



The Centre of Best Practice in  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Suicide Prevention

# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

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The Centre of Best  
Practice in Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander  
Suicide Prevention  
Clearing House  
(CBPATSISP).

The CBPATSISP aims  
to reduce the impact of  
suicide on Indigenous  
individuals, families and  
communities. This will be  
by identifying, translating  
and promoting the  
adoption or adaptation  
of best practice in  
Indigenous specific  
suicide prevention  
activity, new and  
emerging national and  
international research.

## CONTACT US

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## WELCOME

**We would like to welcome you to our first newsletter to keep you informed of the projects we currently been busy working on in our scope of funded activities.**

**The Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Clearing House.**

The CBPATSISP is under the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, School of Indigenous Studies, at the University of Western Australia. Consortium partners of the CBPATSISP include the Healing Foundation, the Telethon Kids Institute, HealthInfoNet and the Menzies School of Health Research. The CBPATSISP has been funded through the commonwealth Department of Health's National Suicide Prevention Leadership and Support Program.

To support best practice in Indigenous suicide prevention, CBPATSISP will develop and promote the following;

- ✔ A clearinghouse of best practice programs and services in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention;
- ✔ A clearinghouse of both national and international Indigenous suicide prevention research;
- ✔ Best practice guidance and resource materials; and
- ✔ A Cultural Governance Framework in partnership with the Black Dog Institute.

The CBPATSISP aims to review literature and program/project information on a regular basis to ensure that the Clearinghouse remains as a high quality, contemporary and relevant for the benefit of our communities those working within our communities and Resource Primary Health Networks (PHNs).

We intend to promote this important component of the work of the CBPATSISP and to invite your contribution through any recent literature, research, community projects or other stories or information that you would like to put forward for inclusion in the Clearinghouse. We are committed to promoting the highest quality Indigenous led research and programs. This is an opportunity to highlight the quality of programs and research that is empowering for Indigenous people and Indigenous communities in Australia and throughout the world.

We look forward to hearing back from you with any information that you may have about recent literature or programs that could be considered for inclusion in the Clearinghouse.

## LIVED EXPERIENCE WORKSHOP

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience from around Australia for a workshop 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Perth. Healing and leading thriving lives is a concern Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Whilst there is great resilience, culture and knowledge, many people are lost to suicide. Through this research we will investigate whether the issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is different to others with lived experience.

The outcomes of this Project seek to ensure that the Australian Government, service providers, and practitioners better understand the role and value of lived experience experts within the suicide prevention area. The literature review report and forthcoming research paper will be posted on our website.



## INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, mental health and suicide prevention are priorities for PHNs, including under the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (Fifth Plan). In particular, the Fifth Plan requires that mental health services in particular are culturally safe and able to deliver both a culturally and clinically competent service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers. This includes access to cultural healers and treatments as well as mainstream, clinical treatments.

Recognising that building trust, relationships and partnerships takes time, this Project aims to provide guidance on how to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the co-design in collaborative partnerships.

The CBPATSISP and the Black Dog Institute recently developed a paper, Implementing Integrated Suicide Prevention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities – A Guide for Primary Health Networks. This discusses the need for whole-of-organisation approaches and commitment to working effectively in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Further work will be undertaken with the development of an Implementing Integrated Suicide Prevention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities - A Guide for Primary Health Networks and the Indigenous Governance Framework for Suicide Prevention in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (IGF).

For PHNs, particularly around suicide prevention, there is a multitude of existing, evidence-based guidance that has already been developed and will inform the development of the IGF. In particular, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project's Solutions That Work report (2017) identifies community control, working in a cultural framework, involvement of Elders, cultural elements, culturally appropriate treatment and the cultural competence of staff as success factors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention.

National workshops will be held to consider implementing the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration and the Indigenous Governance Framework. These will be jointly hosted by CBPATSISP and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leaders in Mental Health (NATSILMH).



## **2nd National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention**

20 – 21 November 2018

## **2nd World Indigenous Suicide Prevention**

22 – 23 November 2018

## **CONFERENCES**

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Rendezvous Hotel Perth  
Scarborough, Western Australia

**Building a strong tomorrow: Connecting our communities through culture.**

**To register:** [www.ispc2018.com](http://www.ispc2018.com)

## **2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SUICIDE PREVENTION AND 2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD INDIGENOUS SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCES**

PHNs and LHNs are encouraged to consider attending the upcoming joint National and World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference being held in Perth in November 2018.

*"Building a stronger tomorrow: Connecting our communities through culture."*

We invite you to join us for these significant Conferences to listen, learn and further empower our Indigenous communities to reduce suicide and its impact on Indigenous people. We encourage all PHN's to support their local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and PHN staff to attend the forthcoming conferences. Your support as a sponsor of the Conferences will help assist more delegates to attend, to share and learn in a safe environment and enable a more comprehensive program. There are selections of packages available to assist in funding the delivery of the Conferences. [www.isp2018.com](http://www.isp2018.com).



### **About the Author**

*Moortang Yoowarl Dandjoo Yaanginy*

*Families (Cultures) Coming Together for a Common Purpose (Sharing)*

*Shifting Sands*

Artwork Copyright: Roma Winmar 2018

This artwork represents our people doing business on country that is recovering from colonisation; our lands taken over, our cultures decimated, and our families separated, causing hardship, despair, and loss of hope.

The many years of oppression to our cultures that our families and our Elders have had to endure has meant that we have needed to adapt and learn to engage and address a wide range of issues impacting on our families, in both traditional and contemporary ways. We are concerned with strengthening and reconnecting to our countries, cultures and families; to nurturing cultural identity and pride whilst still trying to carry our immediate and collective business as First Peoples of Country, but, on *Shifting Sands*.

The strong representation of our connected communities in the foreground of the painting symbolises the strength of our people as a group, displaying a new sense of cultural identity and pride, and a place of belonging while acknowledging the trauma affecting our families in the present.

We are rising to once again, take control of our own destinies, linking up strongly to each other across an uncertain terrain that will once again become solid as we become reconnected at all levels within a spirit of hope.

### **About the Artist**

Aunty Roma Winmar, Noongar artist, was born in Gnowangerup, a small town in the southwest of Western Australia, in 1944. She has had numerous exhibitions and her artwork has been presented nationally and internationally. She is a Noongar language teacher at the Moorditj Noongar Community College in Middle Swan, Western Australia.

Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further on 08 6488 6926 or email [barb.ahmat@uwa.edu.au](mailto:barb.ahmat@uwa.edu.au).

### **Our Consortium Members and Partners**

