited to share how IHA is support local workforce development initiatives in NT @AMSAiTaus #IAHAconf17

Meaghan McAllister @MeagMcAllister · Nov 27
@KylieStothers & Sharon Wallace sharing the NT Aboriginal Health Academy Partnership at #IAHAConf17

Meaghan McAllister @MeagMcAllister · Nov 27
@KylieStothers on the NT Aboriginal Health Academy Project: we don’t compromise on cultural safety #IAHAconf17
You can track Croakey's coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals #IAHAConf17

Maddi Adams @adams_maddison · Nov 27
Exciting model from @IAHA_National & @AMSANThaus #iahaconf17

Meaghan McAllister @MeagMcAllister · Nov 27
Allied Health Assistant pathway program to commence in 2018 at the NT Aboriginal Health Academy Partnership @KylieStothers #IAHAConf17

Cori Williams @SPAEBPResearch · Nov 27
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress planning to add a speech pathologist position to Allied Health workforce. #IAHAConf17 @SpeechPathAus

Meaghan McAllister @MeagMcAllister · Nov 27
Australia leading the way in Allied Health career pathways for young Aboriginal people (yay) @KylieStothers #IAHAConf17

Cheryl sanderson @CherylSa_17 · Nov 27
Check out Allied health Assistant course at CDU Northern Territory Aboriginal health Academy Partnership - Kylie Stothers and Sharon Wallace.
course-finder.cdu.edu.au/certificate-ii… #IAHAConf17
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)

Abigail Lewis @AbigailVLewis · Nov 27
IUIH provides services for Aboriginal people in Qld in 22 clinics over 65 staff!!
Addressing social determinants of health #IAHAConf17

Abigail Lewis @AbigailVLewis · Nov 27
IUIH have culturally appropriate philosophy to guide them #IAHAConf17

Abigail Lewis @AbigailVLewis · Nov 27
IUIH culturally appropriate Ax: informal, observational, yarning, functional, focus on building relationship. Have yarning tool. #IAHAConf17
Hearing from conference participants

Sandra Rickards @rotums • Nov 28
Last day of the Indigenous Allied Health Australia Conference in Scarborough, WA. It has been very informative and have gain some new knowledge and friends along the way. 😊 #IAHAConf17

nicola louise barker @nicolabarker3 • Nov 28
Diverse range of sessions covering significance areas of health. Grateful for this opportunity as a future Allied Health Professional #IAHAConf17

Dr Anita Heiss @AnitaHeiss • Nov 28
I could listen to @gregorysbarr all day! Today’s keynote ‘A Model of Applied Cultural Safety in Australia’ telling it as it is. @IAHA_National #IAHAConf17

Cori Williams @SPAEBPResearch • Nov 29
Congratulations @AHA on a wonderful, inspiring, thought provoking, challenging conference #IAHAConf17 @SpeechPathAus

adele cox @adeleac23 • Nov 29
@IAHA_National you guys rock! What a fantastic few days indeed. I was inspired and absolutely humbled to be part of your wonderful event #IAHAConf17

Mark Hardwick @markhardwick • Nov 29
#IAHAConf17 Thank you to the IAHA crew, the local Nyoongar people and their elders past present and future for taking care of us all; all supporters and delegates, speakers, other contributors and stall holders for what we thought was the best Allied Health event ever :) from RCS
You can track Croakey’s coverage of the conference here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

#IAHAConf17

Professor Peter Radoll, Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership and Strategy at the University of Canberra, won a prize for his active tweeting from the conference, and below provides his reflections.

The energetic #IAHAConf17 tweeps had the hashtag trending nationally. The Symplur analytics below show there were almost 23 million Twitter impressions, with 604 participants using the hashtag. Read the Twitter transcript here.

Trending

The energetic #IAHAConf17 tweeps had the hashtag trending nationally. The Symplur analytics below show there were almost 23 million Twitter impressions, with 604 participants using the hashtag. Read the Twitter transcript here.

Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

#IAHAConf17

Croakey

“Conference News Service”
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Showcasing the diversity of the work of Indigenous allied health professionals

Croakey Conference News Service

- Reporting by Karen Wyld
- Editing by Melissa Sweet
- Layout and design by Mitchell Ward