



PHILENetwork

Public Health Indigenous Leadership in Education Network

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PHILENetwork Background

The Public Health Indigenous Leadership in Education Network (PHILENetwork) is the leadership group formed from the National Indigenous Public Curriculum Network. This group forms part of a larger project – Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project. This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. The PHILENetwork has made significant contributions to the development of capacity in Indigenous public health since the inaugural 2003 National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Workshop in Brisbane.

PHILENetwork Purpose

The broad purpose of the PHILENetwork is to provide a forum for Indigenous public health academics and practitioners to exchange resources, ideas and develop policies and programs of relevance to teaching and learning activities in public health, and specifically to build capacity of MPH programs nationally in regards to integration of Indigenous health.

PHILENetwork Membership

The membership of the PHILENetwork changed this year with the resignations of Megan Ferguson (University of Queensland) and Dr Bill Genat (University of Melbourne) at the end of 2010.

Currently, the PHILENetwork comprises: Prof. Lisa Jackson Pulver (University of NSW), Wendy Anders (Deakin University), Vanessa Lee (University of Sydney), Paul Stewart (University of Melbourne), Assoc. Prof. Jenny Baker (University of Adelaide), Dylan Coleman (University of Adelaide), with administrative support from the joint Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project co-coordinators, Leanne Coombe (University of Melbourne) and Janice Jessen (Deakin University).

Indigenous public health academics are encouraged to join and strengthen this network.

PHILENetwork Activities

MPH Review

A key activity of the PHILENetwork is capacity building with MPH programs nationally regarding integration of Indigenous health. At the 2006 National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Workshop in Sydney, six core Indigenous health competencies required by every Masters of Public Health (MPH) graduate were proposed and refined by subsequent consultations across the network. The resultant “*National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Framework*”, endorsed by the Australian Network of Academic Public Health Institutions (ANAPHI) is a guide for MPH programs to integrate the six core Indigenous public health competencies into their programs. The six core Indigenous health competencies, expected of every MPH graduate, are integral to the “*Foundation Competencies for Master of Public Health Graduates in Australia*”. These competencies have been endorsed by ANAPHI, now called the Council of Australian Academic Public Health Institutions (CAAPHI) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.



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To further consolidate these gains the PHILENetwork intend to strengthen Indigenous public health curriculum further by working with MPH programs to review the integration of Indigenous content within their MPH programs and to disseminate the findings.

The review will:

- identify what is working well in the Indigenous component of MPH programs, what could be improved and how that can be achieved;
- describe key innovations to integrate and enhance Indigenous public health content; and
- disseminate examples of good practice to academic MPH programs nationally.

The review will build institutional capacity in Indigenous public health in three ways:

- strengthening the capacity of key Indigenous academics within the National Indigenous Public Health Curriculum Network through their engagement in a program of curriculum review activities;
- strengthening the integration of the core Indigenous public health competencies within the national MPH curriculum; and
- disseminating exemplars of best practice regarding the integration of Indigenous curriculum components within MPH programs.

An Expression of Interest was sent out last year to those institutions that deliver an MPH program. By the end of 2010, the PHILENetwork had received inquiries from 13 institutions regarding participation in the review. Following approval of the amended ethics application through the University of Melbourne Human Ethics Sub-Committee for the MPH Program Reviews, the PHILENetwork has recommenced activities to progress this key piece of work. It is anticipated that reviews will be conducted in at least six institutions by the end of 2011.

For additional information or to indicate an expression of interest in participating in this review, please contact the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project coordinator at the University of Melbourne, Ms Leanne Coombe.

PHAA Conference

The PHILENetwork will be presenting preliminary findings of the review outlined above at the Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) 41st Annual Conference in Brisbane, to be held on 26-28 September 2011. The presentation titled "National Review of Core Indigenous Public Health Competencies Integration into MPH Curricula" will be presented during the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Health Session No. 1 on the 26th between 1100 – 1230 hours.

PHILENetwork Contact

For any additional information or enquiries relating to the activities and membership of the PHILENetwork, please contact the Indigenous Public Health Capacity Building Project coordinator at the University of Melbourne:

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