

Program

Monday 19th August 2002, Sydney Convention Centre

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FORUM

MAKING PROGRESS HAPPEN: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Following a traditional welcoming ceremony by the Indigenous Owners, this forum will review past and present indigenous mental health programs throughout Oceania. It is now well recognized that there are fundamental elements necessary for improving mental health services for indigenous communities. Indeed, co-ordinated responses are needed to build the capacity of indigenous communities in terms of mental health expertise. A number of reports have pointed the way forward: The Australian National Mental Health Report 2000 (includes a number of initiatives funded through the National Mental Health Strategy) and The Action Plan on Social and Emotional Well Being, 1996. This forum will include speakers in the first section and provide time for participant discussion in the second section of the forum.

PANEL

Pat Anderson, Chairperson, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Phyllis Tangitu, General Manager, Maori Health for the Lakes District Health Board

Christine King and Clinton Wallace, Departmental Officers, Mental Health & Special Programs Branch, Department of Health and Ageing

Prof. Beverley Raphael, Director, NSW Centre for Mental Health

Chairperson: Robyn Shields, Clinical Nurse Consultant- Aboriginal Mental Health, Aboriginal Mental Health Unit, Central Sydney Area Health Service

1.30pm	Opening ceremony by indigenous peoples
2.00pm	Panel presentations
3.15pm	Afternoon tea
3.40pm	Discussion of issues arising from presentations
5.00pm	Close

Maurice Walker, Project Officer, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, with endorsement from the Indigenous Forum, will feedback outcomes of this Forum to the plenary session on Thursday, 22nd August.