

# VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS FORUM

Supporting Aboriginal Maternal, Child and Family Health

Created by Bundjalung Artist, Dr Bronwyn Bancroft



## Community Development: Strength in empowering mob to grow and thrive

### When:

Wednesday 1 May 2024  
9:30am – 2:00pm

The Connections Forum is a virtual event dedicated to supporting Aboriginal Maternal, Infant, Child and Family Health Services. The Connections Forum will showcase a range of inspiring presentations focused on community development with Aboriginal communities.

[Read more about the speakers](#)

Time	Session	Speaker
9:30am	<b>Welcome/ Housekeeping</b> <b>Acknowledgment of Country</b> <b>Introduction and formal opening of event</b>	<b>Adj Prof Annette Solman</b> , Chief Executive, HETI
9:45am	<b>Keynote presentation: Community development - centring culture and Aboriginal people to build capacity, strength and assets</b> Community development: collaboration with local Aboriginal people to build capacity, strength, and assets that reflect Aboriginal people's (local community context) perspectives to achieve their identified goals.  This presentation will explore the social, political, historical and cultural determinants, the strengths of an Aboriginal workforce, and how services can engage in community development to collaborate with Aboriginal communities to develop and provide culturally safe and responsive Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Services.	<b>Keona Wilson</b> , Director, Workforce Engagement, Indigenous Allied Health Australia  <a href="#">Indigenous Allied Health Australia-Make a difference... be an allied health professional (iaha.com.au)</a>
10:50am	<b>Morning tea</b>	



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11:00am	<p><b>Binji and Boori Calendar</b> The story behind how the idea of creating a calendar with images from our families was born. Since the first calendar, this project has become extremely popular and is the centre piece for community development activities.</p>	<p><b>Tamara Blanch</b>, Registered Midwife <b>Katrina Harris</b>, Registered Midwife <b>Alison Bramstedt</b>, Registered Midwife Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-services/aboriginal-and-community-health/aboriginal-maternal-infant-child-health-amich">Binji &amp; Boori-Aboriginal Maternal Infant Child Health (AMICH)   Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD) (nsw.gov.au)</a></p>
11:25am	<p><b>The Women's Group</b> How the establishment of a weekly group for women to connect and share has grown.</p>	<p><b>Taneka Longbottom</b>, Aboriginal Health Worker, Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Services  <b>Mikeyha Harrison</b>, Aboriginal Health Worker, Building Strong Foundations for Aboriginal Children, Families and Communities  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-services/aboriginal-and-community-health/aboriginal-health-in-southern-nsw">Aboriginal Health in Southern NSW   NSW Government (nsw.gov.au)</a></p>
11:50am	<p><b>The Breastfeeding Storybook</b> Supporting mothers in their antenatal period with information about breastfeeding to inform their decision making.</p>	<p><b>Linda Bootle</b>, Clinical Midwifery Consultant <b>Kelly Lienesch</b>, Aboriginal Health Practitioner Western NSW Local Health District  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-services/aboriginal-and-community-health/breastfeeding-our-boori">Breastfeeding our Boori   NSW Government (nsw.gov.au)</a></p>
12:15pm	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:45pm	<p><b>Baby Smoking Ceremony</b> An annual Baby Smoking Ceremony to welcome new babies to Country is bring traditional ceremony back into everyday life.</p>	<p><b>Charli Thomas</b>, Aboriginal Health Worker, Midwife, Child and Family Health Nursing -Hunter New England Local Health District  <b>Jade Perry</b>, Aboriginal Health Practitioner, Aboriginal Health Unit Singleton</p>
1:10pm	<p><b>'My door is always open'</b></p>	<p><b>Aunty Di Ball</b> <b>Aunty Zona Kelly</b> Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation</p>
1:25pm	<p><b>The ripple effect of “networking” and the “power” in collaboration</b> Supporting and nurturing our community development and building capacity to empower Mob to “Grow and Thrive”.  Exploring how we do business when partnering with our local Aboriginal communities. “Yarning”, a tool not to be dismissed.</p>	<p><b>Leonie Garvey</b>, Manager -Aboriginal Health Unit, Greater Newcastle Sector  <a href="https://www.nsw.gov.au/health-and-services/aboriginal-and-community-health/aboriginal-health-unit">Aboriginal Health Unit   HNE Health (nsw.gov.au)</a></p>
1:55pm	<p><b>Summary and close</b></p>	<p><b>Maria Berarducci</b>, Director -Rural, Remote and Allied Health, HETI</p>