

KEY THINKERS FORUM:

Close the Gap Ten Year Anniversary Traditional healing and Indigenous Knowledges

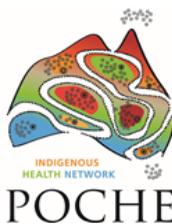


The Gap that's missing?

Thursday 28 April 2016



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



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SYDNEY

Poche Centre
for Indigenous
Health



THE LIME NETWORK
SLICE OF LIME SEMINARS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

We would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

It is upon their ancestral lands that the University of Sydney is built.

As we share our own knowledge, teaching, learning and research practices within this university may we also pay respect to the knowledge embedded forever within the Aboriginal Custodianship of Country.

7th Biannual Key Thinkers Forum

Poche Indigenous Health Network

About the Key Thinkers Forum

The Key Thinkers Forum (KTF) is an event run bi-annually through the [Poche Indigenous Health Network](#). The KTF format is a conversational style panel facilitated by Poche Patron and Chair, Professor Tom Calma AO. The panel includes several guest speakers, each presenting their own reflections and promoting discussion and engagement with the audience.

In this Key Thinkers Forum we will consider the health maintenance and traditional healing practices of Aboriginal Ngangkari alongside western medicine.

This year the [Poche Indigenous Health Network](#) has collaborated with the *Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Sydney*, the *LIME Network* and the *University of Sydney Equity and Diversity Strategy Team* to bring you this Key Thinkers Forum titled:

Do we need Aboriginal traditional medicine working with western medicine to close the gap?

Bringing to you special guest from *Anangu Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation (ANTAC)* the first organisation of Aboriginal traditional healers in Australia from the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara lands (APY) in South Australia.

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

It's been ten years since the Australian Federal Government committed bipartisan support to Close The Gap in health and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

There is considerable debate about the progress being made to close the gap in Australia. With varied results only one thing is clear; there is still a long way to go. With this year marking the ten year anniversary this leads us to reassess where we are up to.

This forum will examine the notion of a “missing gap” which incorporates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and spirituality into mainstream health policy, program development and health and wellbeing.

Could the gap that's missing be - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and spirituality? This forum will consider the application of Indigenous Knowledges into science and medicine as the baseline for not only Aboriginal health and wellbeing but for all areas of Aboriginal development.

Ngangkari play a significant role in the provision of holistic health care to Indigenous peoples as well as the harmonisation and integration of traditional medicines into the mainstream bio medical model for health care in Australia.

PROGRAM AGENDA

9.00-9.30	Registration and Morning Tea
9.30-9.40	Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country
9.40-9.50	Official opening by Prof. Tom Calma AO Patron and Chair of the Poche Indigenous Health Network
9.50-10.55	<p>Dr. Francesca Panzironi- CEO (ANTAC) The significance of Aboriginal Traditional Medicine to Indigenous health.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audience and panel discussion</p> <p>Debbie Watson – Ngangkaṛi (Aboriginal Traditional Healer) & Director of (ANTAC) Key elements of Aboriginal traditional healing and describe the Ngangkari’s healing practices vis-à-vis western medical practitioners.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audience and panel discussion</p> <p>Mrs Margaret Richards - Margaret is a Pitjantjatjara ngangkaṛi of the Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation. Margaret comes from Pipalyatjara, a community in the far north-west of South Australia in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara Lands (APY).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Audience and panel discussion</p> <p>Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM Will focus discussions on the position of traditional Aboriginal medicine, as it is situated within the challenges of the mainstream biomedical model.</p>

10.55-11.10	MORNING TEA – SHORT BREAK
11.15-12.00	<p>Dr Victoria Grieves, ARC Indigenous Research Fellow Vicki will draw on her research into Aboriginal philosophy, her professional experience in health policy and program development in the former ATSIC and as CEO of Biripi AMS near Taree.</p> <p>Audience and panel discussion</p> <p>Professor Ngiare Brown, Professorial Fellow, University of Wollongong Drawing on her experiences as a senior Aboriginal medical practitioner and one of the first identified medical graduates in Australia, Ngiare will offer her reflections from her experiences in mainstream medicine, public health, primary care and including her engagement with the UN system.</p>
12.00-12.10	Audience and panel discussion
12.10- 12.30	Poche opinion - Closing reflections from the Chair
12.30 – 1.00	FORUM CLOSE – LUNCH PROVIDED



**Professor Tom Calma AO - Poche Network Ambassador
Chancellor of the University of Canberra**

An Aboriginal elder of the Kungarakan tribal group. Prof. Calma has dedicated his life to improving the lives of all Australians and particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, championing advocacy for human rights and social justice.

Former Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and Race Discrimination Commissioner. Tom also served as a senior Australian diplomat in India and Vietnam. His landmark 2005 report calling for the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to be closed within a generation laid the groundwork for the Close the Gap campaign and COAG's Closing the Gap response.



**Professor Ngiare Brown
Professorial Fellow, University of Wollongong**

A Yuin nation woman and senior medical practitioner. Ngiare is one of the first identified medical graduates in Australia. Founding member and was Foundation CEO of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA). Brown has made extensive contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, research process, bioethics, policy, translation and practice.



**Dr Victoria Grieves
ARC Indigenous Research Fellow**

Dr Victoria Grieves is a Warrimay historian who works in transdisciplinary ways to progress Indigenous knowledge production in the academy – including establishing Aboriginal philosophy as a basis for critical Indigenous theory for Australia. Her professional experience in health policy and program development in the former ATSIC and as CEO of Biripi AMS near Taree.



Dr Francesca Panzironi

CEO - ANTAC

Dr Panzironi's current position at ANTAC is the result of a four-year independent research process (2009-2012) that led to the establishment of ANTAC as the first Aboriginal traditional healers' organization in Australia and the publication of *Hand-in-Hand. Report on Aboriginal Traditional Medicine* (2013).



Debbie Watson

Ngakari / Director ANTAC

Mrs Debbie Watson is a Pitjantjatjara ngangkari and Director of the Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation. Debbie comes from Pipalyatjara a community in the far north-west of South Australia in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara Lands (APY).



Margaret Richards

Ngakari (Aboriginal Traditional Healer)

Mrs Margaret Richards is a Pitjantjatjara ngangkari of the Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation. Margaret comes from Pipalyatjara, a community in the far north-west of South Australia in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjara Lands (APY).



Professor Elizabeth Elliott AM

Distinguished Professor in Paediatrics and Child Health, Sydney University Medical School; Consultant Paediatrician, Sydney Children's Hospitals Network at Westmead; National Health and Medical Council of Australia (NHMRC) Practitioner Fellow; and Chair of the Australian Government's National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Technical Network. She has 20 year's involvement in clinical services, research, advocacy and policy development regarding Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), including in Indigenous communities..