Hi, I’m Rayna Cowburn, Senior Program Officer with the “For Me & Bub” Project. I was born in Brisbane but have moved around a bit working in Canberra, Gladstone, Perth, Cairns and now back in Brisbane. My family come from Gayndah (dad’s side Cowburn/Cobbo’s) and my mum’s side (Guivarra) hail from the Eastern Cape and the Torres Strait. My working background has been with Aboriginal Hostels Ltd for 9 years and since then working in Indigenous Education, Training and Employment. Through this I have been lucky to work throughout Australia which has given me the chance to meet wonderful people doing great things in their communities. New to Queensland Health, I look forward to gaining opportunities to learn more about the health field and through this supporting better outcomes for our people.

Hi all! My name is Katrina Rae and I am one of the new Program Officers working with the “For Me & Bub” Project. I was born in Brisbane and grew up on the Sunshine Coast. I have spent the last few years exploring the United Kingdom, Europe and India and am now well and truly ready and happy to be back in Brisbane…my home! I have spent the past few months working in the Brisbane Northside area helping with the delivery of Traditional Indigenous Games and promoting Indigenous walking groups within the local community. I had an absolute ball in this position and the walking group even did the 5km Bridge to Brisbane walk! I feel privileged to be a part of the Indigenous Smoking Program and am looking forward to learning lots and to the challenges ahead. Mostly though, I can’t wait to get out and explore Queensland more. I look forward to meeting you along the way.
My name is Natasha White and I’m a Darumbal women from Rockhampton. I play Rugby Union for Murri Magic, we recently travelled to Bangkok to play in the Bangkok Rugby Union 7’s Competition where we won the Grand Final. I have been in health for 3-4 years, prior to SmokeCheck I was working as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker. I’m very excited to be in the position of Program Officer and I look forward to meeting you all through our travels.

QUITLINE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

The project is part of the QLD Government response to ‘Tackling Smoking – Closing the Gap strategy’ and involves stakeholders such as Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Service (QAIHC), Health Contact Service (Quitline), and the Tobacco and Alcohol Branch – Preventative Health Directorate Qld Health.

Some of the strategies for the project include:

- Recruitment of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander telecounsellors.
- Establishing the QEP Working Group a community steering committee
- Initiating & maintaining a culturally welcoming and supportive environment at Quitline.
- Delivering cultural competence training for Quitline staff.
- Building cultural competence into quality assurance and professional frameworks.
- Developing culturally appropriate pamphlets and literature for use by Quitline staff when engaging with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander clients.

Working with QAIHC and Community Controlled Health Services to promote and engage the Quitline service to specifically targeted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland.

The project will be progressing further throughout this year and I am sure that I will be ‘catching up’ or ‘yarning up’ with some of you mob later down the track.

If you are interested in finding out more about the project please call on 3328 9865 or 0427121420 or send an email to fred_binge@health.qld.gov.au.

‘Ngami-li ngindaay baayandhu’ (see you later)

‘Stay Connected to Culture....it is our True Spirit within.....’

Fred Binge

Happy New Year from the ‘For Me & Bub’ Project 2011. We hope you all had a safe & pleasant time off with love ones. Our team are keen to get this project rolling again now that we have rested up! So just a small update, For Me & Bub Project will be commencing our community consultation workshops late Feb early March 2011 these workshops will cover Thursday Island, Cape York, Central Qld, Northern Qld, & South West Qld. We are then hoping too start piloting the project early April through to May. All areas at this stage have not yet been confirmed or identified but by the next newsletter we will have an update for everyone.

Kim, Rayna & Katrina
Hi everyone,

Once again a very busy year for SSP and it’s not over yet. We have been lucky enough to have several funding rounds this year which have allowed many opportunities for Health Services, Government and Non-Government Organisations to apply for funding. It has been exciting to see the diverse range of programs and activities organised within communities to help promote the smoke-free messages and the importance of a smoke-free lifestyle. These have included a horse-riding and mustering camp, gym program, athletics program, hip hop program, touch footy comps and carnival, mens’ cultural camp, school cultural camp to name but a few. Phew.. makes me tired just thinking of the hours put in by these great people out there in their communities.

We are also working hard to develop an evaluation framework to document and measure the achievements to date of this great program. Keep up the great work.

Niamh Scully
January to June 2011 — Conferences

10-04-2011  Australian Health Promotion Conference  Cairns, Qld
05-05-2011  3rd Coalition for research to improve Aboriginal health (CRIAH) Aboriginal health research conference  Sydney, NSW
17-05-2011  National Indigenous domestic violence conference  Gold Coast, QLD
22-05-2011  The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) congress  Darwin, NT
17-06-2011  CSANZ Indigenous Cardiovascular Health Conference  Alice Springs, NT

SmokeCheck Training Schedule 2011

This is the SmokeCheck Workshop Schedule thus far:

1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  21/3/11  Nhulundu Community Health Service, Gladstone (1)  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  22/3/11  Nhulundu Community Health Service, Gladstone (2)  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  23/3/11  ATSI Health Gladstone, Hospital  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  04/4/11  Brisbane  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  06/4/11  Toowoomba  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  11/4/11  Shalom College (1)  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  12/4/11  Shalom College (2)  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  13/4/11  Shalom College (3)  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  14/4/11  Townsville  Completed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  28/4/11  Ipswich  confirmed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  10/5/11  Mt Isa  confirmed
1 Day SmokeCheck Workshop  19/5/11  Charleville  confirmed

Other news:

Applications are now open for the following overseas scholarships for Indigenous postgraduate students:

Expressions of interest should be directed, by email, to scholarships@auroraproject.com.au

We would be grateful if you would forward this information to interested parties.

Also, on behalf of the Trustees of the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation, it is with sadness that we announce that Roberta passed away on Sunday afternoon.

She was an indomitable spirit. Roberta prodded, pushed, questioned and campaigned her whole life. She never relented from pursuing justice for Indigenous Australia — Richard Potok.

SmokeCheck Program
Level 2, 15 Butterfield Street,
HERSTON, QLD, 4006
PO Box 2368
Fortitude Valley, B.C, 4006
P: (07) 3328 9857
F: (07) 3328 9788
Email: Myra_Gilbert@health.qld.gov.au