



Galnya Angin (Good Air)

The community newsletter of the
**Centre for Excellence in Indigenous
Tobacco Control (CEITC)**
ISSUE NO. 5, August 2008

From the Manager

Welcome to CEITC's latest newsletter, I hope you will enjoy reading about our recent activities. The first half of 2008 has been extremely busy for us and we have pleasure in sharing a few of our major achievements over the next few pages.

CEITC's capacity to continue its work received a boost with a couple of new staff appointments. Firstly, Anke Van Der Sterren joined us in May as our new Research Fellow. Anke has already proved to be an invaluable addition. She will initially concentrate on scoping current tobacco control projects and workforce capacity, and on setting up a new researchers' network... but more of that later.

CEITC has also been lucky to gain the expertise of one of Australia's leading lights in Indigenous Tobacco Control in the indomitable Dallas Young. Dallas will be working from her tropical paradise home in Cairns to formulate a training module for CEITC's *Talkin' Up Good Air* kit. We have no doubt that CEITC will benefit from her extensive experience and tobacco control knowhow.

One final staffing change has been Nicole McMillan's move to a Project

Officer role after being CEITC's Administrative Officer for four years. Nicole will continue to work on the CEITC website and to concentrate on extending CEITC networking opportunities, among other things.

On a different note, CEITC welcomed the announcement of the Federal Government's commitment towards reducing Indigenous smoking rates with an initial \$14.5 million to be used to develop an evidence-based Indigenous tobacco control strategy. CEITC looks forward to working with the Government and all stakeholders so that effective programs and policy can be formulated.

Viki Briggs



CEITC and CRCAH Researchers Roundtable 2008

One of CEITC's central objectives is to coordinate opportunities for different stakeholders to gather and to discuss research priorities and to define gaps in current knowledge.

As a follow up to our first researchers' meeting held in April 2007, a Roundtable was held in Brisbane on 23 May, in conjunction with the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH). The Roundtable presented an opportunity for key Indigenous tobacco control people to gather to discuss research priorities. Due to the format of the event, invitations were limited but strategically targeted to provide a balance of researchers, government and community participants. In all, we had just under 70 participants and it is hoped that future meetings will continue to evolve and grow to be as inclusive as possible.

The day started with a welcome to Turrbul country by Uncle Hughie Kirk. Mick Gooda (CRCAH) and Viki Briggs (CEITC) then set the scene for the day's Roundtable. Dr David Thomas (Menzies School of Health Research) gave an update on some current Indigenous tobacco control research. Anke Van Der Sterren (CEITC) followed with a summary of the last researchers' meeting and outlined the goals of the Roundtable sessions.



Uncle Hughie Kirk plays the gum leaf during his welcome to country



Anke Van Der Sterren (CEITC) and Sharon Minniecon (Sydney South West Area Health Service)



Mick Gooda (CRCAH), Mick Adams (NACCHO) and Viki Briggs (CEITC)



Ted Wilkes (Curtin University) and Michael Wilson (Quit Tasmania)



Christine Connors (NT Department of Health and Families), Dallas Young (Wuchopperen Health Service) and Philomena Lewis (Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service)



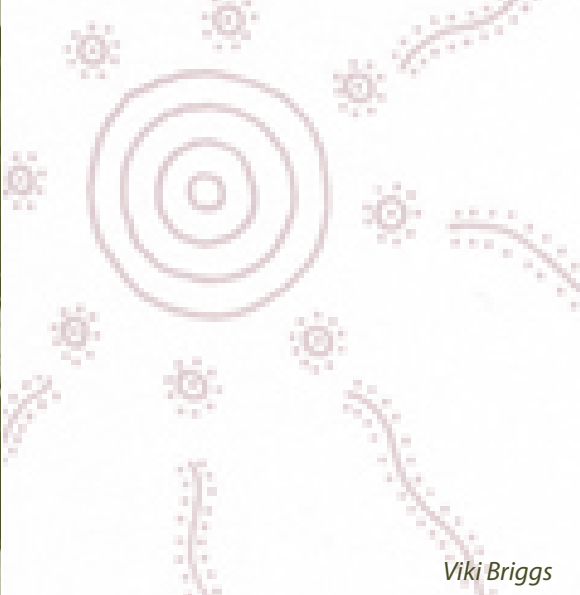
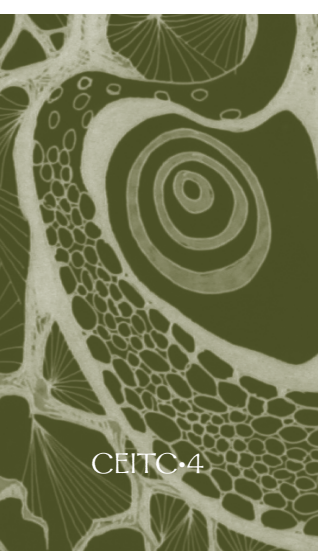
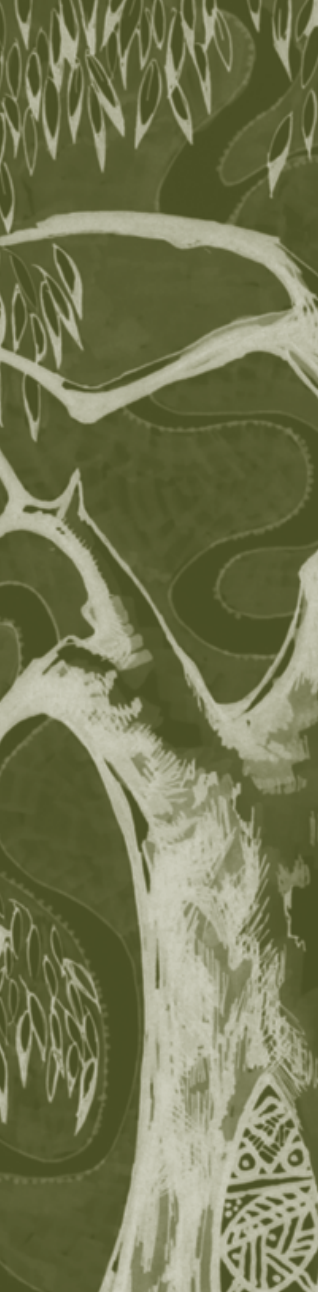
The 'Yellow Table' workshoping their research question

Kerry Howard from the Department of Health and Ageing also provided an overview of the Federal Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative.

After the presentations, the Roundtable broke into smaller groups to identify current research priorities. Participants were then asked to select one of these priorities to develop and expand further. These Roundtable sessions resulted in some creative and thoughtful contributions which will be extremely useful in putting together a research plan. CEITC intends to form a researchers' working group to formulate this plan and to expand upon the ideas raised in Brisbane.

A detailed report of the day will be available shortly and copies can be ordered by emailing your request to <ceitc-info@unimelb.edu.au>. The report will also be available for download from our website at <www.ceitc.org.au/ceitc_publications>.





Viki Briggs

CRCAH Canberra Showcase

On 13 March 2008, the Cooperative Research Centre for of Aboriginal Health (CRCAH) invited CEITC manager, Viki Briggs, to present at its Canberra Showcase in front of Government departmental officials. Central to Viki's presentation was the recent research by Theo Vos *et al.**, which attributed 20 per cent of all Indigenous deaths and 17 per cent of the health gap between Indigenous people and the rest of Australia's population to tobacco related illness: more so than alcohol and other drugs, violence or any other lifestyle disease. This evidence starkly points to tackling smoking rates as the No. 1 issue in addressing disparities in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

To date, strategies which have been so successful in reducing smoking rates in the broader population have not had a significant impact in Indigenous Communities and smoking prevalence has continued to hover around 51%. Viki stressed that there was limited capacity in health services to develop and deliver tobacco control programs in an environment where there are so many other competing health and social issues.

Shortly after the showcase the Federal Government announced its \$14.5 million Indigenous Tobacco Initiative. The government aims to use this funding to evaluate current tobacco control strategies and to understand what works and what doesn't work, so that any future funding can be directed to programs that have an impact.

*Vos, T., Barker, B. *et al.* 2007, *The Burden of Disease and Injury in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 2003*, School of Population Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane, p. 178.



Federal Minister for Health and Ageing
The Hon. Nicola Roxon

Deadly Dan, Smoke-Free Man

Those of you familiar with our *Talkin' Up Good Air* resource kit will know about tobacco control's newest superhero *Deadly Dan, Smoke-Free Man*. The *Deadly Dan* character first appeared in *Talkin' Up Good Air* as part of a hypothetical health promotion campaign. This case study was used to illustrate ways in which a tobacco control program could be developed by a health organisation to use in the community.



Since then, CEITC has produced various promotional give aways and *Deadly Dan* has even made a few personal appearances to promote our activities. This merchandise has always been extremely popular and well received.

The Federal Government's Department of Health and Ageing, through the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, granted CEITC some funding to produce promotional packs and further copies of the *Talkin' Up Good Air* kit. These free promo packs, consisting of *Deadly Dan* T-shirts, stickers, drink bottles and fridge magnets, will be distributed to OATSIH-funded health services throughout Australia in September. We also have a very limited number of packs available to other health services running tobacco control programs and they can be ordered by sending an email to <ceitc-info@unimelb.edu.au>.

Talkin' Up Good Air Training

CEITC is finalising a series of training workshops which will deliver training on how to use the *Talkin' Up Good Air* resource kit. Training sessions will be offered in most major centres to Aboriginal Health Workers. If you are interested in attending, or know of someone who is, then please contact CEITC on 03 8344 0883 or send us an email to <ceitc-info@unimelb.edu.au>. Copies of the kit are available free of charge or can be downloaded via our website at <www.ceitc.org.au/talkinupgoodair>.



CEITC Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Anke Van Der Sterren

CEITC was extremely pleased to welcome Anke Van Der Sterren in May 2008 as our new Research Fellow. While Anke is new to tobacco control, she has quickly managed to get her head around the issues. Her involvement in CEITC's Tobacco Control Research Roundtable shortly after starting was evidence of her ability to hit the ground running.

Anke's background has been in Indigenous health research and, since 1996, she has worked on a number of different projects in the areas of sexual health, drug and alcohol use and public health. Her first job in Indigenous health research was for Nganampa Health Council where she worked as an anthropologist for the STD Control and HIV Prevention Project on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands. From there she moved to Melbourne where she worked for five years at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) as a researcher on an injecting drug use project.

After going on maternity leave in 2003, Anke decided to do a PhD within *Oremda* VicHealth Koori Health Unit at the University of Melbourne. This project has involved working closely with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) and its member organisations to investigate how ACCHOs can strengthen their capacities to undertake public health activities in these settings. She is currently completing her PhD while working for CEITC.

Anke's work with CEITC will focus on writing a scoping paper for the Federal Government to inform the Indigenous Tobacco Control Initiative. As Research Fellow, Anke will become involved in the research activities of CEITC, including supporting communities around Australia with tobacco control research, evaluating projects, and coordinating a research network.

Anke can be contacted on 03 8344 0892 or <ankevds@unimelb.edu.au>.



Dallas Young

Dallas Young comes to CEITC after many years developing and implementing Indigenous tobacco control projects, forming policy and evaluating interventions. Dallas has worked in both

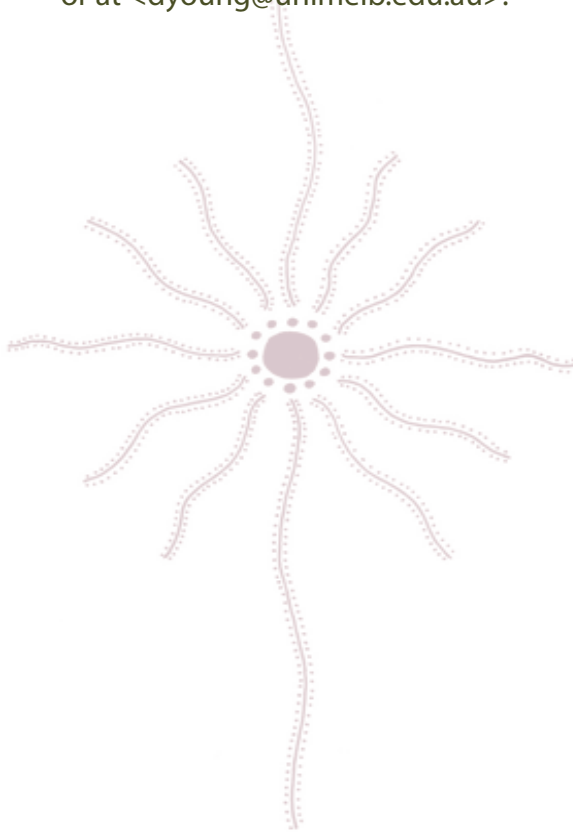
government and community controlled organisations and her most recent work was with Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns where she held a position as a Researcher and Project Officer. Prior to this, Dallas was at James Cook University where she managed a public health research project with a focus on tobacco control and chronic diseases.

Dallas has lived and worked predominantly in far north Queensland and has many connections throughout Cape York, the Torres Strait and far west. Dallas is a committee member on the NHMRC Indigenous Health Research Panel and is involved in a number of research projects. She is also the current Chairperson of the Aborigines and Islanders Alcohol Relief Services in Cairns.

Dallas' first task with CEITC will be to formulate and deliver training for Aboriginal Health Workers in using the *Talkin' Up Good Air: Australian Indigenous Tobacco Control Resource Kit*. She will continue to base her work from her home town of Cairns.

When Dallas isn't working she enjoys spending time with family and friends spinning tall stories, sharing a good laugh and fishing.

Dallas can be contacted on 0407 080 070 or at <dyoung@unimelb.edu.au>.



Share Your Tobacco Control Knowhow

We encourage you to share your knowledge, information and experience with others working in the area of Indigenous tobacco control. To share articles, reports, conference presentations or any type of written material you can send a hard copy to us at the address on the back of the newsletter. Alternatively you can complete a form on our website at <www.ceitc.org.au/register_your_project>, and submit your information for us to list on our website's publications section.

Would you like to
join our
CEITC Network?
Go to:

www.ceitc.org.au

If your work or study involves Indigenous tobacco control we invite you to become a member of the CEITC Network.

The interest group gives members the opportunity to network about tobacco control issues through an online discussion board and also via email. We support discussions about Indigenous tobacco control issues and encourage people to get in touch with others working in similar areas. There is a wealth of knowledge out there and we support open communication and sharing of information for the direct benefit of smoking prevention in Indigenous communities.





Where you will find us Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Tobacco Control (CEITC)

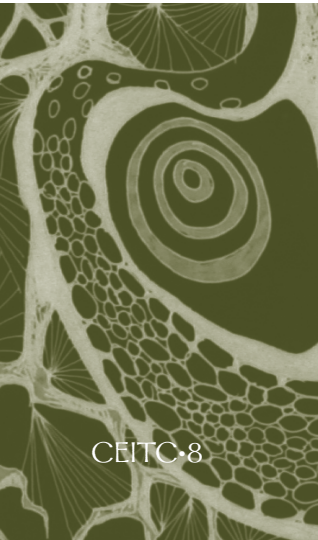
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