



# 13<sup>th</sup> National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

**Environmental Health Conference 2022**

*Better Together: Many Nations. One Country*

## Onsite Program and Handbook

DoubleTree by Hilton, Darwin, NT  
5-8 September 2022



The painting titled "Neutral Junction Landscape" appears courtesy of the artist, Annette Nungala.

# Welcome

## On behalf of enHealth

On behalf of the enHealth Expert Reference Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health, Northern Territory Government and Environmental Health Australia, I warmly welcome your attendance at the 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference on 5-8 September 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade, Darwin, Northern Territory.

The aim of this national conference is to:

- increase the understanding and awareness of environmental health issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;
- provide a forum to showcase achievements and discuss emerging issues in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health;
- provide a national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health.

The conference provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners a unique opportunity to meet in one place, to network and share information and learn of new initiatives. The conference theme “Better Together: Many Nations, One Country” will be addressed through a number of presentations delivered predominantly by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander environmental health practitioners.

I trust you will find the presentations and events informative and inspiring and enjoyable.

### Jeff Standen

Chair, Expert Reference Panel on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health

## Conference Artwork

The conference artwork appears courtesy of the artist Annette Nungala Peterson. The painting is titled “Neutral Junction Landscape”

Annette said “This is bush tomato, bush raisin country. My Grandfather’s country, my Father’s country. In Neutral Junction.”

Annette has painted the landscape of the Bush Tomato Country in Neutral Junction, where she was born. The changing colours of the dotted background represent changes in the landscape as well as the effect of different climates on the landscape. It is also the site of the Dog Dreaming.

## On behalf of Environmental Health Australia

Environmental Health Australia (EHA) is delighted to welcome all delegates to the 13th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference in Darwin, Northern Territory.

EHA is the premier organisation in Australia advocating for environmental health and representing the professional interests of all environmental health practitioners. EHA believes access to training, mentorship, coaching and association with other environmental health practitioners will benefit all EHWs. Our network of State Associations can offer all Environmental Health Workers (EHWs) personal or corporate memberships that enable access to a network of professionals, training and conference opportunities, environmental health products and advocacy, across Australia.

The Conference theme “Better Together: Many Nations, One Country” highlights the variety of issues and challenges and varied approaches being utilised to move communities to better environmental health outcomes. EHA is pleased to be connecting environmental health workers across Australia for this great networking opportunity, working together to progress aboriginal environmental health priorities.

EHA is pleased to continue our successful association with, and administration of, the 2022 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference.

### Philip Swain LFEHA

National President, Environmental Health Australia



# Information

## Venue

DoubleTree By Hilton Esplanade, 116 The Esplanade, Darwin, NT

## Conference Dinner Venue

Botanical Gardens Darwin, Gilruth Ave & Gardens Rd, The Gardens NT

## Conference app

Download the conference app at the conference website [www.natsieh.com.au](http://www.natsieh.com.au) The app offers delegates exclusive features; feedback, presenter Q&A, virtual satchel and more.

Delegates may change the password to their own preference by using the 'lost password link' please note that the email sent to update the passwords will be sent to the email used for your conference registration. Should you have any difficulties please come to the registration desk for assistance. Registration staff can also help with password re-set.

## What to wear

Comfortable casual clothes are suitable for all sessions and the welcome function. For the conference dinner we recommend smart casual attire

## Name badge

Each delegate will receive a name badge which can be collected from the registration desk. Your name badge should be worn at all times. It indicates your registration profile and is your official pass to the conference and catering sessions.

## Registration desk

The registration desk will be located in the Pre-Function Foyer. Registration staff will be pleased to assist you at the following times:

Monday 5 September	1.00pm-5.30pm
Tuesday 6 September	7.45am-6.00pm
Wednesday 7 September	13.30am-4.30pm
Thursday 8 September	8.00am-5.00pm

## Special needs

Please ensure that all special needs such as prescribed medical diets are indicated on your registration form. Where possible, all necessary arrangements will be made to cater for your needs.

## Privacy Policy

By registering for this conference relevant details will be held on a database held by Conference Management Solutions, EHA and the NT Government. A list of delegates (name and organisation) will be available to conference sponsors and exhibitors. Please email the conference secretariat if you do not wish your details included in the delegate lists.

## Code of Conduct and COVID-19 Information

COVID has taught us to consider the public health safety of others and delegates are encouraged to observe the current measures in place to prevent transmission of this disease. COVID has had an impact on services and staffing and we have all been reminded to be more patient and tolerant when going about our normal activities. Face masks are available at the reception desk for those who wish to wear them and hand sanitiser is provided at each of the conference tables for your use.

In addition, ERPATSIEH is committed to providing a safe, productive and welcoming environment to all conference guests and we have no tolerance for discrimination, harassment or bullying in any form. All conference guests have the right to pursue shared interests without harassment or discrimination in an environment that supports diversity, inclusion and safety. All conference guests are expected to adhere to these principles and respect the rights of others. If anyone attending a conference event at any time feels unsafe or uncomfortable they are encouraged to report any inappropriate behaviour to one of the Conference officials (who will be wearing Conference polo shirts.)

Conference guests who behave in a manner that is disrespectful or compromises the safety of others, risk being removed from the event and the remainder of the conference.

Conference officials will be happy to help participants contact hotel/venue security or local law enforcement, provide escorts, or otherwise assist anyone experiencing harassment to feel safe for the duration of the conference. We value your attendance

## Local Conference Organising Group Members

Michael Spry	AMRRIC
Scott Spurling	Barkly Regional Council
Brando Yambalpal	Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
Jeffrey Dhurrkay	Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
Yashdeep Srivastava	Department of Health
Nancy Bird	Department of Health
Elva Gela	Department of Health
Nicola Slavin	Department of Health
Christopher Blow	Department of Health
Christopher Monahan	Department of Health
Julie Wright	Department of Health
Lynette Windsor	Department of Health
Jenine Gunn	Department of Health
Rachel Frearson	Department of Health

# Program

## MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

### TIME & SESSION

### SPEAKER & VENUE

1.00pm - Registration and Arrival Coffee

Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

2.45pm-3.30pm - SESSION 1

Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Call to attention and welcome

Smoking Ceremony

Trent Lee

Welcome to Country

Aunty Bilawara Lee, Larrakia Nation

Torres Strait Islander Prayer

Kathy Cochran, Torres Strait Island Regional Council

Opening Address

Hon Natasha Fyles, Chief Minister, Northern Territory

3.30pm-4.00pm - Afternoon Tea

Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Delegate Session

Phillip Graham, Department of Health and Well Being SA

Welcome by ERPATSIEH

Jeff Standen, Chair ERPATSIEH

Keynote Address

Vicki Wade, RHD Australia, NT

Aboriginal community-led prevention of rheumatic fever: evaluation of the 'END RHD' study

Prof. Anna Ralph, Angela Kelly, Ann-Marie Lee, Segora Badui, Valerina Mungatopi, and Nanda Budhathoki, Charles Darwin University, Christine Fitzgerald, Department of Housing NT, Jessica L. De Dassel, Department of Health NT, Vicki Wade, RHD Australia, Rosemary Wyber, Telethon Kids Institute, WA

STARFISH project: Incorporating Indigenous authorities and governance in a complex project

Glenn Pearson, Prof. Asha Bowen and Lee Bevan, Telethon Kids Institute, WA

Q&A Session

Group photograph

The Esplanade

6.00pm-7.30pm - Welcome Function

The Esplanade

## TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

### TIME & SESSION

### SPEAKER & VENUE

8.00am-8.45am - Registration and Arrival Coffee

Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

8.55am-10.30am - SESSION 2

Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Call to attention and welcome

Keynote Address

Michelle Dowden, One Disease, NT

Japanese encephalitis virus

Aleena Williams, Department of Health, NT

AMRRIC Biosecurity Pilot: Collaborating on Indigenous community animal health surveillance

Jory Stariwat, AMRRIC, NT, Rowena Johnson and Susannah Mosby, Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, QLD

Assisting Indigenous Environmental Health Practitioners to stay connected and informed

Courtney King, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, WA

Q&A Session

10.30am-11.00am - Morning Tea

Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade



## TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

### TIME & SESSION

### SPEAKER & VENUE

#### 11.00am-12.40pm - SESSION 3

#### Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Evolution of Environmental Health COVID-19 Response in the NT Nancy Bird, Department of Health. NT

South Eastern Sydney Public Health Unit – COVID-19 Aboriginal Support Officers Toby Hannan, South Eastern Sydney Local Health - Public Health Unit, NSW

Northern Rivers Flood Disaster Response & Recovery 2022 Abbey Eggins, Richmond Valley Council / NSW Health Aboriginal PHU, NSW

Environmental Health East Arnhem Brando Yambalpal and Jeffrey Dhurrkay, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation, NT

Managing risks from water bodies: consulting communities to improve national guidelines Jen Savanake and Emily McDonald, National Health and Medical Research Council, VIC

#### Q&A Session

#### 12.40pm-1.40pm - Luncheon

#### Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

#### 1.00pm-1.15pm - POSTER SESSIONS

#### Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

#### 1.40pm-3.20pm - SESSION 4

#### Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

NT COVID-19 Waste Water Sampling Program Nicola Slavin, Department of Health and Tony Boland, Trop Water Pty Ltd, NT

Nirrumbuk's journey through the COVID-19 Pandemic Louie Bin Maarus and Madeline Lawford, Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services, WA

Clean Country - Collaboration and Local Solutions Robert Barnett, NSW Health and Stephen Neale, Community Housing Ltd, NSW

Mental ill-health and Suicide Prevention is everyone's responsibility Ian James, Office of the Chief Psychiatrist, SA Health

#### Q&A Session

#### 3.20pm-3.50pm - Afternoon Tea

#### Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

#### 3.50pm-5.00pm - SESSION 5

#### Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade

Learning more about people's experiences of overcrowding in the Kimberley Chicky Clements and Jeanette Ward, Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services, WA

EH referrals (by clinicians) plus home health hardware checks and fixes: the WA story thus far Robert Mullane, Department of Health, WA

Strengthening connections with Aboriginal families via the lunchbox Adam McEwen and Nina Kingon, Health Protection NSW, Amanda Mills and Jillian Hogan, San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, Leanne Andrew, Central Coast Local Health District and Stephen Ella, Nunyara, Aboriginal Health Service, NSW

#### Q&A Session

Close and Housekeeping

# Program

**WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER**

**TIME & SESSION**

**SPEAKER & VENUE**

**8.00am-12.30pm - EXCURSIONS**

**Pre-selected activity in various locations**

All excursions depart from the DoubleTree by Hilton, Esplanade (Conference Hotel). Please be ready at the hotel entrance (outside) 15 minutes before the departure time listed below

Barramundi Adventures and Berry Springs Nature Reserve	Departure 8.15am
Pukadul Aboriginal Cultural Experience	Departure 8.15am
Crocodylus Park	Departure 9.15am
Museum and Art Gallery of NT and Military Museum	Departure 9.15am
Practical Training Workshop for Animal Management Workers	Departure 9.15am

**12.15pm-1.15pm - Luncheon**

**Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade**

**1.15pm-2.40pm - SESSION 6**

**Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade**

<b>Keynote Address</b>	<b>Kabay Tamu, Torres Strait 8 Case</b>
On the job training: Making homes healthier places	Robert Bonney, Bega Garnbirringu Health Service, Dr Mel Stoneham and Scott Mackenzie, #endingtrachoma project
Aboriginal COVID-19 Focused Plumbing Projects	Dr Angela Pitts and Jessica Spencer, Health Protection, NSW

**Q&A Session**

**2.40pm-3.00pm - Afternoon Tea**

**Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade**

**3.00pm-4.15pm - SESSION 7**

**Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade**

NACCHO Workshop	Monica Barolits-McCabe, Executive Director, NACCHO
Close and Housekeeping	

**POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

**SPEAKER**

The preventable burden of Strep A infections in remote Indigenous communities	Samuel Barnes, University of Queensland, QLD
Understanding Animal Management Needs in Far North QLD	Helen Bigmore and Bonny Cumming, AMRRIC and Samuel Hudson, Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council, NT
Ensuring your promotional materials have the greatest impact on the people you service	Isaac Buckle and Camelia Juboy, Shire of Derby West Kimberley, WA
Protecting our community together- a local united response	Isaac Buckle and Susan Stafford, Shire of Derby West Kimberley, WA
Compassionate Community Animal Care and Control	Kaylene Doust, Roper Gulf Regional council, NT
Researching how to reduce the incidence of Strep A infections	Stephanie Enkel, Dr Hannah Thomas, Dr Nina Lansbury, Prof Jonathan Carapetis and Assoc Prof Asha Brown, Telethon Kids Institute, WA
Companion Animal Education in Remote Communities	Michelle Hayes, AMRRIC, NT
AMRRIC's One Health Approach: Research, Training and Education and Product Availability	Jessica Hoopes, Katrina Doody and Michael Spry, AMRRIC, NT
Environmental health, climate change and remote communities	Nina Lansbury, Paul Memmott, Andrew M Redmond, University of Queensland, Patrick (Pepy) Jakkamarra Simpson and Patricia Nururla Frank, Anyinginyi Health Aboriginal Corporation, NT
Milpa's Six Steps to Stop Germs: A unified approach to preventable childhood infections	Nick Wilson, Indigenous Eye Health - The University of Melbourne, VIC



## THURSDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

### TIME & SESSION

### SPEAKER & VENUE

8.00am-8.45am - Registration and Arrival Coffee	Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
9.25am-10.45am - SESSION 8	Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
Emerging issues and the integral role of a One Health approach for improved cat management	Paris O'Rouke, Jessica Hoopes, Katrina Doody and Tida Nou, AMRRIC, NT
Eliminating Trachoma: An Overview of Environmental Improvement Activities in Central Australia	Nick Wilson, Indigenous Eye Health - The University of Melbourne, VIC
A Holistic Approach to Animal Management in Remote Indigenous Communities	Dr Lauren Clark and Tineka Turner, East Arnhem Regional Council, NT
<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	
10.45am-11.15am - Morning Tea	Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
11.15am-12.30am - SESSION 9	Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
Torres Strait Islands Regional Council response to Covid-19	Rowena Johnson and Susannah Mosby, Torres Strait Islands Regional Council, QLD
Ensuring Public Health and Safety during Awabas Swimming Season	Skye-Ann Anderson, Lake Macquarie City Council, NSW
Thunggutti Service Support Group – Collaborating to improve Health and Social-Emotional Wellbeing	Jo-Anne Kelly and Aunty Ruth Dunn, Thunggutti Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW
<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	
12.30pm-1.30pm - Luncheon	Grand Ballroom Foyer, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
12.45pm-1.00pm - POSTER SESSIONS	Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
1.30pm-3.30pm - SESSION 10	Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton Esplanade
The Shire of Derby / West Kimberley multi-layered approach to mosquito management	Catherine Feeney, Shire of Derby West Kimberley, WA
Katherine Deployment - First Community Transmission/ Outbreak in the NT	Jessyca Herrera, Department of Health, NT
Using Stories to Promote Healthy Ears through Healthy Homes	Dr Melissa Stoneham, Stoneham and Associates, Clayton Abreu and Assoc Prof Nikki Percival, UTS, QLD
Climate change and Aboriginal Environmental Health in NSW	Jeff Standen and Jessica Spencer, Health Protection NSW
<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	
Summary and Introduction to 14 <sup>th</sup> NATSIEH Conference 2024	Jeff Standen, Chair ERPATSIEH
Close	

### Disclaimer

The conference committee reserves the right to make alterations to the program as circumstances may require.

# Keynote Speakers

Keynote Address - Monday

**Vicki Wade**

Director, RHDAustralia



Vicki Wade is a proud Noongar woman with over 40 years of experience in health at state and national levels. Vicki is a recipient of multiple national awards including the 2019 AHHA Sidney Sax medal and CSANZ Indigenous Health lifetime award for her contributions to Australian health services policy, delivery and research, particularly in relation to Indigenous heart health. Vicki is well known across Australia and is well respected for the work she has done in helping to close the gap. Vicki sits on the National Close the Gap steering committee and a previous board member of the Congress of Aboriginal Nurses and Midwives

Vicki also sits on numerous national research projects providing a critical lens to the socio-cultural context with the aim to reduce research and evidence practice gaps. Vicki is a current PhD student looking at the social and emotional wellbeing of young Aboriginal people with RHD at the Charles Darwin University. Vicki is a strong advocate for her people following her matriarchal lineage, Vicki's grandmother was a healer and helped with the Noongar women in birthing on country in the mission and later reserves in south west of Perth, her mother was one of the first enrolled nurses in Perth and her daughter is carrying on the tradition as a doctor. Vicki hopes that the work she does will see her grandchildren have better opportunities that she and her family were afforded. Australia.

Keynote Address - Tuesday

**Michelle Dowden**

CEO, One Disease



Michelle is the CEO for One Disease. She is a registered Nurse Midwife with over 25 years' experience conducting health programs, which focus on good clinical outcomes and the social determinants of health. The main focus of Michelle's work has been with remote Indigenous communities and other large Indigenous health services throughout Australia both in research and service delivery. She lived and worked on Elcho Island for many years.

Michelle has a strong background and understanding of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in Indigenous Primary Healthcare, both in research and service delivery. From 2003 until 2008, Michelle was the Project Manager for the Audit and Best Practice in Chronic Disease (ABCD) research project. This project played a pivotal role in the on-going CQI Strategy for the Northern Territory.

In 2006 she completed her Master's in Public Health at Charles Darwin University. Her treatise topic – "Factors Affecting Uptake of CQI. Exploring how to embed processes for sustainability" clearly reflects the way Michelle works in practice. She continues to be actively involved with research and contributes to peer reviewed publications.

Michelle began working for One Disease in 2016 and was responsible for writing the One Disease Crusted Scabies Elimination Plan. In 2019, she was awarded the Northern Territory Administrator's Medal (Individual Category) in Primary Health Care.

Keynote Address - Wednesday

**Kabay Tamu**

Torres Strait 8 Case



Kabay Tamu is a sixth-generation Warraberalgal Traditional Owner, living on Warraber Island in the Torres Strait. He is one of the claimants from the Torres Strait 8 case, where eight Traditional Owners from the Torres Strait have made a landmark human rights complaint to the United Nations over climate change.

Kabay attracted international headlines when he asked Prime Minister Scott Morrison to visit Warraber during the 2019 UN climate summit in New York. The Prime Minister declined Kabay's invitation to see climate impacts in the Torres Strait. Kabay is an advocate for Torres Strait's fight for climate justice through the 'Our Islands Our Home' campaign.



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National Health and Medical Research Council

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