

List of resources on selected issues & challenges facing Indigenous communities.

Aboriginal Reconciliation

Briskman, L. Beyond apologies: the Stolen Generations and the churches. Children Australia v.26 no.3 2001: 4-8

The complicity of state and church in the removal and placement of Aboriginal children in Australia has been well documented. Since the investigation by the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, a number of churches have apologised for their participation in these practices. Alongside the apologies, churches have engaged in activities of reconciliation. This paper documents a research project, commissioned by the Minajalku Aboriginal Corporation, to explore the role of churches and church agencies in Victoria. (Journal abstract)

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (Australia). Achieving economic independence: ways to implement the National Strategy for Economic Independence, one of four National Strategies in the Roadmap for Reconciliation. Kingston, ACT: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, 2000, 11p, tables and Online

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/car/2000/7/>

The purpose of the National Strategy for Economic Independence, one of four National Strategies in the Roadmap for Reconciliation, is outlined in this booklet which discusses the barriers experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieving economic independence, in the areas of education, employment, business and capital management and cultural intolerance. Strategies to overcome disadvantage are identified, in the areas of education and training, employment, and indigenous commercial activity. Examples of organisations putting reconciliation into practice are presented.

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (Australia). Overcoming disadvantage: ways to implement the National Strategy to Overcome Disadvantage, one of four National Strategies in the Roadmap for Reconciliation. Kingston, ACT: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, 2000, 18p, tables and Online

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/car/2000/8/>

Ways to implement the National Strategy to Overcome Disadvantage are identified in this booklet which discusses what can be achieved in the areas of education; health and well being; employment; housing and accommodation; and law and justice. Issues to be considered in addressing disadvantage include: leadership; building stronger communities and equal partnership; better service

delivery; accountability and benchmarking; and appropriate funding arrangements. Examples are provided of what the Strategy could mean in practice, to reduce crime and to address systemic discrimination.

Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation (Australia). Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights. Kingston, ACT: Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, 2000, 22p and Online

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/car/2000/9/>

This document provides details on the National Strategy to Promote Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Rights, one of four National Strategies in the 'Roadmap for Reconciliation'. It provides a description of the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the areas where recognition and protection are required, and presents strategies to implement specific objectives. The discussion focuses on the following elements: social justice and equality; land, culture and heritage; self determination and political participation; constitutional and legislative reform; and community education and awareness.

Leigh, A K. Leadership and Aboriginal reconciliation. Australian Journal of Social Issues v.37 no.2 May 2002: 131-152

Calls for greater leadership on the issue of Aboriginal reconciliation are often vague about what they actually mean by 'leadership'. The most appropriate lens through which to regard leadership on the issue of reconciliation is not the usual notion of leadership-as-influence, but instead the theory of 'adaptive leadership', developed by Harvard professor Ronald Heifetz. Applying these ideas to the problems of Aboriginal reconciliation, four principles are proposed that might promote progress on this difficult and complex issue. (Journal abstract)

Sanson, A; Dudgeon, P. Guest editorial: psychology, Indigenous issues, and reconciliation. Australian Psychologist v.35 no.2 Jul 2000: 79-81

In this editorial for this special issue on reconciliation which arose from the Psychology of Reconciliation symposium held at Melbourne University in July 1997, an acknowledgement is made of the need to find ways to address the difficulties resulting from a history of oppression of Indigenous people and to negotiate a more positive relationship with them. A brief review of issues raised by the other papers is provided, highlighting new partnership models of research and practice, and issues of educating undergraduates on Indigenous questions; stolen children and identity; the involvement of non-Indigenous psychologists in the reconciliation process; and social justice and the political process.

Alcohol & drugs

Alati, R; Peterson, C; Rice, P L. The development of Indigenous substance misuse services in Australia: beliefs, conflicts and change. Australian Journal of Primary Health - Interchange v.6 no.2 2000: 49-62, figures

The aim of this paper is to overview earlier and recent issues in the field of Indigenous substance misuse intervention from its beginning to more recent developments. The overview specifically analyses developments, advancements and change in the area of tertiary intervention or 'rehabilitation' as it is commonly referred to by Indigenous people. First, the paper focuses on Indigenous historical and theoretical constructs that have impacted on the development of Indigenous notions of 'rehabilitation' or intervention. Indigenous interpretations of the disease model of alcoholism, particularly the Alcoholics Anonymous philosophy, are analysed as well as the socio-cultural beliefs associated with those models. Second, conflicts with the mainstream management of substance misuse intervention are overviewed. Third, the paper highlights the complexity of more recent evolution of the services and discusses possible options for change. Attention is also devoted to Indigenous alternative interpretations of intervention and their relevance to the area of secondary intervention. Recent developments in the area of primary health care and their potential towards further improvement are also considered as well as obstacles to those changes. (Journal abstract)

Brady, M. Indigenous residential treatment programs for drug and alcohol problems: current status and options for improvement. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2002, 28p.

Commonwealth-funded residential rehabilitation programs for Indigenous problem drinkers or drug users were established in the 1970s as community-controlled organisations that were separate from Aboriginal Medical Services and independent of State drug and alcohol units. In 1999 a review of the Commonwealth's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Substance Misuse Program identified a number of concerns, and in 2001 the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) commissioned the author of this paper, through the CAEPR, to undertake research that would contribute to the resolution of these concerns. This discussion paper is based on selected research findings.

Brady, M. The grog book: strengthening indigenous community action on alcohol. Canberra, ACT: Department of Health and Family Services, 1998, 222p

The aim of this book is to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, regardless of their setting, with practical ideas, strategies and a stimulus for formulating local approaches to managing alcohol within their community. The book aims to widen the choices for action and sets out the advantages and disadvantages of different interventions as suggested through the case studies upon which this book is based. It was researched with the extensive involvement of Aboriginal communities and sought to capture the

experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in community based intervention around problem alcohol use.

Campbell, L; Stojanovski, A. Warlpiri elders work with petrol sniffers.

Indigenous Law Bulletin v.5 no.9 Jul 2001: 8-11

Yuendumu community has a history of dealing with outbreaks of petrol sniffing that extends back to the early 1980s, state the authors. They describe the background to the Mount Theo-Yuendumu Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation (the MYSMAC), the involvement of Warlpiri Elders, and the history of the Mt Theo Petrol Sniffing Program and why it has been successful.

Ellis, R. Indigenous substance misuse services: every story is different.

Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.22 no.6 Nov - Dec 1998: 16-23

This article focuses on rehabilitation services provided for Aborigines in the area of substance abuse. Although each service is different, they share some common features that set them apart from more mainstream approaches to rehabilitation. An examples of this is the integration of cultural and clinical elements into healing programs, a focus on family rehabilitation and an emphasis on community as well as individual development through training and employment opportunities.

McKelvie, G; Cameron, J. Alcohol and substance misuse amongst Indigenous Australians. In: Dudgeon, P., Garvey, D. and Pickett, H. eds. Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists. Perth, WA: Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, p499-515

This paper begins by exploring the historical factors that have contributed to Aboriginal socialisation patterns of alcohol and drug use, addressing issues of social control, access to health services and shifts that have occurred in the alcohol and drug treatment area. The need for culturally appropriate alcohol and drug services is examined together with initiatives that are emerging from Aboriginal people and their communities. Guidelines that suggest strategies that psychologists can use when working with Aboriginal people who have alcohol and drug problems are provided.

Wilson, S. Alcohol, Education and Rehabilitation Foundation. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.25 no.3 May - Jun 2001: 31-32

The Aboriginal, Education and Rehabilitation Foundation has funds to distribute to programs across Australia, of which 20% must be spent on projects targeted at Indigenous Australians. This article outlines some of the initiatives being funded. They include: Drug Action Week; Australian National Council on Drugs; Illicit Drugs and Youth Alcohol Campaign; National Police Diversion Strategy; National Complimentary strategic plan; and Quality Assurance processes for substance misuse services.

Child abuse

Bessarab, D. Child sexual abuse. In: Dudgeon, P., Garvey, D. and Pickett, H. eds. Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists. Perth, WA: Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, p447-450

Ways of working with an Aboriginal child or young people who has been sexually abuse, are identified in this paper which also discusses how practitioners can work with the families and outlines the rationale behind the problem solving Protective Behaviours program.

D'Eatough, T R. Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities (the Gordon Inquiry), Western Australia 2002. Developing Practice: The Child, Youth and Family Work Journal no.5 Summer 2002 - 2003: 50-52

This article describes the aims of the Gordon Inquiry, set up to investigate allegations of violence and sexual abuse following the death of Susan Taylor, a young Aboriginal woman from the Swan Valley Nyoongar Community in Perth, Western Australia.

Education Centre Against Violence. Big shame: a story about child sexual assault. Parramatta, NSW: Education Centre Against Violence, 1999, 20 minute video plus 13p pamphlet

This is a story about child sexual assault. The video shows the seriousness of assault and the difficulties facing a family and community where sexual abuse is occurring. It encourages discussion about the effects of sexual abuse, the things offenders do to trap children and families, and what needs to be done to protect children.

Gordon, S; Hallahan, K; Henry, D. Putting the picture together: Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities. Perth, W.A. : State Law Publisher, 2002, 642p, and Online

<http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/publications/publications.nsf/Inquiries?OpenView&Start=1&Count=30&Expand=9#9>

The Inquiry into the Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities has examined how Western Australian state government agencies respond to evidence of family violence and child sexual abuse that may be occurring in Aboriginal communities generally; considered current research into the prevalence, causes and solutions to Aboriginal family violence; consulted widely, including with representatives of Aboriginal communities, youth, health services and related organisations; and made recommendations on practical solutions for addressing incidents of sexual abuse in Aboriginal communities, including any necessary legislative and administrative measures. The report provides a full overview of the Inquiry; of family violence and child abuse, including causality and

prevalance; of service provision by seven government agencies in WA, against a backdrop of research on service developments in responding to family violence and child abuse; and of findings and recommendations.

Kovacs, K. Overview of the Gordon Report. Child Abuse Prevention: National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter v.10 no.2 Summer 2002: 1-5

In 2001, the Western Australian Government undertook an Inquiry into the Response by Government Agencies to Family Violence and Child Abuse Complaints in Aboriginal Communities. This article discusses steps in the compilation of the Inquiry's findings (the Gordon Report). It outlines the key recommendations of the Gordon Report, including the establishment of an Implementation Body; recommendations for the Departments of Health and Education; policing strategies; court responses; social services; the introduction of 'one stop shops, Child Death Review Teams; the establishment of a Children's Commissioner; mandatory reporting; and legislative change.

Worth, C; Drayton, C. Sexual assault: working with indigenous communities: a work in progress. In Tucci, J. et al, eds. Agenda for change: solutions to problems in Australian child protection systems: selected conference papers. Clayton, Vic: Australians Against Child Abuse, and Child Abuse and Family Violence Research Unit, Monash University, 1999, p346-352

The authors examine the effect of sexual assault on indigenous groups and how to measure the effect, especially when indigenous people often do not use mainstream sexual assault services. The authors point out how a change in cultural values since colonisation has affected indigenous people, noting that violence against women and children was never an acceptable part of traditional Aboriginal society. They suggest that many crimes of violence go unreported because of the fears of police held by many Aboriginal women. The authors describe their efforts to encourage indigenous women to use mainstream sexual assault services, and suggest that providers of these services need to work with Aboriginal communities to develop guidelines for dealing with victims and offenders.

Child rearing

Palya palyanma pipirri wiima tjutaku = Doing good for little kids: child care conference, 14-18th May, 2001. Alice Springs, NT: Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi Aboriginal Incorporation, 2001, video, col., 29 min.

This video features images from the 2001 Palya Palyanma Pipirri Wiima Tjutaku (Doing good for little kids) Child Care Conference, including activity sessions and presentations. Speakers, attendees and organisers speak about the events and goals of the conference. Aboriginal child rearing practices and the retention of Aboriginal culture are discussed. Excerpts from the speeches of Government ministers are featured, along with discussion about how to best work with government and how to improve children's services. Finally, women speak of the benefits the conference had for them.

Cadd, M. The Indigenous approach to early childhood. SNAICC Newsletter Summer 2001 - 2002: 3-5

The Chairperson of the Secretariat of the National Aboriginal Islander Child Care (SNAICC) notes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are the only group in Australia for whom participation in preschool education is falling. Whilst the value of preschool education may be widely recognised, too little is being done to expand preschool services for Indigenous children, the author argues. She states that SNAICC believes that the service model developed by the Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) should be better appreciated and expanded. MACS services operate on the basis that they must take account of all the needs of the child and that they must work with the child's family in order to provide the best environment for each child's development. There has been no increase in the number of MACS services for over ten years, and SNAICC has identified over 40 major Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population centres which could benefit from the provision of a MACS centre. She concludes by briefly suggesting that our approach to preschool education needs to change, and how to make that a reality.

Cadd, M. Working with Indigenous children and families: what do services need to know to provide effective support to protect Indigenous children, provide care and strengthen Indigenous communities? SNAICC Newsletter Winter - Spring 2002: 1-6

Addressing the issue of how best to protect Indigenous children, the author discusses strategies that can be used by agencies in the field of child and family welfare. She urges service providers to engage in a cooperative effort to achieve child protection through strengthening Indigenous families, and communities, pointing out that Indigenous children must be seen in the context of their community and therefore the needs of the community, or family, must also be met. Indigenous organisations providing community and family services are often small and inadequately funded, and she asks that government agencies offer the funding and infrastructure to support Indigenous organisations. She believes that partnerships between mainstream and Indigenous agencies will result in the delivery of appropriate and effective child and community services to Indigenous people.

Charteris, D. Working together: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander breastfeeding and infant feeding project in North Queensland. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.25 no.3 May - Jun 2001: 23-25, figures

The process of developing a breastfeeding and infant feeding project in an Aboriginal community in North Queensland is outlined in this article which highlights the importance of community participation. Results of the questionnaire on breastfeeding and infant nutrition are presented and issues which needed to be addressed in the community are identified.

Education

Bourke, C J; Rigby, K; Burden, J. Better practice in school attendance: improving the school attendance of Indigenous students. Canberra, ACT: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, 2000, 133p.

Despite initiatives which have been introduced by Commonwealth and State / Territory governments in the last 20 years to improve participation in, and outcomes from, education among Indigenous students, they continue to be the most educationally disadvantaged student group in Australia, with consistently lower levels of academic achievement and higher rates of absenteeism than among non-Indigenous students. This report is based on an analysis of available data, relevant literature and wide spread consultations and site visits. It covers the attendance rates of Indigenous students at all levels of schooling, their variation over time, and a range of variables together with a description of the contributing factors and reasons. Also described are initiatives and programs to improve attendance rates, and suggestions for further research and analysis are presented.

Gray, M C; Hunter, B; Schwab, R G. Trends in Indigenous educational participation and attainment, 1986-96. Australian Journal of Education v. 44 no. 2 Aug 2000: 101-117, tables

While the general level of educational attainment in Australia has increased significantly over the period 1986 to 1996, if minority groups fail to keep up with the rate of increase of other Australians, it is likely that they will suffer increasing disadvantage and marginalisation in the labour market. It is in this context that it is important to examine how Indigenous Australians fare as the general level of educational attainment continues to rise. If they do not keep up with the increase in qualifications in the rest of the population, then it is likely that they will remain uncompetitive in the labour market and high rates of Indigenous poverty will be perpetuated indefinitely. The main finding of the authors is that while there have been some improvements in Indigenous educational outcomes, relative to the rest of the population, there have been little if any real gains.

Morriss, M; Mann, S; Byrnes, T. Safe Dreaming Trail to School: community participation and Indigenous culture. Australian Journal of Primary Health - Interchange v. 6 no. 2 2000: 110-115, figures

The Safe Dreaming Trail to School initiative was an injury prevention project, that used the school as the setting, and students as agents for change, in a cross cultural, collaborative approach to addressing community safety hazards. Students developed skills in identifying and reporting safety hazards in their school and local community, with opportunities to learn from Indigenous safe community practices through Dreaming Stories. This learning process was captured by an original piece of Aboriginal art created by a local Aboriginal artist and included enthusiastic assistance from students. The core components of the project involved: fostering collaborative links between health, education, local service providers and community members; providing information on

community safety and Indigenous culture; developing a process for positive action on community safety hazards; and encouraging increased understanding and respect for different cultures using art and Dreaming Stories as the medium. (Journal abstract)

Purdie, N; Tripcony, P; Boulton-Lewis, G; Fanshawe, J; Gunstone, A. Positive self-identity for Indigenous students and its relationship to school outcomes. Canberra, ACT: Department of Education, Training and Youth Affairs, 2000, 71p.

The aims of the project described in this commissioned report were to: define the concept of positive self-identity for Indigenous students; identify the factors that contribute to positive self-identity formation; analyse the role of positive self-identity in affecting school outcomes for Indigenous students; devise a working definition of positive self-identity for Indigenous students; and suggest practical strategies for increasing the positive self-identity of Indigenous students in order to improve their school outcomes. The project involved a detailed review of the literature on self-identity, and consultations were conducted with a national sample of Indigenous community members (students, parents / carers, teachers, principals) and non-Indigenous teachers and principals.

Schwab, R G; Sutherland, D. Building Indigenous learning communities. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2001, 22p.

The limited engagement of Indigenous Australians with education remains one of this country's most perplexing and intractable problems, state the authors. They propose the building of Indigenous learning communities as an avenue to address the problem. Placing their discussion against the backdrop of broader debates about social capital and community capacity building, they explore educational policy and program options for linking families, schools and communities (including business and government) to identify and address local needs through drawing upon local resources. Five program models, from both Australia and overseas, are sketched to illustrate a range of approaches. The experience derived from these programs suggests there is value in attempting to position the school at the centre of Indigenous communities. Further, it is argued, in extending the traditional role of the school to incorporate other initiatives such as adult education and the coordination and integration of various child and family services, these programs necessarily bring more members of the wider community into contact with the school. The paper makes specific recommendations related to funding, evaluation and essential program components.

Employment

Altman, J C; Gray, M C. The effects of the CDEP scheme on the economic status of Indigenous Australians: some analyses using the 1996 Census. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000, 23p, tables, figures (CAEPR discussion paper no.195/2000) and Online (292K) <http://online.anu.edu.au/caepr/discuss.html>

The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme is a labour market program, an alternative income support scheme and community development initiative developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. This paper presents the first analysis using data from the 1996 Census of the effects of CDEP employment on the economic status of Indigenous people. Some comparisons of the labour market outcomes of Indigenous people in CDEP communities to those in non-CDEP communities are also presented. Policy implications are considered.

Altman, J C; Johnson, V. The CDEP in town and country Arnhem Land: Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000, 39p, tables (CAEPR discussion paper no.209/2000) and Online (402K) <http://online.anu.edu.au/caepr/discuss.html>

This discussion paper presents the findings of research undertaken in 2000 on the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme administered by the Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation (BAC). BAC is located in the township of Maningrida in central Arnhem Land, and the CDEP scheme has participants residing both in Maningrida township and at outstations in the hinterland. A feature of the research is the comparative focus on 'town' and 'country'. The primary aim of the research is to assess the net benefits generated by the operation of the scheme in these two contexts. Benefits are defined not only in terms of employment generation, but also more broadly to include social, cultural and other economic benefits. The discussion is couched in terms of current social policy debates that highlight the apparent negative impacts of welfare dependence and especially 'passive' welfare. This case study focuses on a situation where what could be termed 'active' welfare - CDEP scheme participation - has been an important option. Findings are presented, and a number of recommendations for change are made.

Atkinson, G J. Barriers to Indigenous employment: marginalisation and exclusion. In: Weeks, W. and Quinn, M. eds. Issues facing Australian families: human services respond. Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Education Australia, 3rd ed., 2000, p249-260

Drawn from the author's own experiences as an Indigenous person from the Victorian region and as a consultant in Yurunga Enterprises, this chapter focuses on some of the key events and social policies that have had impact on Aboriginal employment and economic development and comments on the current social and economic status reflected in key major reports over the last two decades,

including the Miller Report 1985. Issues of the historical legacy and institutional racism are addressed.

Gray, M C; Hunter, B H. A cohort analysis of the determinants of employment and labour force participation: Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, 1981 to 1996. Australian Economic Review v.35 no.4 Dec 2002: 391-404, tables
Data from the 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996 censuses are used to construct a synthetic panel which is used to conduct the first longitudinal estimates of the determinants of the probability of employment and participating in the labour force for Indigenous and non-Indigenous males and females. The major contribution of the article is to produce estimates of the effects of educational attainment which control for the effects of unobserved heterogeneity using 10 year age cohorts. This article demonstrates that the determinants of labour force status differ between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations and illustrates the need to use longitudinal techniques to control for important unobservable characteristics.

Gray, M C; Thacker, E. CDEP as a stepping stone to employment: the Port Augusta case. Australian Journal of Labour Economics v.4 no.2 Jun 2000 - 2001: 77-88, tables, figures

Indigenous Australians in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme have been working for welfare payments since 1977. One of the objectives of the scheme is to assist Indigenous Australians develop work skills which lead to 'mainstream' employment. This paper uses a case study of a CDEP scheme in Port Augusta, a regional centre in South Australia, to analyse the success of the scheme as a stepping stone to unsubsidised employment in regional centres and urban areas. The research demonstrates that the scheme can be a stepping stone to mainstream employment for participants wishing to make this move. It also provides an opportunity for participants who do not wish to find employment to undertake useful work in an environment that allows them to balance cultural and family commitments with the demands of employment. The factors underpinning the movement to 'mainstream' employment are identified. The paper concludes with some of the policy issues arising from this research. (Journal abstract)

Hunter, B H; Gray, M C. Indigenous labour force status re-visited: factors associated with the discouraged worker phenomenon. Australian Journal of Labour Economics v.4 no.2 Jun 2000 - 2001: 111-133, tables

Indigenous people are more likely to be discouraged from looking for work than other Australians. Data from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey are used to analyse the factors that lead many Indigenous people who want to work to not seek work, and hence remain outside the labour force. This article confirms the importance of labour supply factors (including family, cultural and social environmental factors), but also emphasises the interaction between the supply and demand side of the labour market. An important finding is that Indigenous people want to work as much as other Australians. This means that policies aimed at increasing the demand for their services are crucial. Two examples of the latter are education and regional development policies. The

article also argues that a broader definition of the discouraged worker should be considered for all Australians. (Journal abstract)

Hunter, B; Gray, M. Family and social factors underlying the labour force status of Indigenous Australians. Family Matters no.62 Winter 2002: 18-25, tables

This paper seeks to identify the extent to which family and social factors either enhance or detract from Indigenous economic participation. Defining 'discouraged workers' as those who want to work but are not actively looking for work, the authors note that Indigenous people are far more likely than other Australians to be discouraged workers. The article reports on the results of analysis of data from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) which provides a unique opportunity to examine the processes underlying Indigenous labour force status. The research extends the range of factors examined in studies of Indigenous labour supply to include cultural and social environmental factors, and focuses on what leads to Indigenous people becoming discouraged workers. The importance of family, cultural and social environmental factors in determining the labour force outcomes of Indigenous people is highlighted, and implications discussed.

Hunter, B; Taylor, J. Indigenous jobs growth and unemployment, 1996-2006: the impact of CDEP. Australian Journal of Labour Economics v.4 no.2 Jun 2000 - 2001: 65-76, tables, figures

An essential policy issue for the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme is to project the likely future demand for places. This paper revisits previous estimates of such demand with the aim of adjusting these to account for subsequent increase in CDEP employment and to incorporate recent estimates of the effect of Indigenous people who are discouraged from seeking work. While changes in the size and structure of the population remain the key factors underlying future demand for CDEP, the revision of the Indigenous labour market dynamics in this article provides new benchmarks for future estimates of general employment needs of Indigenous Australians. (Journal abstract)

Macfie, G. Building community capacity: the case of CDEP. Impact Sept 2002: 8-9

Ways of building communities that respond to social and economic change in a sustainable way have been much debated in recent years. The author discusses the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, which was introduced in the 1970s and has survived many political changes, an indication for the author of its status as a successful community project. He describes CDEP schemes through which funding is provided for employment initiatives in Aboriginal communities in place of the payment of unemployment benefits to individuals. He looks specifically at Port Augusta's Bungala CDEP. This scheme tries to meet diverse objectives between mainstream employment and community building. The author describes the different programs Bungala CDEP operates and their success in meeting objectives.

Family violence

Blagg, H. Restorative justice and Aboriginal family violence: opening a space for healing. In: Strang, H. and Braithwaite, J. eds. Restorative justice and family violence. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002, p191-205
Rates of interpersonal violence are significantly higher amongst Aboriginal communities than in the general Australian population. In this chapter, the author looks at several Western Australian projects that were concerned with Indigenous family violence prevention, intervention and treatment. He reports that Indigenous people believe any effective remedy would need to be holistic and community based, as conventional criminal justice methods would simply perpetuate the cycle. A model of restorative justice specifically designed for Indigenous communities needs to be developed in order to empower Aboriginal women, educate the offenders and achieve effective outcomes. The author believes that justice models involving Indigenous people should be brought into line with Aboriginal law.

Greer, P. Creating better services for Aboriginal people. Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre Newsletter no.2 May 1997: 13-18
A forum for workers who are providing a service to Koori victims of family violence was organised recently by the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. The author of this paper presented at the forum describes projects which address the problem of family violence in Aboriginal communities. These include: Women Out West (WOW); an Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre; information sessions for Aboriginal women on the Family Law Court; consultations between the NSW police service and Aboriginal women; and the New South Wales Training Program adapted for Aboriginal Service providers and communities. It is stressed that, to combat social problems, including domestic violence, Aboriginal people must have mainstream help and that it isn't just an Aboriginal problem.

Henkel, C (producer). Sharon's story: young Aboriginal women and domestic violence. Northern Territory? Hatchling Productions, 1999, 22 min. video
Examining the controversial issues of violence within relationships between young Aboriginal people, this video aims to give young women a better understanding of their legal rights in relation to domestic violence and sexual assault.

Laing, L. Pathways to safety: an interview about Indigenous family violence with Pam Greer, Indigenous training and development consultant. Sydney, NSW: Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse, University of New South Wales, 2001, 16p, illus. (Issues paper no.5), and Online (1980K)
<http://www.austdvclearinghouse.unsw.edu.au/PDF%20files/Issuespaper5.pdf>

There has been a great deal of material written about the extent of violence and its effect within Australia's Indigenous community. This issues paper aims to contribute to the development of solutions to family violence by means of an interview with Pam Greer, an Aboriginal woman who has worked extensively to provide education and information about domestic violence, rape and child sexual assault to Aboriginal communities across Australia. Discussion includes: feminism and whether it can contribute anything to helping Aboriginal communities cope with violence; similarities and differences for Aboriginal women and non Aboriginal women who are victims of violence; barriers to ending violence towards Aboriginal women and children; consultation with Aboriginal communities; responses of the legal system; and use of the terms 'domestic violence' or 'family violence'.

Kelly, L. Using restorative justice principles to address family violence in Aboriginal communities. In: Strang, H. and Braithwaite, J. eds. Restorative justice and family violence. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002, p206-222

The author, an Indigenous woman, investigates whether restorative justice is culturally appropriate in relation to Indigenous Australians. There is concern over the over representation of Indigenous men in Australia's criminal justice system, and the fact that Indigenous women are at greater risk of fatal domestic violence than other Australian women. The author stresses the need for justice processes to be designed and controlled by Indigenous community members, and the importance of involving women and community leaders in the safety of women and children victims of family violence. She further notes the need for programs to reflect Indigenous values, for their implementation to be culturally sensitive, and to empower and achieve desired outcomes for Indigenous communities. The author discusses the case of an Aboriginal couple affected by family violence. Inspecting a conferencing program that operates for juvenile offenders in New South Wales, she finds that it largely does not meet her criteria for cultural appropriateness.

Kristiansen, K M S; Irving, M. The Coen Local Justice Group: a community response to family violence in Queensland through the Local Justices Initiatives Program. Indigenous Law Bulletin v.5 no.13 Nov - Dec 2001: 12-15

The Coen Local Justice Group in central Cape York was established in 2000 under the Local Justices Initiatives Program, the goal of which is to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the criminal justice system in Queensland. This article provides an overview of the Coen Local Justice Group and its approach to the problem of family violence in the community, which involves participation in the court process by providing community advice on sentencing; the establishment of diversionary programs; a focus on rehabilitation and prevention; and community ownership of the problem-solving process.

Lawrie, R; Matthews, W. Holistic community justice: a proposed response to family violence in Aboriginal communities. University of New South Wales Law Journal v.8 no.1 Jul 2002: 16-18

Aboriginal family violence has received increased attention in recent years and this article discusses issues and ideas raised in a discussion paper released by the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council. A holistic solution to the problem is proposed, whereby the complex needs of victims would be balanced with those of offenders in an effort to achieve a better result for Aboriginal communities in general. The authors recommend that such a system should be completely controlled by Aboriginal communities.

Memmott, P. Community-based strategies for combating Indigenous violence. University of New South Wales Law Journal v.8 no.1 Jul 2002: 11-15

Discussing various community violence programs for the resolution and prevention of Indigenous family violence, the author argues that these programs should also aim to treat the stress and harm that the violence causes. The author further suggests that local government, in partnership with Indigenous communities, should be supportive of these community driven programs. A range of community violence program types are discussed, along with different ways in which they can be incorporated into the design of an overarching 'community action plan'.

Queensland. Government. Queensland Government response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce on Violence: the first step. Brisbane, Qld: Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, 2000, 148p, and Online (680K)

<http://www.qldwoman.qld.gov.au/publications/response.pdf>

There are two elements to the response of the Queensland Government to the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence (ATSIWTFV) report. The first part provides an analysis of the report under its major headings: Policies, service delivery and access to service; The economics of deprivation and the challenge of economic sustainability; Education as empowerment; Alcohol and other drugs; Indigenous health and well-being; Families and security; Law or lore: the Indigenous experience of justice; and Land - spirit - culture - identity. The second part is an audit of what the Queensland Government is currently doing to address issues associated with family violence. All Queensland Government departments were invited to respond to the recommendations of the report. It is stated that the strategies developed to implement the recommendations will be developed over a four to six month consultation/ negotiation period with communities, as part of the development process for a draft Ten Year Planning Framework. It is also noted that recognising the importance of all the recommendations, the Queensland Government has included in its response to the report an additional heading to those used in the report: The roles and responsibilities of Community Councils.

Queensland. Government. Queensland Government response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce on Violence: the next step. Brisbane, Qld: Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Development, 128p, and Online

http://www.indigenous.qld.gov.au/publications/next_step.htm

The Queensland government's initial response to the Queensland Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence report, titled *The First Step* and published in May 2000, outlined programs and actions addressing the report recommendations. This second response, published in December 2000, describes government progress since May and new solutions for 2001. It includes examples of good practice models to reduce violence, and outlines a strategy for government action to remedy the deep-seated problems the Task Force exposed. The cornerstone of the government strategy is a commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to reduce the high levels of violence experienced in many of these communities, through local and regional negotiation.

Health

Results of community consultation for Aboriginal Chronic Care Project, La Perouse. *Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal* v.26 no.3 May - Jun 2002: 27-28, tables, figure

The La Perouse Aboriginal Chronic Care Project aims to improve the self management skills of the community in monitoring heart failure and respiratory failure risks, to reduce hospitalisation rates and to promote better heart and respiratory health. The Project strategy to facilitate the empowerment of the community included community consultation. This article tables the results of a survey completed by participants in a community consultation. The participants were asked to rank clinics and services and health issues in order of importance. The author describes the methodology used and comments on some difficulties which emerged.

Adams, M. *Researching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male health. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal* v.26 no.5 Sept - Oct 2002: 19-21

An overview is provided of the author's research project, which examined how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men cared for their health. The methodology used was an ethnographic approach which allowed the author to observe and take a participatory role with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who provided a cultural, generational and gender perspective of Aboriginal history and its impact on men's health and well-being. The research was conducted in partnership with the Aboriginal and Islander Community Health Service (AICHS) in Woolloongabba. The research drew on participants' knowledge, stories and experiences. It engaged participants as facilitators and decision-makers to ensure that the research project was conducted in a culturally appropriate manner and that it contained a world view of Indigenous health. (Journal abstract, edited)

Andrews, S. *Koori Mental Health Project. VAFT News (Victorian Association of Family Therapists)* v.22 no.5 Oct 2000: 12-14

The Koori Mental Health project is an initiative of the Mental Health Services for

Kids and Youth (MH SKY), Child and Adolescent Program that has been established in collaboration and close consultation with the Koori community to create a culturally accessible service for Koori families living in the western region of Melbourne, Victoria. This article describes the rationale for the program, outlining the aims and its focus on cross cultural education and on the concept of cultural safety.

Bartlett, B; Boffa, J. Aboriginal community controlled comprehensive primary health care: the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. Australian Journal of Primary Health v.7 no.3 2001: 74-82, tables, figures

Aboriginal community controlled primary health care (PHC) services have led the way in Australia in developing a model of PHC service that is able to address social issues and the underlying determinants of health alongside high quality medical care. This paper discusses relevant theoretical issues on community control of PHC, and examines the development of community controlled PHC services in Central Australia using the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress as a case study.

Bourke, L; Muir, J. Indigenous health and self determination. Health Education Australia v.1 no.3 2001: 33-36

One of the major issues in rural and remote health is Indigenous health. The authors of this paper have recently completed an evaluation of an Indigenous health program operating in a rural and regional setting. Throughout the process of conducting the evaluation, they found themselves continually confronted with issues of self determination and social control. These concepts are taken up for discussion in this paper with the goal of raising some of their implications for Indigenous health.

New South Wales. Health Department. Aboriginal health strategic plan. Sydney, NSW: NSW Health Department, 2000, 29p.

This Strategic Plan is an initiative under the NSW Aboriginal Health Partnership and the NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Agreement (1996). Its purpose is to present strategies to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to address the issues raised in the Aboriginal health planning process in New South Wales. The document presents the conceptual framework; the role of Aboriginal health partnerships; planning process and implementation; evaluation; supportive strategies of this plan; and key priorities.

Robson, A; Silburn, S; Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Steering Committee (Western Australia). Building healthy lives: partnerships to promote Aboriginal child health and wellbeing and family and community resilience. Auseinetter no.15 Jul 2002: 4-6.

Since the 1970's there has been a dramatic and concerning increase in fatal and non-fatal suicidal actions among Aboriginal people. Western Australian figures show that the average suicide rate of Aboriginal males was almost double the rate of all males in the state. This article profiles the current work being taken by

Western Australia's Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Steering Committee (ASPSC), which has been developing a collaborative intersectoral state plan for integrating community-based prevention initiatives over the past two years. The plan focuses on fostering community capacity and new partnership arrangements to build healthy lives for Aboriginal children and youth. It proposes a strengths-based model for coordinating local community action to reduce some of the early causes of suicide, self harming behaviour and other adverse youth outcomes that share similar causal pathways of development.

Rowley, K G; Daniel, M; Skinner, K; Skinner, M; White, G A; O'Dea, K. Effectiveness of a community-directed 'healthy lifestyle' program in a remote Australian Aboriginal community. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health v.24 no.2 Apr 2000: 136-144, tables, figures

Mortality due to diabetes is much greater for Aboriginal men and women in Western Australia than for their non Aboriginal counterparts. The purpose of this article is to assess the sustainability and effectiveness of a community directed program for primary and secondary prevention of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in an Aboriginal community in northwest Western Australia. The program developed from one focusing on body weight and metabolic control in overweight and diabetic people to a more holistic, community wide approach to management and prevention of chronic disease. It was found that developmental initiatives facilitating planning, implementation and ownership of interventions by community members and organisations can be a feasible and effective way to achieve sustainable improvements in health behaviours and selected health outcomes among Aboriginal people.

Scott, T. Implementing consumer feedback into a continuous quality improvement framework at Alice Springs Hospital. Melbourne, Vic: National Resource Centre for Consumer Participation in Health, La Trobe University, 2001, 18p.

This document reports on a joint Consumer and Provider Partnerships (CAPPS) in Health project between Alice Springs Hospital, and two local Aboriginal organisations, Tangentyere Council and Arrernte Council. It aimed to identify the most culturally appropriate methods of receiving Aboriginal consumer feedback about the services at Alice Springs Hospital to improve Aboriginal health outcomes and health services. Aboriginal consumers and consumer groups, and staff from Alice Springs Hospital and Remote Health were continually involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of this project from start to finish during the consultation and communication process. Information is provided about the project and its context, activities, progress, achievements, and what remains to be done to accomplish all the aims of the project.

Taylor, J; Westbury, N. Aboriginal nutrition and the Nyirranggung Health Strategy in Jawoyn country. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000, 86p, tables, figures (CAEPR research monograph no.19)

The establishment of the Nyirranggung Health Authority, operating under the

auspices of the Jawoyn Association, provides a focus for the strategy which aimed to return responsibility for coordinating and delivering primary health care in the Katherine East region, NT, to the Jawoyn. The Fred Hollows Foundation is working with the Jawoyn Association on the development and implementation of a project which seeks to improve nutrition in the region's Aboriginal communities. This monograph identifies the various elements which currently impede better nutrition in the Katherine East communities and examines the current capacity to evaluate the health impacts of any interventionist activities. Issues discussed include: the Katherine East Aboriginal population; socioeconomic characteristics; food supply; food acquisition; food consumption; measurement of nutritional and health status; and Nyirranggulong and emerging models in Aboriginal primary health care. The findings of this report contributed to the development of the objectives, protocols and initiatives of the Nyirranggulong Health Authorities nutrition strategy.

Thompson, S; Ringuet, C; Williams, G; Kelaher, M; Baigrie, N; Jenkin, D; Chapman, B; Health Action Group (Cherbourg, Qld). Getting fit for family, health and fun: a diary of the Cherbourg Healthy Lifestyles Program. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.24 no.2 Mar - Apr 2000: 16-19, illus

This paper describes the Cherbourg Healthy Lifestyles Project. Cherbourg is a Deed-of-Grant-in-Trust community, 300k north west of Brisbane. The project is a fitness program initiated by the Cherbourg Health Action Group and the Cherbourg Community Health Centre, designed to address the high prevalence of overweight and health problems among the women of Cherbourg.

Victoire, A. Issues in evaluation of a health promotion intervention: Taking Big Steps. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.27 no.1 Jan - Feb 2003: 10-14

Taking Big Steps is a transition project with health promotion goals for young Indigenous people. Because the completion of some level of education is associated with improved health status, the project provides early intervention for at risk youth facing the transition from their local communities to regional centres for educational purposes, to encourage school retention rates. The author discusses the need to develop an evidence base for the effectiveness of such interventions. She then addresses some of the issues in evaluating this intervention program, including design or theory evaluation, evaluation of implementation, and effectiveness measurement.

Williams, S. The Indigenous Australian health worker: can research enhance their development as health and community development professionals?

Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.25 no.1 Jan - Feb 2001: 9-15

This article examines the role and responsibilities of Indigenous health workers, with a focus on concerns regarding research, in the context of Indigenous health worker education, training, development and praxis. The author explains that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been consistently sceptical about research because of predominantly negative experiences with research, and a deficiency of meaningful research results and outcomes. The article

examines these issues as a prelude to presenting an argument for an alternative research paradigm that is essentially practice based and tangible, as opposed to subjective and impositional.

Women's Health Goulburn North East. 'We saw we could do it ourselves': Koorie Cultural Regeneration Project. Australian Journal of Primary Health v.7 no.1 2001: 111-115, figures

The Koorie Cultural Regeneration Project was the result of a partnership between Women's Health Goulburn North East and Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation. The project was located in Wodonga and aimed to strengthen the community in terms of its Aboriginal identity. A range of activities provided opportunities for elders to share traditional skills and knowledge about Aboriginal culture particularly beliefs, men's business and women's business, dance and bush knowledge. A further dimension of the project was education of the mainstream community through presentations and workshops at schools, childcare centres, workplaces, festivals and universities. Immediate outcomes of the project included clear evidence of the power of experiential learning, a deepening understanding of culture, and the importance of story and connectedness. Eighteen months after the conclusion of the project, members of Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation met with Women's Health Goulburn North East workers to reflect on the long term outcomes of the project. The value of cultural regeneration was affirmed and it was identified that the project raised the profile of the Koorie community in Wodonga and beyond. While the Koorie Cultural Regeneration Project has increased community understanding and pride in Aboriginal heritage and is working well, the lack of continued funding means it is not ongoing. The challenge now is to move forward with cultural regeneration with respect, integrity, care and wisdom. (Journal abstract)

Homelessness

An illusion of equity: Aboriginal homelessness and Northern Territory government policy under the Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Act 2001. Parity v.14 no.6 Jul 2001: 15-17

The Public Order and Anti-Social Conduct Bill (Northern Territory) became law in July 2001. This article discusses the possible impact of this legislation on itinerant Aboriginals and the new powers that the Act will give to police. A vignette is presented to illustrate the effects of the new law. The question of in whose interest is the law is considered. Concerns are raised about the rights of homeless Aboriginals living in Darwin.

Bowden, M. The homeless treadmill: the saga of Aboriginal housing disadvantage in Alice Springs. Parity v.14 no.6 Jul 2001: 7-8, illus
An example of typical problems faced by Aboriginal families in Central Australia

accessing affordable and appropriate housing is provided in this article which describes how Tangentyere Council has built new houses to special standards to make them suitable for Aboriginal residents. The challenge is to extend these standards to normal public housing construction in Alice Springs.

Goldie, C. Homelessness, public housing and racial discrimination in the Northern Territory. Parity v.15 no.8 Sept 2002: 18-20

The author discusses the disproportionately high figures for homeless people, particularly Indigenous people, in the Northern Territory by comparison with other Australian states. She examines the findings of a report showing that the Northern Territory's public housing policy is inherently discriminatory because it requires Indigenous people to live in a European manner. She discusses evidence of racism within the Northern Territory public housing program.

Inifer, C. A brief insight into homelessness in the Kimberley. Parity v.14 no.6 Jul 2001: 20-21, illus

The extent of homelessness among the Aboriginal population in the Kimberley, WA is addressed in this article which discusses seasonal homelessness; debt and homelessness; and homeless young people. The effectiveness of existing interventions is considered and recommendations are made as to how the situation could be improved.

Roberts, C; Burgess, L. The Perth Aboriginal family homelessness study. Parity v.16 no.2 Mar 2003: 36-37

An overview is provided of a National Homelessness Strategy Project in which Centrecare is currently involved. The central aim of the Centrecare project is for Indigenous families themselves to identify what types of supports work for them in moving out of homelessness. The project is a 15 month longitudinal study that examines the effects of homelessness on the target group, identifies the effectiveness of existing support services and accommodation options, and examines alternative pathways that may assist the target group to avoid future homelessness.

Solonec, T. Racial discrimination in the private rental market: overcoming stereotypes and breaking the cycle of housing despair in Western Australia. Indigenous Law Bulletin v.5 no.2 Sept 2000: 4-6

Arguing that racial stereotypes place Aboriginal people at a disadvantage when seeking accommodation in Western Australia's private rental market, this article discusses how existing laws provide some avenue for redress for individuals although they do little to prevent discrimination from happening.

Housing

Beresford, Q. Homeswest versus Aborigines: housing discrimination in Western Australia. Australian Aboriginal Studies no.2 2001: 40-46

Housing for Aboriginal families became a controversial issue in Western Australia during the 1990s as a result of an increasing number of evictions of those living in state housing properties. This article examines the social, legal and political circumstances surrounding these evictions. It looks at a range of issues about the nature of institutional discrimination and the ambiguity between direct and indirect discrimination. It also examines the capacity of the legalistic processes of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to deal with these issues. (Journal abstract)

Campbell, J. The Indigenous housing sector and why it needs a national peak body. National Housing Action v.15 no.2 2001: 35-40

The National Organisation for Aboriginal Housing (NOAH) was established in 1993 in response to the perceived need for a national Indigenous peak housing organisation. It has the support of the majority of Indigenous community housing providers, which have lobbied government to fund a national peak organisation; meanwhile, NOAH continues to operate on a voluntary basis. NOAH believes a national Indigenous peak housing body is necessary in order to build the capacity for sustainability within the Indigenous community housing sector, to provide resources and infrastructure for Indigenous housing which state peak housing organisations do not have, and to build stronger communities to support practical reconciliation and self determination. Part of its role would be to facilitate the participation of Indigenous community housing organisations in the development of government policy, and to develop relationships between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community housing sectors.

Costello, S; Berry, M; Briskman, L; Ngwenya, T. Homeless Indigenous older people. Parity v.15 no.10 Nov 2002: 6-8

Homeless Indigenous Australians face additional challenges to other homeless people, including discrimination in the housing market and gaps in the provision of services to Indigenous people. The authors recount individuals' stories as examples and discuss factors that exacerbate the problems of elderly Indigenous homeless people.

Cruse, J. Indigenous housing and the CSHA. Housing Australians - a national priority no.3 Jul 2002: 3-4

The author reviews a statement titled a Vision for Better Indigenous Housing, which was articulated at the Housing Minister's Conference on 4th May 2001, and suggests factors which will make the vision for better Indigenous housing hard to deliver.

Moran, M; Memmott, P; Long, S; Stacy, R; Holt, J. Indigenous home ownership and community title land: a preliminary household survey. Urban Policy and Research v.20 no.4 Dec 2002: 357-370

Home ownership is currently not an option for Indigenous people living outside of urban centres. This article presents the results of a household survey conducted in four community settlements in Queensland revealing diverse understandings, aspirations and concerns for Indigenous home ownership. Discussion concludes that the development of a home ownership scheme will require rigorous policy analysis and innovative economic and cultural solutions. (Journal abstract)

Morgan, G. Assimilation and resistance: housing indigenous Australians in the 1970s. Journal of Sociology v.36 no.2 Aug 2000: 187-204

During the early 1970s, large numbers of Aboriginal people became tenants of the Housing Commission of New South Wales under the Housing for Aborigines program. Most moved from government reserves or dilapidated and overcrowded private rental dwellings to broadacre suburban estates. As public housing tenants, they encountered considerable pressures to become 'respectable' citizens, to build their lives around privacy, sobriety, moral restraint, the nuclear family, conventional gender roles and wage labour. For many indigenous Australians, these expectations - which were based as much on class relations as on colonialism - represented a threat to their conventional ways of life and their obligations to extended family and community. This paper explores the patterns of conformity and resistance amongst Aboriginal tenants. It draws on the sociological and cultural studies literature on youth subcultural resistance and compares anthropological theory about indigenous responses to the pressures of modernity. (Journal abstract)

Rainow, S; Pholeros, P; Torzillo, P. Housing for health. Parity v.14 no.6 Jul 2001: 13-14, figures

Housing for Health is a model for securing the living environment within which people can make healthy life choices. A report of the Nganampa Health Council detailed a list of principles to improve the health of Aboriginal people by reducing infectious diseases most commonly associated with the living environment. This article discusses these principles and outlines the results of the Housing for Health project carried out in a small Aboriginal community. The Fixing Houses for Better Health project is also described and statistics are presented on percentage of houses functioning and reasons for repairs done.

Partnerships for better outcomes

Busuttil, K. Working with Aboriginal communities. Consumer Rights Journal v.4 no.4 Jul - Aug 2000: 5-6

It is argued in this article that community workers and financial counsellors must

acknowledge and respond to the suffering of Aboriginal people with compassion and empathy. Ways of developing good working relationships with Aboriginal organisations and communities are discussed, focusing on issues of Aboriginal culture, attitudes and way of life as well as consultation and information dissemination.

CHAST Aboriginal Outreach Team (Royal Adelaide Hospital, SA); Salvation Army. Sobering Up Unit. Aboriginal Outreach Team. Camp Coorong: it is sometimes necessary to retreat to move ahead. Parity v.15 no.5 May 2002: 4-5
Camp Coorong was held to bring together a group of disadvantaged Aboriginal people with Aboriginal health workers, residents and workers from the Coorong, the traditional home of many of the participants. The article reflects the aims and accomplishments of the retreat. The authors see Camp Coorong as a positive event, conducted by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people and providing effective counselling and support.

Fredericks, B. Establishing a model for training in social and emotional well-being. In: Teesson, M. et al, eds. No one is an island: contemporary TheMHS in mental health services: book of proceedings, 11th annual TheMHS Conference, 29-31 August 2001, Wellington, New Zealand. Balmain, NSW: The Mental Health Services Conference, 2002, p215-218

The author describes the process of establishing the Central Queensland Emotional and Social Well Being Regional Centre. She points out that prior to this there has been little work undertaken in Queensland on the mental health of these groups and explains that the Centre was established only after much consultation and negotiation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the area. She provides an overview of the Centre including details of the main stakeholders and the objectives established for its operation. This model is currently being evaluated by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

North, P. Working in collaboration with a rural Aboriginal community: a different approach to promoting health services. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.24 no.2 Mar - Apr 2000: 20-21, illus

Brief overviews are provided of the Koori Women's Sexual Health Project and the Aboriginal Women's Project, involving collaboration between Family Planning NSW/ Wollongong, the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service and other health agencies in the Illawarra. The desired outcomes included to make services more culturally appropriate to Aboriginal women, and increase the use of the services by Aboriginal women.

Lawler, L M A; Logan-Sinclair, P A; Holland, L E; Troutman, G. Black and white learning interchange. Australian Journal of Primary Health - Interchange v.6 no.3 - no.4 2000: 164-174

The unchanging status of Aboriginal health initiated the need for changes to training for Aboriginal Health Workers. Charles Sturt University, in partnership with the Remote and Rural Health Training Unit (RARHTU) initiated, in

consultation with the local Indigenous community, a program for upgrading qualifications of Aboriginal Health Workers to degree level. Several unique features were incorporated in the program design: an educational facilitator without a health career background; a challenging first subject based upon student's familial personal history; specialist sessions provided by professional health workers; recognition of prior learning taking into account the many varied levels of existing regional health services training. This paper discusses the course design and evaluation results, including the impact of the program upon lecturer's teaching style, students' personal and working lives and the effects the course may have regarding the status of Aboriginal health in the local area. Results of the initial program evaluation are presented and discussed in this paper. (Journal abstract)

Mckelvie, G; Mallard, J. Working therapeutically with Aboriginal families. In: Dudgeon, P., Garvey, D. and Pickett, H. eds. Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists. Perth, WA: Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, p271-286
The purpose of this paper is to explore and describe ways in which practitioners can work therapeutically, either from an individual basis with Aboriginal families or in collaboration with other Aboriginal health practitioners. Issues discussed include: the Western concept of the family; the concept of the Aboriginal family and Aboriginal kinship systems; family functions from generic as well as Aboriginal perspectives; the role of the practitioner in utilising the Aboriginal family within the mental health context; Aboriginal approaches to working with Aboriginal families; culturally appropriate family counselling; and confidentiality issues. The Aboriginal Family Futures Program in WA is described.

Shibasaki, S; Valery, P; Audera, C; Gibson, O. A guide to informing a community within the Torres Straits. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.24 no.4 Jul - Aug 2000: 15-16, figures, maps
Arguing that adequate community consultation and public relations are essential requirements for conducting research in any community, this article describes the steps taken to inform a Torres Strait Islander community regarding the commencement of an asthma prevalence study of children aged 0 - 17 years. The involvement of local Torres Strait Islander health workers was found to be crucial to the success of the study.

Woods, W; Wanatjura, E; Colin, T; Mick, J; Lynch, A; Ward, N. Atunypa wiru malparara malparara: the strength of working together. In: Weeks, W. and Quinn, M. eds. Issues facing Australian families: human services respond. Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Education Australia, 3rd ed., 2000, p91-100
The NPY Women's Council, its background and the way it works are described in this chapter which incorporates explanations from NPY Women's Council members on what human services projects, services and action research have been undertaken. The focus is on using the Malparara way. Malparara means, in the context of the projects, two workers, working together on a project, one of whom is a non-Anangu woman employed for her specific professional skills, and

other a senior Anangu woman (Anangu workers are usually senior women with local authority and respect, speaking local languages but not confident in speaking English in public).

Research with Indigenous communities

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies. Guidelines for ethical research in Indigenous studies. Canberra, Act: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, 2000, 17p, and Online (430K) <http://www.aiatsis.gov.au/corp/docs/EthicsGuideA4.pdf>

This document states that it is essential that Indigenous peoples be participants in any research project concerning them, sharing an understanding of the aims and methods of the research and the results of this work. Research with and about Indigenous peoples must be founded on a process of meaningful engagement and reciprocity between the researcher and the Indigenous people. These Guidelines include a statement of the principles of ethical research in Indigenous studies, followed by an explanation of each principle, accompanied by some practical applications.

Dunne, E. Consultation, rapport, and collaboration: essential preliminary stages in research with urban Aboriginal groups. Australian Journal of Primary Health - Interchange v.6 no.1 2000: 6-14

Conducting quality research with any group involves rigorous attention to ethical guidelines. This area becomes more complicated when undertaking research in Indigenous Australian communities, given Australia's colonial history and power relations. The preliminary stages are important elements of the research process. Researchers need to engage in extensive community consultation, negotiation and collaboration to produce research beneficial to the Aboriginal community. Essential components of these areas are issues surrounding the development of rapport, informed consent, and ownership of data. This paper explores these areas drawing on the experience of a postgraduate research student to illustrate their importance. A research project focusing on mental health issues amongst Aboriginal people resident in Adelaide provides the framework for discussion of the issues. (Journal abstract)

Fielder, J; Roberts, J; Abdullah, J. Research with Indigenous communities. In: Dudgeon, P., Garvey, D. and Pickett, H. eds. Working with Indigenous Australians: a handbook for psychologists. Perth, WA: Gunada Press, Curtin Indigenous Research Centre, Curtin University of Technology, 2000, p349-356

Arguing that it is essential to examine and reframe underlying philosophical assumptions which underpin research about Indigenous people, this paper describes: constructive research partnerships; history of previous research practices; the role of the psychologist in conducting research; step by step

guidelines to working with the Aboriginal community in culturally appropriate ways; and community based and participatory approaches to research.

Henderson, R; Simmons, D S; Bourke, L; Muir, J. Development of guidelines for non-Indigenous people undertaking research among the Indigenous population of north-east Victoria. Medical Journal of Australia v.176 no.10 May 2002: 482-485, tables, and Online

**http://www.mja.com.au/public/issues/176_10_200502/hen10605_fm.html
(Designed for viewing in InternetExplorer 5+ or NetscapeNavigator 6+)**

The Department of Rural Health at the University of Melbourne has developed a framework for conducting research in partnership with Indigenous communities. This article provides an overview of the framework which addresses past inappropriate research practices, incorporates cultural understandings, and outlines culturally appropriate protocols. The four parts of the framework include: a committee to initiate, direct and oversee all research projects; a Koorie Team to guide research; a set of research guidelines; and a policy for the department. The framework has been used to develop strong relations with Koorie communities and conduct various health projects. (Journal abstract, edited)

Williams, A. Community attitudes to researchers. Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.25 no.1 Jan - Feb 2001: 25-26

As a community health nurse, the author lived for long periods in central Australian Aboriginal communities. He briefly describes aspects of his job, and explains why most community health nurses in this environment had a cynical view of visiting researchers. He attempts to synthesise a single view from the many he heard and some of which he held himself at the time. He suggests that, whilst these views are the product of long periods of isolation in stressful conditions, they continue to be held by many today and that an awareness of them should inform and influence current community research activities.

Williams, S. The Indigenous Australian health worker: can research enhance their development as health and community development professionals?

Aboriginal and Islander Health Worker Journal v.25 no.1 Jan - Feb 2001: 9-15

This article examines the role and responsibilities of Indigenous health workers, with a focus on concerns regarding research, in the context of Indigenous health worker education, training, development and praxis. The author explains that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been consistently sceptical about research because of predominantly negative experiences with research, and a deficiency of meaningful research results and outcomes. The article examines these issues as a prelude to presenting an argument for an alternative research paradigm that is essentially practice based and tangible, as opposed to subjective and impositional.

Sexual assault

Cripps, K A. Surviving sexual assault: an analysis of the support services to indigenous women in Victoria. Thesis (BA Hons.) - University of South Australia, 1998, 81p, figures, tables

On the basis of both theoretical and field research, this thesis makes recommendations for the delivery of support services to indigenous women who are victims of sexual assault. The author examines the impact of sexual assault on women within the indigenous community. She finds a need for service providers to take responsibility for developing Aboriginal cultural awareness and to make appropriate services readily available to women, believing that the trauma of sexual assault needs to be dealt with in a culturally appropriate setting. She examines the notion of a constructed Aboriginality and how this affects women seeking help. Statistical field analysis of data relating to indigenous women in Victoria supports her findings, which are framed within feminist deconstruction theory. The appendices include copies of the questionnaires and interview questions used in the survey.

Weeks, W. Access and equity in services against sexual violence. Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal no.11 2001 - 2002: 22-34

This article reports on research undertaken in 2001 into access and equity practices undertaken by services against sexual violence in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander women and children, and women and children from ethnic minority communities. The article identifies some ethical dilemmas about 'who should decide?', and then presents nine strategies which describe how the services are responding to challenges to increase access and equity. (Journal abstract)

Woodward, R. Aboriginal education outreach project: building a safer community. Women Against Violence - An Australian Feminist Journal no.4 Jun 1998: 65-66

Building a Safer Community is a project of the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre. The project is concerned with sexual assault within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This article outlines the aims and objectives of the project, which are: to design, conduct and evaluate a questionnaire which will survey the knowledge of and promote discussion about sexual assault; to design culturally appropriate material; to pilot the education program with young men and women on topics related to gender and violence, and protective behaviours; and to produce a culturally appropriate and youth specific sexual assault education package.

Worth, C; Drayton, C. Sexual assault: working with indigenous communities: a work in progress. In Tucci, J. et al, eds. Agenda for change: solutions to problems in Australian child protection systems: selected conference papers. Clayton, Vic: Australians Against Child Abuse, and Child Abuse and Family

Violence Research Unit, Monash University, 1999, p346-352

The authors examine the effect of sexual assault on indigenous groups and how to measure the effect, especially when indigenous people often do not use mainstream sexual assault services. The authors point out how a change in cultural values since colonisation has affected indigenous people, noting that violence against women and children was never an acceptable part of traditional Aboriginal society. They suggest that many crimes of violence go unreported because of the fears of police held by many Aboriginal women. The authors describe their efforts to encourage indigenous women to use mainstream sexual assault services, and suggest that providers of these services need to work with Aboriginal communities to develop guidelines for dealing with victims and offenders.

Welfare

Altman, J C; Gray, M C; Sanders, W G. Indigenous Australians working for welfare: what difference does it make? Australian Economic Review v.33 no.4 Dec 2000: 355-362, tables

The Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) scheme was developed in 1977 as a more active alternative to the payment of unemployment benefits to Aboriginal communities and involved working for welfare. This paper explores what difference it makes to the socioeconomic status of Indigenous Australians to be participating in the CDEP scheme. Two data sources are used: the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 1996 Census, to compare the incomes of the CDEP employed with Indigenous people in mainstream employment, the Indigenous unemployed and those not in the labour force. Hours worked for the CDEP employed are compared to the mainstream employed. Whether there are any noticeable labour market differences between Indigenous communities with and without CDEP is considered. Conclusions indicate that the CDEP scheme does make a difference to the socioeconomic status of individuals and to labour market characteristics of Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas in particular.

Butler, B. Welfare and social justice for Indigenous Australians. In: Morphy, F. and Sanders, W. eds. The Indigenous welfare economy and the CDEP Scheme. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2001, p5-10 (CAEPR research monograph no.20)

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) drafted a response to the Reference Group on Welfare Reform's recent report (2000), proposing seven policy principles as a starting point for further action on welfare reform. This paper discusses issues raised in the draft response, including: the safety net; participation in employment; the role of Community Development

Employment Projects (CDEP); mutual obligation, service delivery; and empowerment and control.

Clark, G. Between the Rock and a hard place. In: Leaping the chasm: tackling poverty and inequality in Australia: selected papers from the 2001 ACOSS Congress. Strawberry Hills, NSW: Australian Council of Social Service, 2002, p1-3 (ACOSS paper no.122)

The author describes the way in which the Mutitjulu community is striving to maintain its own form of social and cultural capital. The community formed an agreement with ATSIC to end its reliance on welfare and achieve economic independence through capacity building.

Daly, A; Smith, D. The role of welfare in the economy of two Indigenous communities. Australian Economic Review v.33 no.4 Dec 2000: 363-368

This paper reports on the results of the first year of a four year study of the relationship between Indigenous people and the welfare system in two communities: Kuranda in North Queensland and Yuendumu in Central Australia. Conducted by researchers at the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research at the Australian National University, this research aims to document the nature and extent of the relationship between Indigenous people and the welfare system and to draw out the implications for family welfare policy and for the delivery of welfare services. An overview of the two communities is provided and results are discussed, addressing issues of: fluid composition and size of Indigenous households; extent of welfare dependency; labour force participation; demand sharing; and problems with targeting welfare at the people who need it.

Martin, D. Community development in the context of welfare dependence. In: Morphy, F. and Sanders, W. eds. The Indigenous welfare economy and the CDEP Scheme. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2001, p31-37 (CAEPR research monograph no.20)

Some of the issues emerging from new welfare policy thinking in Australia are addressed in this paper which refers to the government report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform, 'Participation Support for a More Equitable Society' and to Noel Pearson's 'Our Right to Take Responsibility', to discuss the concepts of mutual obligation, social obligation and social partnerships. The implications of these policy shifts for Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) Scheme are considered, focusing on what is meant by development and what constitutes community in CDEP. Concerns are raised about limiting the focus of the CDEP scheme to economic development when the community development aspect should be emphasised.

Online only

Ah Mat, R. The Cape York view. Cairns, Qld: Cape York Partnerships - Publications - Address to the Treaty Conference, Murdoch University, June 2002, 18p, Online (105K)

<http://www.capeyorkpartnerships.com/richardahmat/treatyconf-ahmat.pdf>

The notion of a Treaty between the Indigenous people of Australia and the Commonwealth Government on behalf of the non-Indigenous people of Australia has become something of a Holy Grail to progressive politics in our country, states the author. He explains why, describes the uncertainty about what is being sought, and states that 'We are ... seeking a political and moral reconciliation between the old and new Australians in relation to matters of great significance and importance to human beings who live in a real world, whose futures must necessarily be founded upon coexistence'. Lessons learned from the 1967 Referendum which finally included Aboriginal people as Australian citizens are identified; a Cape York perspective is presented on issues of self determination and governance, stressing the need for agreements at the regional level; and in the context of changing the constitution, the difficulties of getting 80-90% of the country to support a treaty are discussed. The author concludes by summarising the ingredients necessary to bring a Treaty into existence, stating that if a Treaty is to be reached, then there will need to be leadership and unity amongst the Indigenous peoples of Australia.

Ah Mat, R. Takeback: taking back responsibility and restoring Aboriginal capacity in Cape York Peninsula. Cairns, Qld: Cape York Partnerships - Publications - Opening address to the Northern Summit, September 2001, 11p, Online (94K)

<http://www.capeyorkpartnerships.com/noelpearson/pdf/takebackspeech.pdf>

The author provides a brief overview of the responsibilities of the network of regional organisations in the Cape York Peninsula, and of his own responsibilities. He then explains the levels of Aboriginal governance in Cape York, and argues that 'our challenge and ongoing responsibility is to make sure the three levels of governance are working together for the benefit of the families and individuals of Cape York.' There are two basic aims in Cape York, the author states: 'to take back responsibility for our people's future from government and other people - and get our people to assume the primary responsibility for the future of our people; and to restore capacity in our people to be responsible for our own future.' He cautions against blindly adopting the notions of 'capacity building' and 'service delivery' because these ideas are promoted by the massive, passive welfare industry in Aboriginal affairs. It is this industry that plays such a huge role in keeping our people miserable and dependent, argues the author. He offers reasons why people have lost sight of Aboriginal people's capacities, and suggests that social and civic entrepreneurs are needed to pursue an assets-based opportunities approach, providing examples of social and civic entrepreneurs in Cape York.

Berry, M; MacKenzie, D; Briskman, L; Ngwenya, T. Indigenous homelessness: a discussion paper on Indigenous homelessness in Victoria. Melbourne, Vic: Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria, 2001, 16p, Online <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~ahbv/homelessnessreport/report1.htm>

The Aboriginal Housing Board of Victoria (AHBV) considers that the specific issues of homelessness and inadequate housing of Indigenous people in Victoria have not received sufficient attention by government. On behalf of the Board, a project team from RMIT University was commissioned to undertake a study designed to provide a research base for the Board to advocate for the needs of Indigenous Victorians who experience homelessness. The purpose of this discussion paper is to stimulate discussion and thinking by raising some of the issues and questions that inform the meaning of homelessness for Indigenous people in Victoria and begin to sketch out the profile of issues that need to be addressed. Issues discussed include: the Indigenous community of Victoria; Indigenous homelessness from an historical perspective; homelessness as a social problem; homelessness as defined in the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP); and primary, secondary and tertiary categories of homelessness.

Guthridge, S; Cairnduff, S. Exploring Indigenous home management programs in the Northern Territory. Casuarina, NT: Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health, 2002, 50p, tables, figures, Online (303K)

<http://192.94.208.240/CRC/General/CRCPubs/reports/report%20files/Home%20mngt.pdf>

Home Management Programs are services that enhance the ability of a household to maximise the social and health benefits of a house and to function as a household. The main purpose of Home Management Programs is to build on the capacity of communities and individuals to address health and social issues related to house utilisation. Home Management Programs include Homemaker, Living Skills, Home Living Skills and Healthy Home Living Programs, amongst others. The objectives of the project described in this report were to: identify, describe and document current Home Management activities and service providers, to better inform the interagency collaboration of the Home Management landscape in the Northern Territory; explore expected outcomes of programs; and identify areas of potential future research in Home Management.

Hamilton, M; Gibb, H. The remote classroom: recruitment and orientation of Aboriginal and remote area nursing students to the university distance education learning environment. In: Good Health - good country: from conception to completion: proceedings of the 6th National Rural Health Conference, Canberra, March 2001. Deakin West, ACT: National Rural Health Alliance, 2001, 12p, tables, Online only <http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/hamiltonpaper.htm>

This paper explores an intersectoral approach to building the capacity in remote communities to establish a supportive learning environment, that will encourage the participation of enrolled nurses (ENs) in training towards nurse registration. The aims and research design of the project are outlined and the findings so far

to develop the supportive learning environment are reported. A description is provided of the design of the next action cycle focusing on the University Orientation of the next cohort of research participants.

Hughes, I. Ganma: Indigenous knowledge for reconciliation and community action. Sydney, NSW: Faculty of Health Sciences, Cumberland Campus, University of Sydney - Action research E-reports - no.14, 2000, paper presented to the Participatory Action Research World Congress, Ballarat, September 2000, Online only <http://casino.cchs.usyd.edu.au/arow//arer/014.htm>

In this paper the author reflects on a new model for doing action research in cross cultural situations, suggesting that it can assist deep reconciliation as well as the growth of new forms of knowledge drawing on ancient and modern traditions. From 1993 to 1995, as a member of an Aboriginal Health Action Group, he worked on a successful community action research project to establish a new Aboriginal Health Service. A form of Indigenous knowledge called Ganma in Arnhem Land and Yerin in the Gurringgai language, informed the philosophy of the action group. Here he presents a reflection on the dialectical relationship between social science knowledge and Indigenous knowledge, using the Ganma metaphor.

Hunter, B; Gray, M. Family and social factors underlying the labour force status of Indigenous Australians. Family Matters no.62 Winter 2002: 18-25, tables

This paper seeks to identify the extent to which family and social factors either enhance or detract from Indigenous economic participation. Defining 'discouraged workers' as those who want to work but are not actively looking for work, the authors note that Indigenous people are far more likely than other Australians to be discouraged workers. The article reports on the results of analysis of data from the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey (NATSIS) which provides a unique opportunity to examine the processes underlying Indigenous labour force status. The research extends the range of factors examined in studies of Indigenous labour supply to include cultural and social environmental factors, and focuses on what leads to Indigenous people becoming discouraged workers. The importance of family, cultural and social environmental factors in determining the labour force outcomes of Indigenous people is highlighted, and implications discussed.

Jonas, W. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social justice annual report 2000. Sydney, NSW: Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, 2001, (Report 2/2001), Online

http://www.hreoc.gov.au/social_justice/social_justice/2000_report.html

The theme of this report is reconciliation and human rights. It covers the following questions: 1) Why are human rights relevant to reconciliation? The report discusses the significance of 'history' to current Indigenous disadvantage; the relevance of special measures, and the importance of recognising cultural difference, self-determination and effective participation to reconciliation. 2) How are we currently performing on Indigenous human rights? The report examines the dialogue between the Commonwealth Government and the

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in March 2000 in order to gauge how we are currently performing on Indigenous human rights. 3) What measures must we take to achieve meaningful reconciliation that respects human rights? 4) What is the relevance of reparations to reconciliation? Discussion focuses on reparations for the victims of forcible removals policies. Fourteen recommendations are made calling on the federal government to turn reconciliation into action and outcomes.

Jones, R. Strengthening communities: the contribution of housing policy and planning, Narrogin case study. In: National Housing Conference 2001 - Papers. Brisbane, Qld: Department of Housing, 2001, 13p, Online only (45K)

http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/key_projects/nhc_2001/pdf/jones_roy_51.pdf

In providing a brief overview of the literature on regional change and rural housing, this paper then refers to a case study of the town of Narrogin in Western Australia to examine changing regional housing characteristics and dynamics. Issues are discussed of: the local and regional housing market; public housing redevelopment; Aboriginal housing issues; and special housing needs.

Malin, M. A 'whole of life' view of Aboriginal education for health: emerging models: Australian Medical Association Northern Territory Conference, Darwin, November 2000. Casuarina, NT: Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health: Conferences and presentations, 2000, 26p, Online only (79K) http://192.94.208.240/Crc/General/CRCPubs/Malin_AMA_2000.PDF

An Aboriginal philosophy of health is said to correspond with a holistic or whole of life view incorporating the physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing of both the individual person and the whole community. The author of this paper proposes that emerging models of education for health, in the Northern Territory, reflect a similar view where Aboriginal controlled programs address student learning needs in a context of individual and community capacity strengthening, cultural renewal and healing. The paper refers to three such programs currently evolving, but first situates them in the contemporary Australian context teasing out the health consequences of our colonial legacy. The programs described, two in Alice Springs and one in East Arnhem, are being developed and operated by local Aboriginal groups according to the priorities of their group and using appropriate protocols. The author briefly describes each program and follows with a discussion of what she perceives to be principles which unite them. The single most important recommendation from this paper is for Aboriginal controlled programs such as these, flowing from grass roots initiatives, to be given recurrent government funding.

Morrison, N; Strommen, L. A Noongar and Wadjullar journey of working with Aboriginal people who are at risk or experiencing homelessness in Perth, Western Australia. In: National Housing Conference 2001 - Papers. Brisbane, Qld: Department of Housing, 2001, 19p, Online only (83K)

http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/key_projects/nhc_2001/pdf/durkay_vivie_n_76.pdf

The reasons why people become homeless, with a specific focus on Aboriginal

homelessness, are identified in this paper which examines the difficulties faced when working to address Aboriginal homelessness. This includes exploring impacts on homeless individuals, agencies and staff from both a non Aboriginal and Aboriginal perspective, in addition to presenting clashes that arise through community and societal expectations and pressures. Realistic responses in working towards pathways out of homelessness are put forward, highlighting proposals for building relationships in the community sector and for working with at risk groups within the context of the new environment in Western Australia.

Tongs, J. Issues in Indigenous health. In: Good Health - good country: from conception to completion: proceedings of the 6th National Rural Health Conference, Canberra, March 2001. Deakin West, ACT: National Rural Health Alliance, 2001, 4p, Online only (54k)

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/tongsaddress.htm>

Arguing that current Aboriginal health problems are multi factorial and related to past experiences as well as to present conditions, this paper briefly considers policy development in Aboriginal affairs in terms of the issues of self determination, Aboriginal community controlled health services, and access to mainstream health services. It is argued that improvements in Aboriginal health status are bound to community development strategies and the government needs to provide more support for Aboriginal community controlled health services.

Warchivker, I; Hayter, A. An evaluation of a nutrition program in a remote community in central Australia. In: Good Health - good country: from conception to completion: proceedings of the 6th National Rural Health Conference, Canberra, March 2001. Deakin West, ACT: National Rural Health Alliance, 2001, 12p, tables, figures, Online only

<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/sixthconf/warchivkerpaper.htm>

The Pintubi Homeland Health Service, the Ngintaka Women's Centre, the community store, the Centre for Remote Health, the Alice Springs Unit of the Menzies School of Health Research and the mothers and carers of children under three were involved in a collaborative program aimed at improving the nutrition of young children in the Northern Territory. This paper briefly outlines the program, focusing on an evaluation of the cost effectiveness and results of the community based initiative. Statistics are presented and discussed on the 75 participating children aged up to three years in terms of the evaluation of growth, malnutrition and diarrhoeal disease. The benefits of this longitudinal study are discussed with conclusions indicating that a nutrition program, initiated and developed through community participation can achieve substantial improvement in the growth and health of these young children.

Westbury, N; Sanders, W. Governance and service delivery for remote Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory: challenges and opportunities. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000, 21p, tables, figures (CAEPR working paper no.6), Online only (165K)

<http://online.anu.edu.au/caepr/discuss.html>

This report attempts to identify a way forward on some of the challenging self-governance and service delivery issues facing governments and Aboriginal peoples, by identifying strategic opportunities for change and the development of more collaborative relationships. The authors provide some background on Aboriginal affairs reform dating from the 1970s and the granting of Northern Territory self-government in 1978, and describe the emergence of some rather adversarial relationships in governance and service delivery for remote Northern Territory Aboriginal communities during the 1980s and 1990s. The report also examines land rights and local government reform proposals and more collaborative service delivery arrangements already being developed in housing and health. The need for the further development of regional support organisations to assist and service local Aboriginal communities is identified as a critical factor, while acknowledging that in discrete remote communities many services must still be addressed at the individual community level. The authors argue strongly for an incremental, but planned, approach to governance and service delivery reform, rather than grand institutional redesign. Potential implications and ways forward for Central Australia are considered and related recommendations are set out at the end of the report.

Westbury, N. What's in it for Koories? Barwon Darling Alliance Credit Union and the delivery of financial and banking services in north-west New South Wales. Canberra, ACT: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University, 2000, 38p, tables, figures (CAEPR working paper no.7), Online only (231K) <http://online.anu.edu.au/caepr/working.html>
Issues relating to Indigenous people's access to, and understanding of banking and other financial services are critical to their ability to participate in the economy, thereby improving their general quality of life and in the longer term, assisting in the reduction of welfare dependence. Indigenous people's comparatively low incomes and reliance on welfare payments have contributed to a limited interaction with banking and financial services. This report considers the proposed involvement of ATSIC Murdi Paaki Regional Council as a joint sponsor of the proposed Barwon Darling Alliance (BDA) Credit Union. It examines the banking and financial service delivery needs of Indigenous people in the Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett region of New South Wales and other relevant issues that could form the basis for negotiating such an involvement. Discussion includes the effects of the deregulation of the banking / financial sector, and current availability of banking and financial services in regional and remote areas.

Yumba-Meta Housing Association Ltd. Management manual for Yumba-Meta Housing Association. Brisbane, Qld: Department of Housing, 1999, Online http://www.housing.qld.gov.au/ch_online/publications/ch_best_prac_pr oj /mgt_manual.htm

Queensland Department of Housing initiated the Community Housing Best Practice Project in 1998 to encourage not-for-profit incorporated organisations to document, implement and evaluate from a 'grass-roots' perspective the principles of best practice for delivering community housing. This project

involved the development of a management manual for the Yumba Meta Housing Association, which was established in 1973 to provide rental accommodation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the Townsville region. This organisation aims to provide affordable and culturally appropriate housing to its clients. The manual has the following sections (presented separately in PDF format): Planning, service development and evaluation; Tenancies management; Asset management; Financial management; Human resource management; Administration; Workplace health and safety.