

Indigenous Ear **InfoNet**

Helping to 'close the gap' by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health

A resource about Indigenous ear health and hearing



by Norma Bengel Chidanpee

www.earinfo.net.org.au



Contact details

Jane Burns

Email: jane.burns@ecu.edu.au

Phone: (08) 9370 6136

Fax: (08) 9370 6022

Address: Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet*
Kurungkurl Katitjin Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research
Edith Cowan University
2 Bradford Street
MT LAWLEY WA 6050

Felicity Ward

Email: Felicity.Ward@menzies.edu.au

Phone: (08) 8922 8835

Fax: (08) 8927 5187

Address: Menzies School of Health Research
PO Box 41096
CASURINA NT 0811

Artwork: Ngummama - Dragonfly

The story of the dragonfly

The centre of the artwork represents the baby and the subject of hearing, the outside circles joined by the dots are the links between families, organisations and other people working to help in the fight against ear disease and hearing problems in Aboriginal people.

When babies are born in the dry season this is also the time of the birth of the dragonfly, which hums and buzzes around the air excited about the birth of the new season.

The grandmothers catch the dragonflies to test babies' hearing, making them buzz near the babies' ears. When a baby responds we know that they have good hearing. If not, the old ladies bring the dragonfly closer so the baby can feel the vibration and the sound of its wings, then she sings to the spirits and the dragonfly, 'we all must look after this child together to help him to grow and be able to communicate'.

So, if you see a dragonfly buzzing around a baby, it is just looking and checking the baby's response because that's what they do. In the past, everyone worked together - dragonflies, grandmothers and the spirits.

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How you can help us

We welcome your support and there are many ways you can help us in our work.

If you are:

- working in Indigenous health: please provide details of programs or projects or any health promotion or disease prevention resources.
- an academic or researcher: please provide details of research publications (e.g. journal articles, reports, theses, dissertations or other publications) or join us as a visiting research fellow for your academic study leave.
- a senior government staff member: please encourage a greater level of support, particularly at a State level.
- a senior private industry staff member: please become a sponsor and make a vital contribution to our work.
- conference organisers: please make us an integral part of your program through the inclusion of a Health *InfoNet* café at your conference. This valuable service offers delegates the opportunity to explore our website and see how the Health *InfoNet* can help them in their work.



Ear examination at Danila Dilba Health Service (Aboriginal Corporation), Darwin

Join a free yarnning place

Tick the yarnning place(s) you would like to join that are relevant to your area of work or expertise and enjoy the benefits of being connected to a national network.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Ear <i>InfoNet</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous environmental health practitioners | <input type="checkbox"/> Road safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Heart <i>InfoNet</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Social and emotional wellbeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Health Workers | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance misuse |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Australian Indigenous Health Promotion Network |
- Please tick this box if you would also like to join the general e-message stick.

The general e-message stick is an email list (also called a listserve) that enables people across the country to share information and yarn.

Simply complete this form and email or fax to us, or join online (see www.earinfo.net.org.au)

Name:

Job title:

Organisation:

State or Territory:

Email:

Phone:

Signature:

By giving my signature I have given permission to join the yarnning place(s) and know that I can unsubscribe at any time.



Who develops and maintains the Indigenous EarInfoNet

The Indigenous EarInfoNet is being developed and maintained by the Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet (<http://www.healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au>) and Menzies School of Health Research (www.menzies.edu.au).

About the HealthInfoNet

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet is a national innovative Internet resource that aims to inform practice and policy in Indigenous health by making the evidence base readily accessible. The HealthInfoNet is helping to 'close the gap' in health between Indigenous and other Australians. It is a 'one-stop info-shop' for people interested in improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians. It makes published, unpublished and specially-developed material about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health available to people involved in the area to enhance their knowledge and skills, and improve their practice and/or policy work. The knowledge available will improve understanding of Indigenous health and related areas. Access to all information on the site is free and available to everyone.

Menzies?

Menzies School of Health Research, recognised as a national leader in Indigenous, tropical and remote health research, is helping to discover better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat disease, tackle the social determinants

of health and deliver better health services.

Core funding for the HealthInfoNet's work is provided by the Australian Department of Health and Ageing's Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH). The EarInfoNet is a section of the HealthInfoNet website and has additional funding from the Pratt Foundation and Variety, the Children's Charity.

The EarInfoNet reference group

Development of this web resource and the associated yarning place is guided by a national reference group. The EarInfoNet reference group includes people working as practitioners, and/or researchers in the area of ear health and hearing among Indigenous peoples.

What you can find on the EarInfoNet web resource

The Indigenous EarInfoNet provides quality, up-to-date information and resources about how to prevent and/or minimise the harm associated with ear disease and hearing loss among Indigenous peoples.

The index page for the EarInfoNet provides access to the following sections:

- Reviews
- Policies and strategies
- Programs and projects
- Resources and equipment
- Publications
- Organisations and services
- Workforce

Who uses the EarInfoNet?

The EarInfoNet defines its target audience broadly as all people working, studying or interested in Indigenous ear health and hearing. It is a useful resource for many groups including:

- Indigenous controlled health services and their representative bodies
- government departments of health and Indigenous affairs
- non-governmental agencies
- professorial associations and health service providers (including Indigenous health practitioners, doctors, nurses and other health providers)
- research agencies and bodies
- students in health-related courses and their teachers



How can the EarInfoNetwork yarning place help you?

The yarning places are national electronic networks that enable people to share information, knowledge and experience. The EarInfoNetwork yarning place is specifically for ear health.

By combining quality, up-to-date web-based information resources with yarning places we aim to create 'one stop info-shops' for people working, studying or interested in various Indigenous health issues. When you join a yarning place - membership is free - you will have access to electronic services that assist members to network, yarn and share information and experiences online.

Electronic services provided are:

- The e-message stick – email list (listserve) for communicating with other members.
- The e-yarning board – electronic discussion board for debating relevant issues.
- The e-mob list – members' contact details (permission to display the details is obtained beforehand)

Members may use the yarning places or the general e-message stick (listserve) to seek info about current projects, advertise a job, or let others know about an upcoming event. If you have a query then another member may be able to help. Yarning places have been developed with funding and collaboration from organisations with expertise in these areas.

