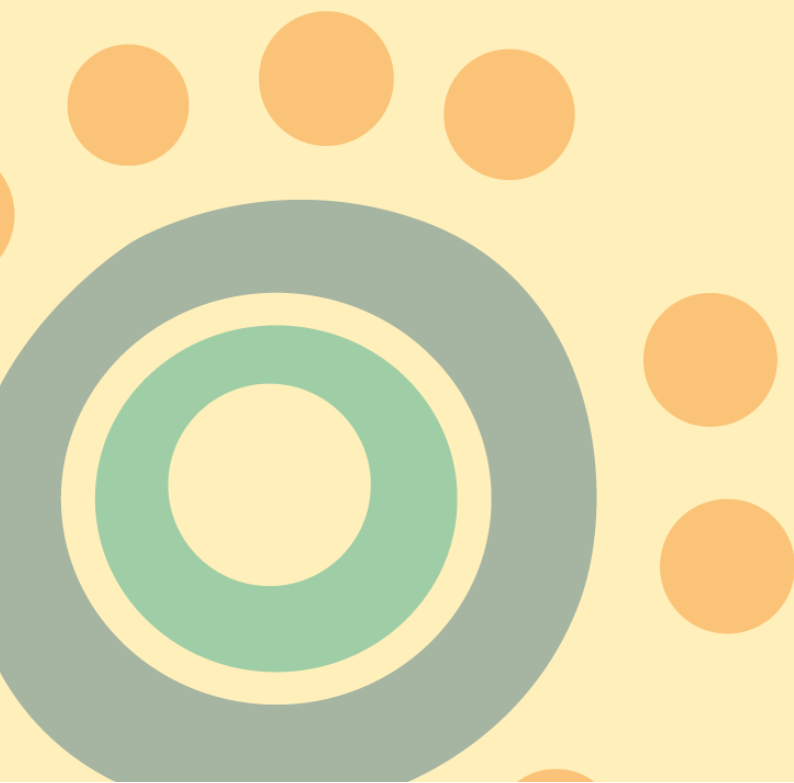




Gathering the Seeds

SPEAKER BIOS



Welcome to Country

Aunty Maree Taylor

Noongar Elder



Aunty Marie Taylor is a Whadjuk Nyungar Elder, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. Aunty Marie is the chairperson of the Yelakitj Moort Nyungar Association which ensures culture, traditions, language and stories of the Nyungar families are maintained and taught in schools and communities. As part of the Honorary Elders Group for Murdoch University and member of the Ngangk Yira Advisory Board, Aunty Marie shares her wisdom and cultural guidance for research directions and the future of the University.

Welcome Address

Hon Dr Tony Buti

Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests.



Tony has been a Minister for the McGowan Labor Government since March 2021, and has been the Member for Armadale in the Legislative Assembly since 2010. Prior to becoming a Minister, Tony was Chairman of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee, and while in opposition, he was Deputy Chair of the Community Development & Justice Standing Committee.

'We know what works for our families': the importance of holistic early support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Ms Catherine Liddle

Chief Executive Officer, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children



An Arrernte/Luritja woman from Central Australia, Catherine has been a leading advocate in upholding the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on a national, regional and local level. Catherine has held senior management positions in First Nations organisations including First Nations Media and Jawun Indigenous Corporate Partnerships, as well as within the Northern Territory Education Department, the ABC and NITV/SBS.

'Replanting the Birthing Trees

Professor Cath Chamberlain

Midwife/Professor of Indigenous Health, The University of Melbourne



Cath is a Palawa woman of the Trawlwoolway clan (Tasmania), registered midwife and public health researcher. Since graduating from her PhD in 2015, she has established a highly productive program of research to improve health for children and families, which has been recognised in prestigious awards. She has over 75 peer reviewed journal publications and secured over \$32 million in competitive research funding. Her research has generated evidence on effective strategies to support women to stop smoking in pregnancy, which has informed international and national guidelines. She currently leads large multi-disciplinary multi-jurisdictional projects to develop, implement and evaluate perinatal strategies to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex trauma.

About the Replanting the Birthing Trees artwork

Valerie Ah Chee

Senior Project Officer and Research Assistant, Ngangk Yira Institute for Change



Valerie is a Bindjareb woman from the Nyoongar Nation in the South West of Western Australia with family connections to the Palkyu people of the Pilbara, a mother of six and grandmother of two.

Valerie graduated as a Registered Midwife in 2015 and has worked clinically in Perth at the Armadale Health Service, in Midland at St John of God Public Hospital and in Adelaide at the Women's and Children's Hospital. As an Aboriginal woman and midwife, Valerie's own experiences birthing in the system generated her interest to improve outcomes in Aboriginal maternal and infant health, more specifically, embedding cultural safety in the pregnancy and birth space and improving the health of Aboriginal women from a cultural perspective. Valerie is the Senior Project Officer and Research Assistant at Ngangk Yira (Research Centre for Aboriginal Health and Social Equity) at Murdoch University and is working on Baby Coming You Ready?

Introduction to the symposium art activity

Aunty Millie Penny

Noongar Yorga Elder



Aunty Millie is a Noongar Yorga woman from Pinjarra with connections to Ballardong, Binjurup, Whadjuk and Yamatji country. She is an Elder Co-Researcher with the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) Project which is an important project for our children who are our future spokespeople and leaders.

Working in Two Worlds Session Chair

Professor Rhonda Marriott, AM

Pro Vice Chancellor, Ngangk Yira Institute for Change, Murdoch University



Professor Rhonda Marriott is the inaugural Director of the Ngangk Yira Institute for Change at Murdoch University. Rhonda is matrilineally descended from the Nyikina people of the Kimberley. Rhonda has over 30 years' academic experience, over 50 years in the nursing profession and over 30 years in midwifery. She is a lead Chief Investigator on Replanting the Birthing Trees.

Leaves (workforce repository) Session Chairs

Deb Bowman

Research Assistant in Indigenous Public Health, Indigenous Health Equity Unit



Debra will be support the project with cultural leadership, resource development (including stories for parents) and more. Debra Bowman is a proud Ngemba woman from Brewarrina, NSW. She is currently studying her masters degree with the University of Melbourne and The Dulwich Centre in Adelaide in Narrative Therapy & Community Work, which she is very passionate about as storytelling and yarning comes natural to her cultural ways of being and keeps her grounded and connected to her cultural heritage.

Lyndal Alchin

Senior Advisor, Child and Maternal Health Programs, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)



Lyndal Alchin is a non-Indigenous woman, who lives and works on Ngunnawal/Ngambri Country. Lyndal is a Senior Advisor at NACCHO, working across Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Child and Maternal Health policy and programs. Lyndal has completed her undergraduate studies in biological sciences through Western Sydney University and completed a Master of International Public Health through the University of New South Wales.

Lyndal's background includes work in clinical practice and public health guidelines in both the government and non-government sector as well as having worked on various oncology clinical trials and quality of life research studies within the hospital setting. Lyndal is part of the project team on Replanting the Birthing Trees focusing on research to policy translation as well as co-ordinating the Governance Group.

The power of storytelling

Professor Helen Milroy, AM

Stan Perron Professor Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Perth Children's Hospital and UWA



Professor Helen Milroy is a consultant psychiatrist with many years' experience working in child and adolescent psychiatry, specifically in research on trauma, and an expert in Aboriginal mental health provision. She is the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at the University of Western Australia and an Honorary Research Fellow at Telethon Kids Institute.

Family Matters Building Blocks

Dr Paul Gray

Associate Professor, Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research



Dr Paul Gray is a Wiradjuri man and Associate Professor at the Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research, UTS, leading their child protection research hub. Paul is committed to reimagining child protection systems and practice to promote healing for our communities, and end their disproportionate impact on our children, families and communities. His career has spanned practice, policy, research and advocacy roles associated with child protection systems. Paul serves as co-chair of the national Family Matters campaign aimed at ending the over-representation of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care.

First Nations Principles for Childhood; A Child's Journey from Spirit Self to Social Self

Dr Mishel McMahon

Aboriginal Rural Health Coordinator, Office of La Trobe Rural Health



Mishel McMahon is a proud Yorta Yorta woman, she grew up in a large rural family. Completed her undergraduate degree of Bachelor of Human Services and Honours in Social Work in 2012 at La Trobe. Mishel has worked at Mildura Aboriginal Co-operative, Bendigo & District Aboriginal Co-operative BDAC, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and as Indigenous Academic Enrichment Advisor at La Trobe. Mishel began PhD, undertaking research that revealed principles of First Nations childrearing, completing Masterclass in Indigenous Methodologies through QUT. Mishel won Premier's Research Awards for Aboriginal Research 2019, Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership 2019 and recently worked as Social Work lecturer at Shepparton La Trobe, campus.

SMS4DeadlyDads – Keeping in touch and monitoring the wellbeing of new First Nations fathers in rural & remote Australia through text messages during the perinatal period.

Uncle Dr Mick Adams

Senior Research Fellow, HealthInfoNet



Dr Mick Adams has a long and distinguished career nationally in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, with a particular focus on men's health. He is a descendant of the Yadiagana/Wuthuti people of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland, having traditional family ties with the Gurindji people of Central Western Northern Territory and extended family relationship with the people of the Torres Strait, Warlpiri (Yuendumu), and East Arnhem Land (Gurrumaru) communities.

In early 2015 he was welcomed to HealthInfoNet as Senior Research Fellow with a particular emphasis on building a strong primary research program. He has published widely on a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health issues and supervised post graduate researchers.

His extensive professional experience includes; Research Fellow with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS); National Coordinator Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA), Queensland University of Technology, Chief Executive Officer with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service, Brisbane (ATSICHS) and Miwatj Aboriginal Corporation for Health in Nhulunbuy.

He has previously served on multiple committees and boards as a chairperson and member. He is also a Founding and current Member of the International Network Indigenous Health Knowledge Development Committee (INIKHD) and held membership with the International Indigenous Centre Health Intelligence (IICHI).

Dr Janine Mohamed

CEO, Lowitja Institute



Culturally and emotionally safe care is critical in all care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but it is especially important for our new bubs and families. During this presentation, Janine will speak to the need to transform our health systems to ensure that they are culturally safe, and that service provision is grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of knowing, being and doing.

Developing practitioner's skills through online workforce packages: Replanting the Birthing trees

Ms Shirley Young



Shirley Young is an Aboriginal woman from the Nukunu people in South Australia. She has worked in various public service organisations over a period of 25 years in portfolios such as health, child protection and child & adolescent mental health, working in a variety of positions with Aboriginal children, young people, parents and communities.

Ms Rosie Schellen



Rosie Schellen is the lead for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce development content at Emerging Minds, she has worked in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing and community development for over 25 years.

Ms Nancy Jeffrey



Nancy Jeffrey is a Woolwonga woman from the Northern Territory and an Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Social & Emotional Wellbeing Advisor in Partnerships and Implementation at Emerging Minds. Nancy has over 30 years' experience in child protection, project management and leadership in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social and emotional wellbeing sector.

Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future: Working safely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait parents during the first 2000 days

Danielle Cameron

Research Fellow, University Centre for Rural Health, USyd



Danielle Cameron Yuibera woman, born and raised on Turrbal Country in Meeanjin (Brisbane), and lives in Widjabul Wia-bul lands in Lismore with her family. Danielle is a Research Fellow at University Centre for Rural Health, The University of Sydney (USyd). She has a BaHS (2011, Griffith University), a Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary) (2018, Edith Cowen University, WA), Graduate Diploma in Indigenous Health Promotions (2022, The Sydney University, NSW) and currently completing her Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma with the Australian Childhood Foundation. Danielle

Cameron has over 20 years' experience working within community, health and education sectors with numerous roles including Social and Emotional Wellbeing Co-Ordinator, Case Worker, Child Counsellor, Primary School Teacher, Senior Workforce Development for the Mental Health Commission and Director of her own company facilitating training nationwide on mental health and trauma informed care and practice. This experience generated greater interest in understanding research processes, and the role that research can play in driving systems change and supporting our families in a different capacity. Danielle has a drive and passion for utilising mixed contemporary delivery methods intrinsically entwined in First Nation practices to enhance SEWB, community engagement and trauma informed awareness to have better outcomes for all people. Danielle brings her experience as a trained teacher and adult education facilitator, as well as trauma informed practice, to the project training processes. Her expertise means she is well placed to ensure the success and knowledge transfer of this project.

Baby Coming, You Ready?

Trish Ratajczak

Reserch Officer, Ngangk Yira Institute for Change



Trish Ratajczak is Palawa woman from Lutruwita (Tasmania) with connections to descendent Mannalargenna chief of the Pairrebeene/Trawlwoolway Clan. Trish is a research officer at Ngangk Yira Institute for Change at Murdoch University in Western Australia co-lead for the Baby Coming You Ready program. She is a registered clinical midwife of 10 years in the tertiary setting and has been a strong advocate and educator for upcoming health professionals on Aboriginal health and culturally security for the past 13 years in the universities in Western Australia. She is also an early childhood educator and is committed supporting positive impact and change with Community at every opportunity.

Jayne Kotz

Senior Research Fellow, Ngangk Yira Institute for Change



Jayne Kotz (PhD, RNP, MW, CHN) is a Senior Research Fellow (PhD) at Ngangk Yira Institute for Change at Murdoch University in Western Australia. She has 35 years of experience working in community health in clinical practice, research, health promotion and community development, policy planning, management, and advocacy. As a Nurse Practitioner/midwife Jayne has worked alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in their communities across rural and remote Western Australia, Victoria, the Northern Territory and in corrective service setting. The past 15 years have focused on Culturally respectful approaches to research and codesigning supportive strategies to improve maternal and infant health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their partners which includes the Kimberley Mums Mood Scale and Baby Coming You Ready.

Support Session Chairs

Dr Kimberley Jones

Research Fellow in the Indigenous Health Equity Unit



Dr Kimberley Jones is a non-indigenous researcher born on Awabakal Country, now living on Wurundjeri Country in the Kulin Nation. Kim is a Research Fellow with expertise in evidence synthesis and trauma research. Kim's research interests are focused on health equity in marginalised populations. She is passionate about improving health and wellbeing outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Kim completed undergraduate studies in biomedical science, a PhD in Neuroscience studying the effect of stress-related immune responses in the brain, and a Master of International Public Health at UNSW. Kim's background includes work in health behaviour research, knowledge translation, clinical trials, chronic illness translational research, and trauma-related mental health research. Kim has extensive experience in guideline development, evidence synthesis, and research project design and implementation.

Ms Emily Darnett

Research Assistant in Indigenous Public Health



Emily Darnett is a Research Assistant (0.4FTE). Emily is a Palawa woman, provisionally registered psychologist and PhD candidate. Her research investigates how psychologists can adjust their practices to better meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing psychological distress. She is particularly interested in taking strengths-based approach to working with mob that have experienced different types of traumas..

Importance of the right support for families

Lesley Nelson

CEO South West Aboriginal Medical Service



Lesley Nelson is a proud Noongar woman from the Balladong and Whadjuk clans and is a mother to three sons and a daughter. She holds over 25 years' experience in various Senior Executive leadership roles within the Aboriginal health sector, the most recent being her current role as CEO of the Southwest Aboriginal Medical Service.

With a drive to influence, collaborate and engage across the sector, she has directly contributed to greater health outcomes for Aboriginal people living in the region. Lesley brings a passion for the Southwest community and holds several Board director positions enabling her to consistently advocate for this beautiful region of Australia both nationally and locally. Lesley has demonstrated that she makes useful contributions to policy and to program development at the national, state and community levels at the same time as she is managing a regional service delivery company with multiple local outlets.

Support Framework

Associate Professor Shawana Andrews

Director And Associate Professor - Poche Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences



Shawana Andrews is a Trawlwoolway Palawa woman. She is Director and Associate Professor of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Shawana has over 20 years' experience

Shawana has a long history working across Aboriginal communities in Victoria with over 20 years' experience working in Aboriginal health.

Beginning as an Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer at the Royal Children's Hospital, Shawana co-designed the Koori Mental Health Program and the Wadja Aboriginal Family Place acute care case management program, including a comprehensive Aboriginal child outpatient clinic. Shawana has since held policy, project management and teaching roles across the health and higher education sectors. Shawana has led faculty and university-wide Aboriginal health teaching and learning initiatives, including Billibellary's Walk .

At the Melbourne Poche Centre she leads the Centre's signature programs that focus on Aboriginal doctoral advancement and health leadership. International Indigenous partnerships and collaborations support this work. Shawana's research areas include: Aboriginal graduate research candidate experiences and social capital, place and Aboriginal health leadership, Aboriginal mothering practices and family violence, Aboriginal feminisms and gendered knowledges, and cultural practice-based methodologies.

Supporting families with complex needs to stay together



Professor Marcia Langton, AM

Professor of Australian Indigenous Studies, University of Melbourne

Professor Marcia Langton is a Professor of Australian Indigenous Studies and Director of the Indigenous Studies Unit, the Centre for Health Equity, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne. Professor Langton is the granddaughter of an Iman man and grew up in Queensland in her grandmother's country in Southwest Queensland. Professor Langton specialises in the field of ethnographic studies of Indigenous family violence, alcohol management plans in Aboriginal communities, impact benefit and native title agreements with Indigenous people, Indigenous engagements with the resource industry and Aboriginal arts and cultural expressions, nationally and internationally. She is a lead Chief Investigator on Replanting the Birthing Trees.

Koori Maternity Services



Storm Henry

Koori Maternity Strategy Senior Project Officer at VACCHO

Storm Henry (Pitjantjatjara) is a Registered Midwife & Nurse, with experience working in women's and newborn health, including the Baggarook caseload team. She is passionate about Storm is employed as the Koori Maternity Strategy Senior Project Officer at the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), completing a Master of Primary Maternity Care (Griffith University), and is the new chair of Replanting the Birthing Trees Workstream 5 (culturally-safe trauma-integrated continuity-of-carer toolkit).

Boodjari Yorgas

Christine Parry

Senior Aboriginal Health Officer, Boodjari Yorgas



My name is Christine Parry I am a Noongar woman from Perth, I come from a large family, I am the second eldest and the eldest girl, my dad passed away in 1992 but we are blessed to still have our Mum with who is 88 years old.

My background is Early Childhood teaching, I trained and graduated in Adelaide and have worked in various places throughout WA, before applying for the position as the Senior Aboriginal Health Officer for Boodjari Yorgas Family Care Program as it was known then in 2011. Then in 2016 we became Boodjari Yorgas Midwifery Group Practice, where Aboriginal women or women having Aboriginal babies have the continuity of care from a known Midwife. I enjoy my role and

am very passionate about what I do and how to help our Mums. "Our goal is to empower the women through their pregnancy and birth and to support them in a culturally appropriate manner to make healthy choices for themselves and their babies".

Baggarrook

Gina Bundle

Program Coordinator/AHLO, Badjurr-Bulok Wilma AHLO Unit



Gina is the Program Coordinator and senior AHLO of the Badjurr-Bulok Wilma AHLO Unit at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne the Women's is a partner member of the Baggarook Yurrongi Aboriginal Maternity Caseload Research based at the Women's Hospital since 2017.

Gina's community involvement at this time is as a member of the Cultural Council for Reconciliation Victoria, Stolen Generations Reparations Steering Committee Member and Board member of the Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Inc.

Res McCalman

Midwifery Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery at La Trobe University



Res (Pamela) is a Ballardong Noongar woman with European descent. She is the third midwife in her recent Ballardong lineage and has worked clinically in urban, regional, and Aboriginal community-controlled settings. Res was born and raised in Naarm (Melbourne) and her role as a research officer on the NHMRC funded partnership project “Woman’s Journey, Baggarook Yurrongi & Nurragh Manma Buliana” led her to undertake a PhD focusing on the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (or First Nations) women having a baby in Victoria. She also has a role as the Molly Wardaguga Research Centre at Charles Darwin

University, working on Yolŋu-led projects to improve maternity services for women in North East Arnhem land.

Strong Roots (SAFeST Start) Session Chair

Dr Jacynta Krakouer

Research Fellow, Monash University



Jacynta Krakouer is a Mineng woman from the Noongar Nation in southwestern Australia and a Research Fellow in the Health and Social Care Unit at Monash University. Jacynta is a social worker and an Early Career Researcher with expertise in child and family welfare, including child protection and infant removals. Jacynta is a member of the SAFesT Start coalition – a multidisciplinary group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous experts – committed to reducing Indigenous infant removals due to child protection concerns.

Wise Counsel Mock Panel

Jeanice Krakouer

Director, Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation



Jeanice Krakouer is a Noongar woman born and raised in Mt Barker and connected to the South Coast around Albany and up through the Great Southern Region. She is a Director of Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation and current Chair of MADALAH with extensive experience serving on boards at local community, regional and State levels. Jeanice centres the importance of Aboriginal families, cultures, languages, and country in her work and life. She inherited her strength, compassion and hardworking nature from her late parents who taught her the importance of making a difference. Jeanice was

notably the Chairperson of the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council at the time of the South West Native Title Settlement the with Western Australian government. She is a current kinship carer to a baby, and has cared for multiple Noongar babies and children in State care over the years.

Associate Professor Melissa O'Donnell

Deputy Director of Research, Australian Centre for Child Protection



Associate Professor Melissa O'Donnell is Deputy Director of Research at the Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia and Adjunct Researcher at University of Western Australia. Melissa's research has investigated factors which increase or reduce vulnerability to child abuse and neglect and to prevent the removal of children into out-of-home care. Melissa's study on Perinatal involvement in child protection has examined mothers and service providers experience of child protection processes and developing recommendations for improving processes and support.

Jane Fisher AO

Finkel Professor of Global Health and Co-Director Division of Planetary Health, Monash University



Jane Fisher, an academic Clinical and Health Psychologist is Finkel Professor of Global Health in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. She has longstanding interests in the social determinants of health and wellbeing across the life course, including among women who are pregnant or have recently given birth, and of how these can be addressed in public health approaches to health promotion. In 2017, she was awarded the Marcé Medal, by the Australasian Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health and in 2022 the International Marcé Society's John Cox Medal for having made an extraordinary contribution to expert knowledge in the field of perinatal mental health through research, clinical practice, teaching, and mentorship. She was appointed Officer in the Order of Australia in 2019 for her contributions to women, perinatal mental health and the community.

Creating the change we want to see

Fiona Stanley AC

Patron, Telethon Kids Institute and Distinguished Research Professor, University of Western Australia



Named Australian of the Year in 2003, Professor Fiona Stanley is a vocal advocate for the needs of children and their families. Professor Stanley was the founding Director of the Telethon Kids Institute, established in Perth in 1990. When she retired from the position in December 2011, the Institute had grown to more than 500 staff and students and forged an international reputation for its translational research in a range of areas. On her retirement, Professor Stanley graciously accepted an invitation from the Board to take on the position of Patron, where she continues to advocate for the Institute, research and families.

Professor Stanley remains a Chief Investigator on a number of research grants at the Telethon Kids Institute and is a valued mentor to many. She also continues her strong association with the University of Western Australia as a Distinguished Research Professor in the School of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Professor Stanley remains committed to a number of important roles, including: Distinguished Research Professor at the School of Paediatrics and Child Health, UWA; Vice Chancellor's Fellow, University of Melbourne; and Chair of the newly-formed Alcohol Advertising Review Board.

WeCARE about ICARE

Associate Professor Yvonne Clark

Associate Research Professor, University of South Australia



Yvonne Clark is a Kokatha/Wirangu woman from South Australia and a clinically endorsed psychologist with her PhD. Yvonne has extensive experience as a psychologist, academic and researcher within government, private, community controlled, university and institutional sectors. As a clinician she has worked mainly with children, adolescents and their families in various contexts. Yvonne is currently an Associate Research Professor, holding a joint appointment with the South Australian Health and Research Institute and the university of South Australia. She is a chief investigator (CIA) on various NMHRC research projects that include examining healing and recovery among Aboriginal children, young people and parents who have experienced intergenerational trauma and racism and how these formulate as lateral violence; and exploring the feasibility and acceptability of a care package to reduce cannabis use and stress amongst pregnant Aboriginal women and their support persons in two metropolitan locations in Adelaide, SA. More recently Yvonne is leading multifaceted research with the acronym of ICARE, that will provide cultural and strength-based tools and supports during pregnancy and the early years to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in SA and WA. The research will generate new knowledge as well as improve and track the parents journey. Yvonne is currently a Director with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association, co-chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Psychology Interest group. and member of the South Australian Child Development Council (a ministerial appointment).

Djapirri Mununggirritj

Yolngu Elder



Djapirri Mununggirritj is a Yolngu Elder from Yirrkala in North East Arnhem Land. For decades, she has worked tirelessly to support her community and to foster strong relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Indigenous Australians. One of her key achievements was establishing the Yirrkala Women's Patrol, which saw Aboriginal elders walk the streets late at night to successfully deal with domestic violence, alcohol and other community safety issues. More recently, Ms Mununggirritj has served as a Director and Community/Cultural Manager for Culture College Arnhem Land Aboriginal Corporation. She has helped develop a Yolngu based educational strategy that will effect change in all Australians, helping bring the nation closer to a reality of reconciliation. Djapirri also has a deep passion in sharing the importance of birthing on country and the role supported birth plays in establishing strong and healthy connections. On the national stage, she is considered a political trailblazer and helps guide Australia's reconciliation journey through her work as a board member of Reconciliation Australia, Yothu Yindi Foundation and Culture College.