



First Peoples Health Unit Newsletter



First Peoples Health Unit

Better wellbeing | *Baugal baugulin yabruma*

Second Quarter Newsletter April - June 2019

In this edition we reflect back on:

- The new staff that having recently joined the FPHU team
- The announcement of the 2019 Outstanding First Peoples Health Alumnus
- Activities and events for Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and Mabo day
- First Peoples Health Inter-Professional and Simulation-Based Learning (IPSBL)
- Our attendance at the Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2019
- Our participation at the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Child Protection Peak Annual Conference 2019
- FPHU supporting a Papua New Guinea Health Economics Graduate Certificate cohort and a visit from Tagai State College
- and much more...



Message from the Director



Professor Roianne West
Kalkadoon Mitakoodi
and JJKunda Peoples

Jingeri (greetings),

I acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the First Peoples Health Unit was established and that of Traditional Custodians of Country across Australia and pay my respects to their Elders, past, present and future.

First Peoples Health Unit (FPHU) continues to work and support Schools within the Health Group with better ways of embedding, learning, teaching and understanding Indigenous cultures and with ways of knowing and doing.

In this edition we have included some more staff profiles in the FPHU team. We are continuing to grow with the programs of work and our reach which makes it an exciting time for FPHU and the University.

Most recently it was announced that PricewaterhouseCoopers Indigenous Consulting Pty Limited (PIC) in partnership with Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit will deliver cultural safety training for Australia's regulators of registered health practitioners.

Selected through a competitive tender process, this unique Aboriginal led collaboration between PIC, Griffith University's First Peoples Health Unit and the APHRA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy Group will provide a world class, bespoke cultural safety training program supporting the necessary culture transformation of Australia's health professions.

Dr Vicki Saunders and I recently attended the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) Annual Conference 2019 in Brisbane at the end of June 2019. It was a great opportunity to promote successful community partnerships, showcasing to the QATSICPP membership the Community Controlled Child Protection Practice Standards (7050HSV) which is being offered again in Trimester 3 2019.

It is important to grow an alumni of First Peoples health professionals and demystify university life for all First Peoples. FPHU, for a third straight year, welcomed a visit from the Tagai State College from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait.

Enjoy the read.

Regards

Roianne West

First Peoples Health Unit Team



Kylee Sheehy, Wiradjuri People

Kylee Sheehy

Kylee Sheehy is a descendent of the *Wiradjuri People* from Mudgee NSW and is a member of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM).

Kylee is a Registered Nurse and has worked for the past 23 years in senior nursing roles within NSW Health and non-Government Organisations.

Kylee has predominantly focused her expertise within Community Health. Her roles have included senior management and clinical nurse consultant positions within community health nursing and oncology/palliative care, she has also worked in senior nursing positions within the aged care sector.

Kylee has diversified her skills and knowledge by undertaking quality and clinical practice and project management roles within community health implementing and leading the palliative care outcomes collaboration framework (PCOC), a quality palliative care framework for generalist community nurses and at the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission leading the community pharmacy palliative care initiative, specifically looking at the role of community pharmacy within palliative care.

Kylee's passion is for mentoring and teaching. She has undertaken an academic role teaching within the Bachelor of Nursing, Contemporary Indigenous Health and Wellbeing and Health and Society courses at the University of Technology (Sydney).



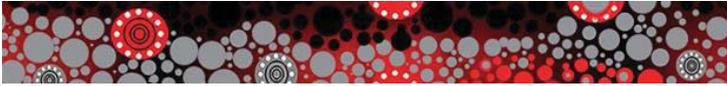
Nadia Currie, Badtjala and Muninjali Peoples
Image courtesy of Nadia Currie

Nadia Currie

Nadia Currie is a *Badtjala* and *Muninjali* woman who currently resides in Brisbane. Having worked in the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector (in both health and child protection), Nadia is a Griffith alumni with a Bachelor of Laws at Griffith University.

Currently, studying her Masters of Laws at QUT, Nadia seeks transformational change within the Aboriginal community controlled sector, which will benefit and provide successes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and community members. a is also a Board Member for the Queensland Council of Social Services and provides leadership and advice pertaining to the strategic direction and importance of cultural safety when working with communities.

2019 Outstanding First Peoples Health Alumnus



Cassie Nest, Ngunnawak Peoples
Image courtesy of Cassandra Nest

Congratulations to Cassie (Cassandra) Nest on being awarded the 2019 Outstanding First Peoples Health Alumnus winner.

Cassie is a *Ngunnawak* woman and currently the leading Aboriginal midwife working in the Midwifery Group Practice at the Gold Coast University Hospital. She is one of only three Indigenous midwives working in the Gold Coast area.

Cassie graduated from the Griffith University Bachelor of Midwifery program in 2012 and enjoys the opportunity to educate undergraduates coming through as a lecturer at Griffith University. She is strong advocate for Indigenous midwives and for Indigenous women having worked with the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) to support awareness initiatives in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Receiving the 2019 Outstanding First Peoples Health Alumnus Cassie is being considered for the 2019 Griffith University Outstanding First Peoples Alumni Award.

Cassie was asked what this award meant to her, "I feel so blessed to be recognised as an outstanding First Peoples Alumni. Griffith University Bachelor of Midwifery provided me with the skills and knowledge to transform maternity care.

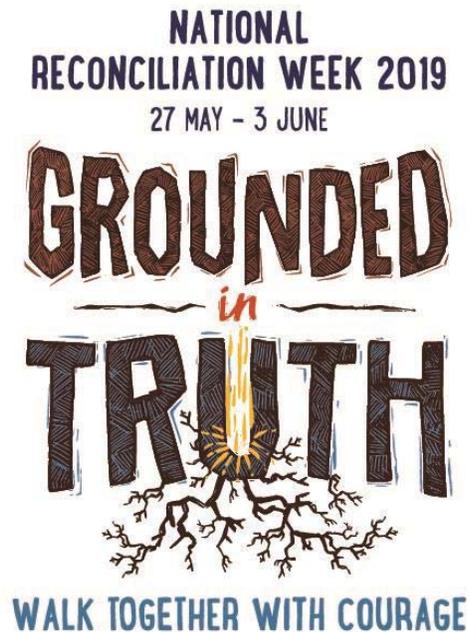
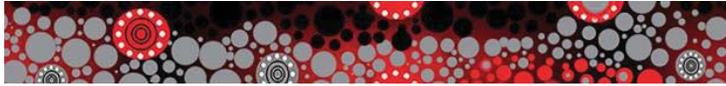
My joint appointment between Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and Griffith University as the First Peoples midwifery lecturer has allowed me to role model culturally safe care, provide a culturally safe service to the Gold Coast First Peoples community, mentor and support First Peoples Midwifery students and assist in ensuring we continue to increase our First Peoples Midwifery workforce. "

Our First Peoples alumni are roles models and represent what is possible for future students. We want to recognise these outstanding individuals wherever possible and encourage others to do the same.

FPHU is also calling on any First Peoples alumni who are interested in mentoring students or providing philanthropic support that would directly benefit First Peoples health students.

"I feel so blessed to be recognised as an outstanding First Peoples Alumni. Griffith University Bachelor of Midwifery provided me with the skills and knowledge to transform maternity care."

Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day



5 - Ready to Walk and Talk



7 - Some special little community members joined us for the walk



6 - Welcome to Country from Uncle John Graham, Kombumerri Elder

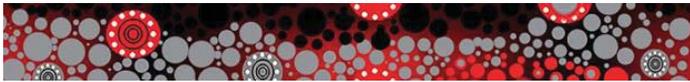
Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and Mabo Day represent a significant time for all First Peoples of Australia. This year's theme was '**Grounded in Truth, Walk Together With Courage**' asking all of those who call Australia home to understand the true history and to have a conversation .

And walk together we did, alongside our brothers and sisters from the GUMURRII Student Support Unit who led the way with the annual Walk and Talk on the Gold Coast campus. It is a great way for staff and students to enjoy a gentle walk from the International Building across the Griffith University Pedestrian Bridge through the campus to the lawn area near the library. Kombumerri Elder, Uncle John Graham, performed a Welcome to Country which was followed by a morning tea and more yarning.

Read more about [National Reconciliation Week](#)

Learn more about [National Sorry Day](#) and [Mabo Day](#)

First Peoples Health Inter-Professional and Simulation-Based Learning (IPSBL)



The First Peoples Health Unit worked with the Griffith University School of Nursing in 2018 to develop and deliver a First Peoples Health Inter-Professional and Simulation-Based Learning (IPSBL) module. The module helped to increase knowledge and understanding of the unique contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals in the health system. It also increased knowledge and understanding of how to conduct a 'Medicare Benefits Scheme, 715 – Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people' that requires a co-ordinated health care approach of an inter-disciplinary health team.

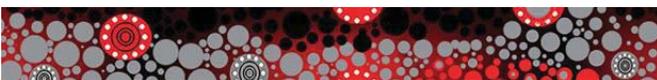
During the development of the IPSBL module, academic staff reported that nurses and nursing students were often unaware that their clients were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This hindered nurses' ability to tailor their patient centred care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples unique social and cultural needs. In response to this need, the IPSBL module included an additional activity to teach students the reason for and importance of asking the question 'Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?'

The First Peoples IPSBL module was delivered in Trimester 2 in 2018 to approximately **1200** first year and second year nursing students, by **30** academic and laboratory staff. Before the delivery of the IPSBL module, all academic and laboratory staff were offered the opportunity to participate in professional development provided by the First Peoples Health Unit in partnership with the School of Nursing. Attendance at the professional development promoted academic and laboratory staff confidence in teaching and explaining the concepts of the First Peoples health IPSBL module.

The First Peoples IPSBL module was positively received by both students and staff with increases in awareness, knowledge, understanding and confidence in First Peoples health interprofessional care. First Peoples students especially valued the First Peoples health interprofessional care module and felt more confident in their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals and how to access information about them.

The further delivery of the First Peoples Health IPSBL module is currently being planned for Trimester 2, 2019 with the School of Nursing. The First Peoples Health Unit will again be providing professional development to academic and laboratory staff of the School of Nursing to support the further delivery of the module.

Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2019



The Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2019 was held in Darwin based on deliberations under the theme **Thinking. Speaking. Being: First Nations Solutions for Global Change.**

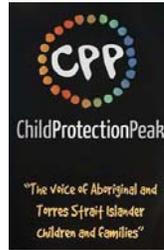
Dr Vicki Saunders was at the conference as part of her work in a multidisciplinary team of researchers from Griffith University. The team has been conducting the research project *Listening to Country: Exploring the value of acoustic ecology with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in prison.*

The project was developed in response to a direct request from a group of Aboriginal women at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre (BWCC), in south-western Brisbane, for an immersive audio work based on field recordings to reduce stress and connect them to natural environments and to country.

The project's aim is to explore the value of acoustic ecology – the study of the relationship, mediated through sound, between human beings and their environment – in promoting cultural connection, maintenance and wellbeing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in prison.

Find out more about the [Lowitja Conference 2019](#)

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Child Protection Peak Annual Conference 2019



Professor Roianne West and Dr Vicki Saunders from First Peoples Health Unit together with Mr Glenn Woods, Lecturer from School of Human Services and Social Work attended the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) annual conference in late June 2019. FPHU was a silver sponsor for this event and contributed to a number of presentations and forums. These included:

7050HSV Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Child Protection Standards

Presentation 1. Reflections on the co-development and delivery of the QATSICPP **7050HSV** between QATSICPP and Griffith University First Peoples Health Unit. Sidney Williams, QATSICPP and Mr Glenn Woods, Lecturer, Griffith University. To view or download a copy of the presentation [click here](#)

Presentation 2. Industry responsive curriculum initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families: Students perspectives, 7050HSV student who attended the conference.

The success of the first residential school offering in trimester 3 2018 for 7050HSV has ensured significant expressions of interest for this course in Trimester 3 2019.

Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) Evaluation Knowledge Circles.

Presentation 3. Professor Roianne West introduced the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP) Evaluation Knowledge Circles. QATSICPP has engaged Griffith University's First Peoples Health Unit to conduct QATSICPP Evaluation Knowledge Circles. This project aims to privilege the voices of QATSICPP members to inform the development of standards to inform evaluations in the sector.

The Griffith Team was delighted to be able to also attend the 10 year anniversary dinner as part of the conference.

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence announced a commitment of \$280,000 per annum in scholarships to support up to 26 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child, youth and family workers to undertake the Griffith University Graduate Certificate on Human Services which includes the 7050HSV course.

For more information visit [QATSICPP](#)

Future Health Leaders Tour



8 - Yarning Circle at QAHS



9 - Hands at Kununurra
Image courtesy of QAHS

Queensland Academy of Health Science (QAHS), Gold Coast, is inspiring its students to be future health leaders, the next generation of indigenous and non-indigenous health professionals. The school has provided an opportunity for 12 students from grade 10 to 12 to gain a first-hand experience of life and working in rural and remote settings for better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Led by the Principal, Mrs Vanessa Rebgetz, through an external tour operator, Rustic Pathways, the school coordinated a 10-day experience for the students during the June-July school holiday break. The students traveled from the Gold Coast to Darwin then on to Katherine, Kakadu, Kununurra and El Questo Station returning to Darwin and back to their families on the Gold Coast.

"The QAHS Future Leaders Medical Study Tour taught me so much, not only about the healthcare systems that have been put in place in such remote areas, but also gave me a whole new perspective on the culture and the lifestyles of the Indigenous people of Australia. From their improvised games which were completely different from what we would play at home to the countless activities and hobbies that we had interests in. From a health perspective, the trip broadened my understanding of how knowledgeable a rural medical practitioner must be and how prepared they have to be in any circumstance that is presented to them as well as being enlightened by stories and pathways of rural doctors and nurses that were shared in the clinics. All in all, the tour was one that I will never forget and could not recommend it enough for upcoming students at QAHS." - Aryan

With his daughter, Juliette, part of the cohort for this experience, FPHU Engagement Lead, Chris Levinge identified that Griffith University FPHU could greatly assist the school in preparing the students for the experience. The timing was ideal as the students were able to complete both the FPHU Learning initiative and the MOOC; Safer Health Care For Australia's First Peoples as part of their pre-departure program.

Led by Dr Debbie Bargallie, FPHU also had a yarning circle with students and teachers so they could ask questions or share their thoughts and experiences from the online learning modules. The circle also provided an opportunity for FPHU share knowledge and experiences engaging with First Peoples communities in rural and remote settings.

"I really appreciated learning about how the indigenous people used the land to their advantage in a way that allowed their environment to replenish itself (permaculture). The systems they used to hunt and gather food were advanced and in harmony with their environment" - Claudia

"This was an amazing opportunity, and if I could do it again, I would in a heartbeat" - Lara

7241MED Global Health Systems - Papua New Guinea Health Economics Graduate Certificate



11 - Kalwun Miami Clinic visit



12 - Kalwun staff speaking with the cohort



10 - Ochre demonstration at Jellurgal



13 - Farewell ceremony at Nathan campus

"From this experience, I found that the most significant issue is to understand and accept different people from different cultures without marginalization. I realized now that if people are not accepted as they are, they will not seek health services."

'I felt so excited and privileged to learn about the topic on First Peoples Health presented on Monday's session and also the visit to Jellurgal Aboriginal Culture Centre and tour to Miami Clinic.'

First Peoples Health Unit was approached by the School of Public Health to support engagement of Papua New Guinea Health Economics Graduate Certificate participants by providing a presentation/forum to gain knowledge of the work done by FPHU but also the important service provided by community controlled health organisations such as Kalwun. This was a great way for the FPHU to showcase, to an international audience, what the unit is doing and achieving and how it works with industry partners.

The participants were requested to complete the FPHU E-Learning initiative prior to the commencement of the first session presentation/forum. This gave them a basic understanding of the experiences of Indigenous Australians within an historical context and additionally the importance of having trained Indigenous health professionals for better health outcomes.

The first session was introduced by Engagement Lead, Chris Levinge and led by Teaching and Learning Lead, Dr Debbie Bargallie giving an overview of FPHU's important role, strategic direction and its stakeholders. Dr Bargallie's presentation also included discussion around racism and its impacts in the context of racism as a social determinant of health for Australia's First Peoples. It was evident that the students had completed the pre-learning course and were very engaged in the discussion with many questions at the end.

FPHU's Engagement Lead, Chris Levinge, coordinated a visit to the Kalwun Health Service, Miami clinic and provided the group with a culturally immersive experience through Jellurgal Culture Centre. This included a walk around the headland and sharing of the creation story for Jabreen.

Postscript: Congratulations to the 23 students who are about to complete the **7241MED Global Health Systems - Papua New Guinea Health Economics Graduate Certificate**.

'The realisation of cultural safety and cultural humility as an integral part of Indigenous peoples. This is so, as it is valuing the person as he/she is and not just on the individual level. This also means that the whole being of a person is about their social structures and culture and not just the individual person. Therefore, upholding the culture is as important.'

'I was not surprised by the fact that these Indigenous students were on campus but it totally debunked the myth that Indigenous Australian were 'brown' or 'black' which I could identify on campus. I am beginning to learn that indigenous Australians should not be defined by their skin colour which is the first mistake I have made.'

Tagai State College Campus Tour



For a third straight year Griffith University hosted a School visit from Tagai State College. On its website the college states “Tagai State College is committed to providing education and training services to the Torres Strait Nation that are holistic and designed to respond to the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of every child.”

This school group visit has become a welcomed annual event with the GUMURRII Student Support Units at both Nathan and Gold Coast campus leading the tour. This year the students heard stories from current First Peoples Health students about their experiences at University, met staff from First Peoples Health Unit, GUMURRII and the Bachelor of Nursing staff.

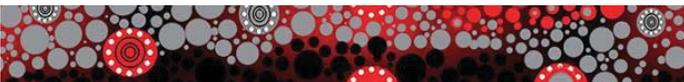
It was a ‘hands on’ experience as the students spent a good amount of time in the laboratory learning skills for Nursing, including CPR. In addition to the time spent in the laboratory, GUMURRII led some activities including campus tour to areas of interest, a visit to the Red Room, then a presentation and workshop on how to enrol through Direct Entry, how to apply for scholarships, accommodation available for students on the Gold Coast a question and answer session before departing for Brisbane.

Director of the First Peoples Health Unit Professor Roianne West spoke about the ongoing relationship between Tagai State College and Griffith University. “Hosting school visits from communities is mutually beneficial,” she said, “it not only allows our staff to engage directly with the students and communities from which they come but also gives the participating students a real experience of university life to consider further study as an achievable option when they finish school.”

Liz Elder, Lecturer and Credentialed Emergency Nurse (CEN), guided the students through the universities state-of-the-art teaching facilities and laboratories. With a wealth of experience across emergency nursing and first class learning and teaching methodologies Liz said, “It’s always a lot of fun and a great way to be able to give back to our communities.”

Good luck to all of the students for the rest of the school year and with their future learning journeys.

Congratulations Dr Debbie Bargallie



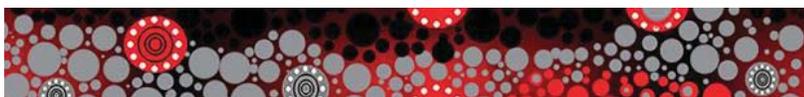
14 - Dr Debbie Bargallie, Kamilaroi and Wonnarua Peoples

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr Debbie Bargallie who recently accepted a Postdoctoral Senior Research Fellowship position with the Griffith University Institute for Educational Research (GIER). Debbie's research project is titled: ***Breaking the racial silence: Fostering critical racial literacy in Australian universities for understanding race and racism.***

Debbie led the development and delivery of the FPHU Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) - Safer Healthcare for Australia's First Peoples which has been well received across Griffith and in over 40 countries around the world. Thank you Debbie for your valuable contributions and support in the academic teaching and learning space for FPHU. We wish you the best for your research journey.

Nya Nyahbu Debbie

Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) Career's Day



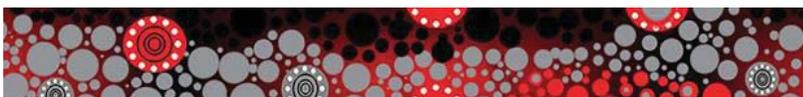
FPHU was grateful for the opportunity to assist and support this initiative of AIME with approximately 43 students, year 7 to year 12, from various Gold Coast secondary schools participating on the day.

FPHU's Project Officer, Tyrone Smith, fielded questions from the students about his pathway to university, his challenges and experiences completing his first degree and shared why he has continued his learning journey.

Tyrone reported that this intimate event was very worthwhile "It was facilitated in such a way that the quality of engagement and discussion from students was well worth attending." The students were very engaged and genuinely interested in FPHU and what it can assist with and offer for future First Peoples health students.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students visit [Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience](#)

The Aurora Project Intern Placements



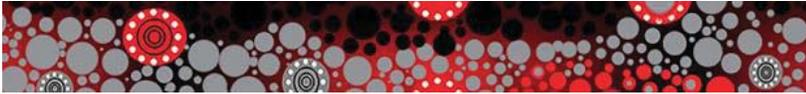
First Peoples Health Unit continues to support the Aurora Project Intern Placement Program for Indigenous and non-Indigenous postgraduates. The postgraduates placed in the FPHU have gained significant experience in understanding the complexities of First Peoples health and greatly assisted FPHU develop some plans.

Thank you to Isabella and Lia for your invaluable contributions with both the First Peoples Health Mentoring Plan and First Peoples Health Employability Plan over the last month. We know your going to miss our beautiful Gold Coast winter days and we wish you both success with your further study and careers.

See: The Aurora Project Intern Placements



Contact Us



Thank you for taking the time to read the First Peoples Health Unit newsletter. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land and communities we live and work.

We would love to hear from you and welcome your feedback.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please send an email to fphu@griffith.edu.au with the subject heading: **Unsubscribe**

Nya Nyah-bu

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First Peoples Health Unit

Better wellbeing | *Baugal baugulin yabruma*

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Queensland, Australia

