

CAMPFIRE

Welcome to another edition of Campfire, the Department of Health's newsletter for all Aboriginal Environmental Health practitioners.



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health (NATSIEH) Conference will be held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth, Western Australia, from 16-19 September, 2019. The conference will bring together practitioners from across the country to explore the conference theme:

Living healthy. One goal, different paths

The aim of the conference is to increase understanding and awareness of environmental health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and to showcase achievements in environmental health throughout Australia. The program has been finalised and is available online. Some exciting mid-conference activities are planned, including cultural, technical and sight-seeing excursions.

[Click here to head over to the NATSIEH Conference web page.](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference
- Aboriginal environmental health website
- Certificate II Indigenous Environmental Health
- #EndingTrachoma Update
- Ngaanyatjarra Lands trachoma workshop

Aboriginal environmental health website

A new landing page and content has been published on the Department of Health's website, dedicated to Aboriginal environmental health practitioners. The web pages contain important information on key program initiatives and links to useful templates and training videos, related to:



WA ABORIGINAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



CEHAPs



DOG HEALTH PROGRAM



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REFERRALS



PLUMBING



SAFE BATHROOMS

[Click here to visit the Aboriginal Environmental Health landing page.](#)



WE HAVE MOVED

The Environmental Health Directorate (WA Health) has recently relocated from Grace Vaughan House to 189 Royal Street, East Perth.

The Aboriginal Environmental Health Program can now be contacted on (08) 9222 2000.



Certificate II Indigenous Environmental Health

John Perrett, Aboriginal Environmental Health Program. Department of Health

During late March and early April, 2019, 16 Aboriginal environmental health practitioners attended two training courses in Certificate II (Indigenous Environmental Health). Nine students completed the course in Broome. Seven students attended the course in Geraldton.

The investment in training new members of the various environmental health teams is a strategic objective for the Department of Health. Training Alliance and Empower Education were retained as the registered training providers. Shown below is the graduating class of Geraldton 2019.



Left to right: Terri-lee Dalgety (Bundiyyarra), Robert Bonney (Bega Gambirringu), Matt Lester (Environmental Health Directorate), Les Dann (Bundiyyarra), Nathan Hayden (Yulella), Clayton Radcliffe (Yulella) and Zachariah Tucker (Bega Gambirringu). Absent: Tom Davies - Tjuntjunjara

Have you seen this?

Diploma of
Environmental Health

School of Medical and
Health Sciences,
Edith Cowan University

Certificate II Indigenous Environmental Health

Michael Ryan, Environmental Health Field Support Officer, Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

On 11 March, team members from various environmental health teams from across Western Australia attended training to achieve their Certificate II in Indigenous Environmental Health.

"I encourage all staff involved in Indigenous environmental health to attend and complete this course if you really want to make a positive impact on your communities and improve staffing knowledge of all areas related to environmental health."

- Michael Ryan,
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

Old and new staff worked together to achieve success in this certificate, which included plumbing modules. These plumbing modules will help us improve the health of our clients in communities by addressing minor plumbing repairs on the spot and reduce the incidence of environmental health related disease in the communities we service.

All that attended this course problem solved the tricky questions, tasks and showed us how other teams handle scenarios that impact health within their communities.



“None of what we would like to achieve would be possible without the support and expertise of our Aboriginal Environmental Health Workers”

*- Dr Mel Stoneham
PHAIWA*

#EndingTrachoma Update

Dr Mel Stoneham and Scott MacKenzie

The #EndingTrachoma project is working with 41 trachoma at risk communities throughout WA to reduce trachoma. Our end goal is to have a community led and user friendly Community Environmental Health Action Plan (CEHAP) for each of these communities, and we are gathering data to support these Plans as we travel around the State.

As we travel to these communities, we are working alongside our Aboriginal Environmental Health Workers (AEHWs) to support the bathroom audit processes and to ensure functional bathrooms and laundries. We will also be providing training on a number of environmental health issues as the project progresses.

Our recent trip to Bondini is a great example of how this project is working. A lot of planning went into this trip to coordinate our AEHWs, the community, the Goldfields Public Health Unit, WA Housing Authority and Lakes Contracting to make sure we could complete all activities during the visit.

On the first day we met with local community people and decision makers to make sure they were aware of the program and to go over the expected outcomes and expectations. The following couple of days, we went house to house to conduct bathroom audits. We fixed what we could and referred any major works to the WA Housing Authority. Every house in the community was accessed.

While we were out visiting the homes, the Goldfields Public Health Unit did some health promotion activities within the community about hand and face washing. We also collected some information about the current services in the community to feed into the CEHAP. A lot of yarning with locals gave us ideas about what they would like to see in their community to reduce trachoma. At the end of the week, the Lakes contractors arrived in community to repair all the major plumbing jobs.

The #EndingTrachoma team also hosted a “giving back” event which included a jumping castle and water slide for the kids, a community BBQ and a movie night. This event was to say thank you to the community for hosting us.

Throughout the week, we fixed leaky taps, tap spindles, leaking cisterns, blocked sinks and drains, shower roses and replaced taps. We also installed mirrors, towel hooks, gave out soap and also installed the stickers that show how to wash your face.

“It was a great week and we are looking forward to working with more communities to replicate this project but also look at other ways to reduce trachoma in our remote Aboriginal communities.”

*- Scott MacKenzie
PHAIWA*



#EndingTrachoma Update



EHTP
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
TRACHOMA PROJECT

ARE COMING TO
WILUNA
MONDAY THE 22ND TO FRIDAY THE 26TH OF JULY

CLEAN FACES, STRONG EYES!

OUR VISIT WILL INCLUDE:

- PLUMBING, SAFE BATHROOM CHECKS
- HACC HOME CLEANING
- THURSDAY NIGHT - COMMUNITY BBQ AND MOVIE NIGHT
- INFLATABLE SLIDE AND BOUNCY CASTLE
- HAND AND FACE WASHING ACTIVITIES
- SCHOOL AND KINDY LINK ACTIVITIES

WIT FROM MILPA
THE TRACHOMA
GOANNA

THE SAFE STRATEGY
TO ELIMINATE TRACHOMA

Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

Government of Western Australia
Department of Communities

Beegan
Gairibirringu
HEALTH SERVICE

PUBLIC HEAD
ANGANGANWILLI
Aboriginal Health Service



Ngaanyatjarra Lands Trachoma Workshop

In late March, a two-day trachoma workshop was held in Warakurna, bringing together a range of stakeholders including Aboriginal organisations, tertiary institutions, State and local government.

The workshop focused on the facial cleanliness (F) and environmental health (E) aspects of the Trachoma SAFE strategy. Delegates emphasised the direct value of the environmental health component on not only trachoma, but a range of other related conditions including rheumatic heart disease and scabies.

Aboriginal Environmental Health (WA Health) representative, Robert Mullane, reinforced the importance of safe bathroom checks and clinic environmental health referrals on an individual's own health and living conditions.

Gaining the trust of people in community is the key to helping people value the work of environmental health practitioners. If a plumbing problem can be identified and repaired during an environmental health visit, individuals are happier, the plumbing hardware functions correctly and the potential negative impact on public health is reduced.

