

Victorian Aboriginal Community  
Controlled Health Organisation

VACCHO

# VACCHO E-Alert

Monday 1st April 2010

## VACCHO Close the Gap Day

Thursday March 25th 2010

VACCHO hosted a Community BBQ to mark the National Close the Gap Day to join with partners and friends in celebration of the commitment to close the gap on Aboriginal Health inequality.

VACCHO is taking advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the members and the partners who have joined with us in the challenge to restate our commitment to partnership and to our collective goals as articulated in the Statement of Intent. It is a long term commitment and we need to ensure that our partnerships are sustained throughout to reach the goals at the end of this long journey of learning and doing and making a difference. What better way to sustain us along the way than with a BBQ and a chat to catch up and to support each other.

The day was a great success and very well attended by community members and partners.



VACCHO  
5-7 Smith Street.  
Fitzroy VIC 3065  
[www.vaccho.org.au](http://www.vaccho.org.au)

## VACCHO Members Meeting 21 & 22 April 2010

The VACCHO Members Meeting will be held in April 2010 at the Airport Motel and Convention Centre, 33 Ardlie Street Attwood.

Please contact Fiona Scott at VACCHO on 9419 3350 for more information.

## Strategic Directions for the Social Determinants of Aboriginal Health Report Launch



The Social Determinants of Aboriginal Health project was funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRAH) in 2008 and culminated in a series of member services community and university workshops with a final research forum. The final report of this project the Strategic Directions for the Social Determinants of Aboriginal Health presents the outcomes of a project undertaken by the VACCHO Public Health and Research Unit to explore ways to build future capacity and directions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social determinants research.

This report has been co-authored by Rebecca Watson, Karen Adams, Bronwyn Fredericks and Ray Mahoney for and on behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal community and the VACCHO member health services.

The Report launch was held at Bunjilaka, at the Melbourne Museum on 10 March 2010. The launch was attended by those who had been involved in the project initiation, research and final report writing and interested stakeholders in this achievement and positive step forward in Aboriginal Social Determinant Health Research. The sizeable attendance demonstrated the need for direction and partnerships in this important area of research.

The night was led by Jason King, CEO of GEGAC and board member of VACCHO. Guest speakers included the Chair of the CRAH, Pat Anderson and the CEO of VACCHO, Jill Gallagher. The report was launched by Lyn McInnes, Chair of the VACCHO Board. Kutcha Edwards, along with guitarist, Alastair McLean, provided entertainment for the night, and sang "From little things big things grow" which set the scene for the work that needs to be undertaken.

We look forward to seeing the changes it will make and the impact it will have on health research. For more information or a copy of the report please contact Rebecca Watson [rebeccaW@vaccho.com.au](mailto:rebeccaW@vaccho.com.au)



## Playing for the Stars is a healthy option

Gordon Bamblett has worked at VACCHO since October 2008. He started in Administration and then moved to Health Programs in mid 2009 as Project Support Officer.

Key projects to date include the Aboriginal Health Worker Forum and the ICAP conference and reunion.

Gordon is the reigning Mr NAIDOC and is a proud Gunditjmara, Wiradjuri and Warlpiri man.

Sport is a huge passion for Gordon and he currently plays football for the *Fitzroy Stars FC*.



## New staff at VACCHO

All staff of the ETU wish to welcome the following new staff members to our unit and to VACCHO:

### **Katie Smith**

Katie is working in the Education & Training Unit as the Student Records and Administration Support Officer. Katie has been at VACCHO for approximately 2 and a half months. Katie has previously worked in a Registered Training Organisation. Katie is working closely with Nikki Summers to provide excellent customer service to our students and excellent administrative support to all of the ETU. Katie holds the Certificate III in Business Administration and is keen to undertake further studies in Business Administration.

### **Tammy Chatfield**

Tammy has commenced this

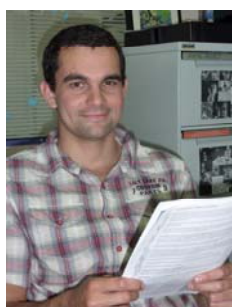
week as a Trainer and Educator of Aboriginal Health Workers. Tammy has conducted her own practice as an Acupuncturist and Chinese Herbal Medicine Practitioner as well as working as a housing services officer. Tammy has gained insight into working in education and training through additional experience within the Indigenous Academic Unit at the Victoria University.

We welcome these new staff on board to help us reach our goal of supporting the Aboriginal communities of Victoria.

**Lisa Briggs** has been recruited as the Senior Manager of the Public Health and Research Unit. Lisa will take up her position at the end of March 2010.

Congratulations Lisa and welcome back!

## Luke Riches is on the ball.....



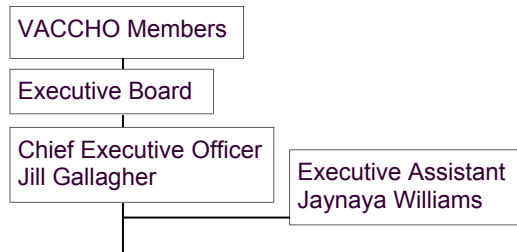
Hi, my name is Luke Riches. I was born and raised in the Kimberley's in West Australia. I moved to Perth with my family, as it was my parent's goal to seek new opportunities for us kids. As you may know, living in a remote Aboriginal community has its limitations.

I have been involved with sport all my life and was lucky enough to travel to America on a basketball scholarship. I spent 2 years in High School in North Carolina, followed by one year of University in Florida. Since then I moved back to Perth and started

working for the David Wirrpanda Foundation as a role model. This officially started my stint of giving back to the community, and I haven't looked back since.

I have been living in Melbourne now for over 6 months, so I'm still fairly new. I think I've done enough moving for a while though! It is my goal to help blackfellas everywhere, no matter who they are or where they come from, and I try my best to do this without getting involved in political issues.

Thanks to VACCHO for having me on board as Project Officer in the Public Health and Research Unit, and I look forward to working with you all!



<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Health Programs</b>	<b>Workforce Issues Unit</b>	<b>Public Health &amp; Research Unit</b>	<b>Education &amp; Training Unit</b>	<b>Policy</b>
Manager Edel Conroy	Manager Nicole Cassar	Manager Tyson Murphy	Senior Manager Lisa Briggs	Manager Carol Williams	Senior Policy Analyst Timothy Moore
<b>Operations</b>	<b>Koori Maternity Strategy &amp; Early Years Development Team</b>	<b>Quality &amp; Accreditation</b>	<b>Public Health</b>	<b>Student Records</b>	Policy Officer
Manager Leanne Adams	Team Leader Simone Andy	Coordinator Belinda Stevens	Public Health Medical Officer Frances Poliniak	Student Records & Support Officer Nikki Summers	VACKH Secretariat support
Operations Assistant Jimi Peters	Project Officer Lyn Briggs	<b>GPET</b>	<b>Health Promotion &amp; Prevention</b>	Student Records & Administration Support Officer Katie Smith	
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Nutrition and Physical Activity</b>	Project Officer Surbhi Vohra	Acting Team Leader Graeme Fletcher	<b>Training</b>	
Manager Jon Wilson	Public Health Nutritionist Jennifer Browne		AHPACC Project Officer Nikki Merzliakov	Trainer Laurel Hillcock	
Assistant Accountant Kwame Osei-Amo	Aboriginal Nutrition Project Officer Sharon Thorpe		Public Health Medical Officer Nadia Lusic	Trainer Tina Hill Health Worker	
Assistant Trainee Accountant Worrin Williams	<b>Sexual Health/BBV Unit</b>		Public Health Project Officer Luke Riches	Trainer/Educator & Project Officer AJ Williams-Tchen	
<b>Human Resources</b>	Team Leader Peter Waples-Crowe		<b>Health Information Management</b>	Trainer Julie Huff	
Lisa Dostis	Project Officer Andrea Khan		Research / Project Officer Rebecca Watson	Trainer/Educator Belinda Postill	
<b>Communications</b>	Project Officer Andrew Bamblett		<b>Research</b>	Trainer Tammy Chatfield	
Robyn Bradley	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Programs</b>		Smoking Pregnancy Research Project Officer Summer Finlay		
<b>Administration</b>	Palliative Care Project Officer Cherie Waight		Smoking Pregnancy Research Project Officer Catherine Chamberlain	Project Officer Ben Patterson	
Member Support Fiona Scott	Mental Health Project Officer Nareida Wyatt				
Reception Cheryl Fitzclarenc	SEWB Project Officer Lisa Albert				
	ICAP Project Officer Lindsay Holmes				
	<b>Project Support Team</b>				
	Project Support Officer Gordon Bamblett				
	Project Support Officer Adeena Gallagher				

## Victorian Aboriginal Palliative Care Project

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Partnership with Department of Health Victorian had came together to Launch Aboriginal ART work for the Victorian Aboriginal Palliative Care Project.

Rod Jackson CEO of VAHS, and Executive Board Member of VACCHO officially launched the project with Jackie. Kearney Manager for Palliative Care Cancer Unit on Friday 19th March 2010 at the Aborigines Advancement League.

The ART work will be used as an Identification of the Aboriginal Palliative Care Project for VACCHO and Department of Health at a State or National level of the project

The art was produced by Artist: Kahli Luttrell. ( Yorta Yorta )

