Networking to enhance First Australian Health in Victoria

e-NEWS FOR MEMBERS  July 2015

WEENTHUNGA NEWS and EVENTS

Dates for the Diary
All members will be warmly invited to attend the following events. Please mark them in your diaries, and further information will be provided nearer the time.

Thursday 10th September, 5:30pm: Weenthunga Members Network Meeting—The Role of the Aboriginal Liaison Officer in Hospitals.
Thursday 19th November, 5:30pm: Weenthunga Health Network Annual General Meeting.

Melbourne Weenthunga Health Day: Women’s Talk—Tuesday 11th August
Following on from our Health Day in May in Bendigo, our second Health Day for the year will be held in Melbourne on Tuesday 11th August. The purpose of the Weenthunga Health Day: Women’s Talk is to provide an opportunity for a small group of young First Australian women (Years 10 – 12) to participate in a focused health day to raise their awareness of the importance of healthy lives and to see the abundance of possibilities of choosing a career in health. Members may wish to share our flyer with a senior secondary student or direct them to our website—www.weenthunga.com.au

Weenthunga introducing ShareGift Australia as an alternative to cash donations
ShareGift Australia have made a presentation to Weenthunga promoting how a person or entity holding shares can donate their shares, even very small amounts that are often “leftovers”, to a Charity of their choice—in this case Weenthunga! This may be of interest to members, their friends and relatives who might have ended up with an odd amount of shares as dividends or from a deceased estate. By just one person participating in ShareGift, Weenthunga will benefit from a donation of at least $500 per annum no matter if the value of the shares donated is less than $500. The next newsletter will include further details as to the simple process involved.

Weenthunga is looking to grow our membership! The challenge is before you........
As you are all well aware, Weenthunga is a First Australian led network with a strong belief in the benefits of and commitment to collaboration between First Australians and Australians towards “closing the gap” in Indigenous Health. The support of our members and donors thus far is greatly appreciated. We are now at a point where we would love to increase the size of the network and breadth of support we can offer as an organisation.

So, we have elected to offer our members a challenge: How many NEW members can YOU recruit to help make this fabric of support stronger?

Steff, our Health & Education Consultant says “Yarn up Big Time!! It’s a way to bring more people into our wonderful Weenthunga family. So who can put the word out there and bring us new members?” Yes, there are prizes which will be awarded at the next Members Meeting (September 10th) to the member/s who have facilitated the most number of new members joining the network. We will be asking all new members who referred them to our website. So please, help your friends and colleagues to jump on line at www.weenthunga.com.au, and go to “Get involved, Join us” making it a key step towards improving Indigenous Health in Victoria. Enquiries to tracy@weenthunga.com.au.
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OTHER EVENTS

3rd International Indigenous Social Work Conference—Darwin; September 14th-17th

The 3rd International Indigenous Social Work Conference (3IISWC) brings together Indigenous social workers from around the world to share solutions to issues that affect Indigenous peoples. Featuring internationally renowned Indigenous leadership, this gathering will develop positive relationships and understanding between peoples, governments and community for the betterment of all through Indigenous well-being, productivity and immense socio-economic growth. http://www.aasw.asn.au/events/event/3rd-international-indigenous-social-work-conference

Indigenous Men’s Behaviour Change & Leadership Workshop—Wattlepoint (Gippsland); 10th—12th August.

Presented by Dardi Munwurro, the workshop aims to build protective factors, empower indigenous men, recognize leadership potential, promote help-seeking behavior, and build stronger and safer communities. For more info contact 1800 435 799 or email info@dardimunwurro.com.au or refer to this link

OPPORTUNITIES

Postgraduate Scholarship Opportunity at The George Institute

An opportunity exists at the George Institute for Global Health for a suitably qualified student to join a research project evaluating a program designed to support parents and carers of Aboriginal children to use the right car restraint for their child. This research will form the basis for their PhD. Applicants must be Australian citizens and should hold an Honours 1 or high 2A (or equivalent) undergraduate degree in a related discipline and/or have professional experience in working with Aboriginal communities and research. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are strongly encouraged to apply. The scholarship stipend is APA rate ($25,849 per annum in 2015) for up to 3 years. For more information, please click on the following link: http://agile2.ucc.usyd.edu.au/ro/opportunities/scholarships/1510

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme (PHMSS)

Scholarships are available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who are studying a course in ATSI health work, allied health, dentistry/oral health, medicine, midwifery or nursing. The next round of applications will open Friday 14 August 2015 for studies in 2016. For further information see http://www.acn.edu.au/phmss. Weenthunga staff would be happy to advise in drafting an application.

RESOURCES

Australian Authors speak out on NT Intervention

New book, The Intervention: an anthology, was launched by Gillian Triggs in Sydney on 1 July at the National Centre of Indigenous Excellence in Redfern. “The Intervention to us was like Australia declaring war on us and in the process they demonised and dehumanised Aboriginal men, women and children.” – Rosalie-Kunoth Monks – Elder and Northern Territory Australian of the Year….. To buy the book ($25) at Booktopia— follow this link.

PROFILES

Near death experience inspires Indigenous student to study midwifery

Georgia Radford, an Indigenous Student who has participated in our Weenthunga Health Days, was interviewed by ABC Central Victoria. Her story has been shared on their website. http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2015/07/10/4271575.htm Congratulations Georgia on a wonderful interview and your achievements to date!