ISAC and 2015...

Some of the highlights for ISAC in 2015 were...
- Participation in the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at UWA
- Commencement of the pilot study in Geraldton as part of the NHMRC STORK project
- Commencement of the NHMRC Nini Helthiwan project
- Successful delivery of a Cochrane Review Training Course for 40 participants
- Support to 6 successful applicants for ISAC Capacity Building and Training
- Face-to-face meeting in Cairns
- 3 Cochrane Review titles accepted

Overall aim of ISAC
To improve health and developmental outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia through improvements in health services

ISAC objectives
- Generate new knowledge that leads to improved health and developmental outcomes in Aboriginal children
- Ensure effective transfer of research outcomes into health policy and practice
- Develop the health and medical research workforce by providing opportunities to advance the training of new researchers
- Facilitate collaboration across ISAC and national and international networks
- Work across primary, secondary and tertiary level health services but have a specific focus on improving pathways within primary community care

In this edition...
- ISAC and 2015
- The Nini Helthiwan project
- Grant to help Kimberley mothers and babies
- Advanced Epidemiological Analysis
- Farewell Rachael Ham
- Apunipima Supporting GPs to Provide Culturally Competent Care
- Congratulations to Catherine Chamberlain: Rising Star Research Excellence Award.
The NINI HELTHIWAN project
Improving Primary Care for Aboriginal mothers and babies in the Kimberley region of Western Australia

Within the Kimberley region, approximately half of Aboriginal babies and mothers have iron deficiency anaemia which can cause neurodevelopmental problems in babies and increased morbidity in mothers. We have received five year funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (20015-2019) to implement a new locally driven enhanced support model (clinical governance and peer led targeted support) to reduce anaemia rates and improve the quality of maternal and infant primary care. This study is based at the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS).

In August 2015, the project employed two Child Health Nurses, Ms Minna Houtari with KAMS and Ms Trudi McIntosh with WA Country Health Service (WACHS). This coordinated partnership was groundbreaking within the Kimberley and well worth the time and effort. The project is especially grateful for the efforts of managers within KAMS and WACHS for assisting us it to make this happen. Working across the Kimberley region, across all services, sharing the staffing gives the project strength and shows we are truly working in partnership. Feedback from communities and clinics shows this has been very well accepted.

The Child Health Nurses received training in September for venous blood sampling, child development assessments, data collection and research principles. The first mothers and babies were recruited in October and we now have 23 participants enrolled.

We are now working towards delivering the intervention in February. Two midwives will be employed to deliver a model of enhanced clinical governance and peer led targeted support for antenatal care to all primary health care providers in the Kimberley region. This will includes weekly phone calls to conduct CQI activities which will help to solve problems that affect how care is delivered for mothers and babies in the Kimberley.

If you would like further details on the Nini Helthiwan project please contact Donna Stephen (Project Manager) Phone: (08) 9195 2128, Email: mchresearchmanager@kamsc.org.au

The organisations involved are:
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS)
- Rural Clinical School of Western Australia (RCSWA)
- Department of Health Western Australia
- School of Paediatrics and Child Health, University of Western Australia
- Murdoch University
- Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (PMH)
- Telethon Kids Institute (TKI)

NINI HELTHIWAN Project team:
- Karen Edmond (UWA/PMH)
- David Atkinson (UWA)
- Rhonda Marriott (Murdoch)
- Julia Marley (UWA)
- Stephanie Trust (Independent)
- Karen Simmer (UWA)
- James Fitzpatrick (TKI)
- Peter Jacoby (TKI)
- Catherine Engelke (Independent)
- Melissa Williams (WACHS)
- Donna Stephens (KAMS)
- Elizabeh Geelhoed (UWA)
- John Boulton (Independent)
- Rebekah Adams (UWA)
- Kimberley McAuley (UWA)
- Natalie Strobel (UWA)
Nini Helthiwan grant to help Kimberley mothers and babies

We were very excited to receive a $144,679 Lotterywest grant for the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Limited to the purchase of two vehicles to help in the delivery of our Nini Helthiwan project.

Premier Colin Barnett presented the $144,679 grant in Broome in October to the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Limited.

Kimberley mothers and babies will gain greater access to a new maternal health program thanks to the purchase of two new 4WD vehicles through a Lotterywest grant.

The two vehicles will be used by child health nurses and midwives to roll out the three-year program across the Kimberley.

Mr Barnett said the vehicles were vital to ensure the program was able to reach as many mothers and infants as possible, regardless of their geographical location.

"The Kimberley covers an area more than 400,000 square kilometers, and with many of its population located in remote parts, it can be challenging for the nurses to travel to all areas safely," he said.

The maternal health program will address the issue of micronutrient malnutrition and iron deficiency anaemia. These issues are associated with severe medical and developmental problems and affect about 50 per cent of mothers and 60 per cent of breastfed young infants in Aboriginal communities.

"With more than half the infants in the Kimberley region affected by these issues, it's vital this program is accessible to all mothers and infants across the region," the Premier said.

Nini Helthiwan means Healthy Baby

A “name the project” competition was launched across the Kimberley and the Nini Helthiwan name and logo was chosen from the entrants. Local Yawuru /Bardi woman Lucille Bin Sulaiman (photo left) came up with the name. Lucille used both local and Kriol language and words that had the same meaning across many language groups.

Kitty Bin Rashid came up with the beautiful logo design combining the vivid Kimberley colours with the symbol representing blood and the connection across the region.

Congratulations Catherine Chamberlain:
Rising Star Research Excellence Award

One of ISAC’s first Training and Capacity Building grant recipients, Catherine Chamberlain, was awarded the prestigious National Health and Medical Research Council Research Excellence Awards in 2015. Catherine, an active collaborator in ISAC projects, was awarded the Rising Star Research Excellence Award for her postdoctoral research application that aims to improve the cardio-metabolic health of Indigenous Australian women during pregnancy and after birth, and aims to investigate and pilot strategies to achieve this aim. This is awarded to the top-ranked application by an Indigenous researcher in the Early Career Fellowship scheme.
Apunipima Supporting GPs to Provide Culturally Competent Care

Apunipima Cape York Health Council’s Public Health Medical Advisor Dr Mark Wenitong has been appointed to the Australian government’s new GP Training Advisory Committee.

The Committee will oversee the governance of the Australian General Practice Training program and advise the government on GP training policy and delivery.

'The Australian General Practice Training program is a postgraduate vocational education and training program designed to prepare GP registrars for fellowship', Health Minister Sussan Ley said.

There are currently more than 4,700 GP registrars on the Australian General Practice Training program nationally.

Dr Wenitong, who is also Adjunct Associate Professor at James Cook University’s School of Public Health, Tropical Medicine and Rehabilitation Sciences, says his new role is ‘to help ensure we have effective training policy and practice to deliver a well-trained and well supported, culturally competent GP primary health care workforce in Australia.

‘GP’s are centrally relevant in health care, often being the first port of call when someone’s has a health and wellbeing need, physical illness or mental health issue.

‘The need for this “generalist” to centrally coordinate, treat and manage, and advise and advocate best patient care across the health system is critical.

‘It is vital they are well trained to provide care in a variety of situations, including culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, as this skill will enable them to help not only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but all of their patients.’

Dr Wenitong’s term as Independent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander GP will run for three years.

Advanced Epidemiological Analysis at LSHTM

Dr Dan McAullay has recently completed the Advanced Epidemiological Analysis course at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Participants in this intensive two-week course were given a thorough grounding both in classical methods of analysis and in the more advanced regression techniques, as statistical methodology for the design and analysis of epidemiological studies is a fast-changing field. Practical experience of data analysis using the computer package Stata as well as various aspects of study design was also covered.

Dan commented that it was worthwhile doing. More information about LSHTM courses at: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/cpd/shortcourses.html

Thank you and good bye Rachael...

It is with great sadness that we farewelled Rachael Ham, Research Coordinator at Apunipima Cape York Health Council. She has taken up the FNQ Managers role at Shanty Creek Therapeutic Community near Mareeba. It is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation service.

“'I am sincerely grateful for the past 15 months of employment here at Apunipima Cape York Health Council” Rachael said. Her last day was on Friday 30th October.
### Conferences 2016:

#### MARCH 2016

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#### APRIL 2016

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<tr>
<td>12 to 15</td>
<td>International forum for Quality and Safety in Health care</td>
<td>Gothenburg, Sweden</td>
<td><a href="http://internationalforum.bmj.com/">http://internationalforum.bmj.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 to 19</td>
<td>33 The International Society for Quality in Health Care (ISQua) Conference</td>
<td>Tokyo, Japan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.isqua.org/">http://www.isqua.org/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>17 to 19</td>
<td>22nd Annual Qualitative Health Research Conference</td>
<td>Kelowna, Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iqm.ualberta.ca/Conferences_and_Workshops/QualitativeHealthResearch.aspx">http://www.iqm.ualberta.ca/Conferences_and_Workshops/QualitativeHealthResearch.aspx</a></td>
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ISAC news is intended to be a way to highlight some of the most noteworthy activities of ISAC and report back on progress and promote communication. This way we will also promote the common purpose of ISAC, inform all involved of research and other opportunities.

ISAC web site:
http://www.paediatrics.uwa.edu.au/research/isac

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ISAC CIs

Prof Karen Edmond, Dr Daniel McAullay, Prof David Atkinson, Prof Rhonda Marriott, Prof Ross Bailie, A/Prof Alan Ruben, A/Prof Mark Wenitong, Prof Victor Nossar, Prof Betty Kirkwood, Prof Fiona Stanley

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein