

Speakers



Professor Pat Dudgeon

Chair, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health

Professor Dudgeon is from the Bardi people of the Kimberley. She is a psychologist and is well known for her leadership in Indigenous higher education, in particular as Head of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University for 19 years.

Currently she is a research fellow and an associate professor at the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Western Australia. She is actively involved with the Aboriginal community, having an ongoing commitment to social justice for Indigenous people.

Professor Dudgeon is Co-chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group and a member of the National Mental Health Commission. She is the Director of the National Empowerment Project and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Evaluation Project.



Dr Mark Wenitong

Public Health Medical Officer, Apunipima Cape York Health Council

Mark is from the Kabi Kabi tribal group of South Queensland and is passionate about improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

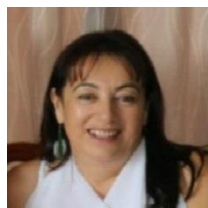
Mark is Aboriginal Public Health Medical Officer at Apunipima Cape York Health Council, where he is working on health reform across the Cape York Aboriginal communities. He is also a member of the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council.

Mark has been a Senior Medical Officer at Wuchopperen Health Services, a Medical Advisor for the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Canberra, the acting CEO of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, and has worked in community development with World Vision in the Northern Territory.

Mark is a past president and founder of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association. Previously a member on the National Health Committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council, he is Chair of Andrology

Australia—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Male Health Advisory Committee, board member of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and the AITHM.

Mark is heavily involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce and has helped develop several national workforce documents. He is also involved in several research projects, and has worked in prison health, refugee health in East Timor, and Indigenous health internationally.



Donna Blair

General Manager, Manaaki Ora Trust t/a, Te Utuhina Manaakitanga

Donna is from the Iwi of Ngai Tahu and Kati Mamoe of the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand. Twenty-five years ago Donna trained and worked as an Alcohol and Other Drug Practitioner in Auckland before moving into leadership roles. For the past 11 years Donna has managed Te Utuhina Manaakitanga a kaupapa Maori addiction service in Rotorua.

Donna has held a variety of roles within the addiction sector nationally including workforce development, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), National Committee of Addiction Treatment, regional forums and a member of the International Wharerātā Group.



Dr Renee Linklater

Director of Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach for the Provincial System Support Program, Center for Addiction and Mental Health

Dr Renee Linklater, PhD is a member of Rainy River First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. Renee has 20 years of experience working with Aboriginal healing agencies and First Nation communities. She has worked across the health and education sectors as a frontline worker, program evaluator, curriculum developer, educator/trainer and researcher.

Renee is an international speaker on trauma and healing and is author of Decolonizing trauma work: Indigenous stories and strategies. She is the Director of Aboriginal Engagement and Outreach for the Provincial System Support Program at the Center for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).