

2018

30 NOVEMBER



SYDNEY | MERCURE, GEORGE STREET



2018 National Indigenous Allied Health Awards GALA DINNER

2018 IAHA National Indigenous Allied Health Awards were held in a night of fun and flare with Forum delegates and invited guests. Delegates were joined by Senator Patrick Dodson and Hon Warren Snowden MP. The night also recognised all allied health graduates of 2018 and were entertained with a strong cultural performance from Kiris An Taran Torres Strait Island Dance Troupe.

The Awards is an opportunity to recognise the incredible contribution our members make to their professions and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and our communities.

Congratulations to our 2018 Winners:

- IAHA Life Time Achievement Award - Thomas Brideson
- Future Leader in Indigenous Allied Health Award - Mitchell Walley
- Indigenous Allied Health Student Academic Achievement Award - Nicole Velkoski
- Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award - Corrine Butler
- Allied Health Inspiration Award - Rikki Fischer
- Commitment to Indigenous Health Award - Stephanie Armstrong

Do you know someone who deserves an Award in Indigenous Allied Health? NOMINATE THEM

Nominations will open May 2019
for the 2019 IAHA National Indigenous
Allied Health Awards
WATCH THIS SPACE



IAHA Life Time Achievement Award

Sponsored by IAHA



Nominated and chosen by the IAHA Board of Directors, this award celebrates an IAHA Full Member for their long standing commitment to their profession and in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Winner: Tom Brideson, Social Welfare/Mental Health

Tom Brideson is a Kamilaroi/Gomeroi man born in Gunnedah north-west NSW. Since the early 1990's Tom has been actively involved in mental health and health policy; social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB); clinical mental health care; suicide prevention; education and mental health leadership.

Since 2007, Tom has been the State-wide Coordinator for the NSW Aboriginal Mental Health Workforce Program and lives in Orange, NSW. He has published articles regarding the Aboriginal mental health workforce and advocates for the broad emerging professional workforces to ensure meaningful career pathways across all health and human services. Tom is currently the Chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health. He sits on the Community Advisory Council with the NSW Mental Health Commission.



Lifetime Achievement Award Winner
Tom Brideson with Professor Tom Calma AO

Future Leader in Indigenous Allied Health Award

Sponsored by Dietitians Association of Australia



This award is open to all current IAHA Full Members (Student) enrolled in an entry level allied health degree who demonstrate leadership capabilities, a commitment to their studies and leadership journey and are an inspirational role model for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Winner: Mitchell Walley

Mitchell is a proud Ballardong man from the noongar nation and has been an active student member of IAHA since 2017. He is currently in his final year of study in the Bachelor of Speech Pathology degree at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Perth WA. He is currently the only male aboriginal student studying this degree in Australia and In 2019 he will be the first Aboriginal Male completing a Bachelor of Speech Pathology in WA.

Mitchell did his placement with the Western Australia Centre for Rural Health (WACRH) student program in Geraldton and Mount Magnet and was able to connect with the community and be a role model for the young Aboriginal people.



Future Leader in Indigenous Allied Health Award
Winner Mitchell Walley with Melissa Armstrong (DAA)

Indigenous Allied Health Student Academic Achievement Award

Sponsored by Australian Council of Deans Health Sciences



The Indigenous Allied Health Student Academic Achievement Award is awarded to an IAHA full member student who has consistently demonstrated high academic progress throughout their allied health course and who has demonstrated a contribution to university life and/or community and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Winner: Nicole Velkoski

Nicole is a Wiradjuri woman that has just completed her final year of her Psychology undergraduate degree with a distinction average. She is a mother of two children, works full time and up until this year has been studying full time. On top of the responsibilities that Nicole has in both her personal life and her study and work life, Nicole has been actively engaging in building a supportive community within the Edith Cowan University campus as well as outside in the Perth community.

Nicole volunteered within the ECU peer mentoring program in 2018 and was nominated and successfully sat on the Vice Chancellor Student Advisory committee two years in a row, where she actively contributed to conversations around the rights of all her peers as well as passionately ensuring that such opportunities and many other opportunities continue to exist or are created for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years to come. Nicole sat on the Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) student representative committee in 2018 and amongst all this, Nicole has also been volunteering as a drug and alcohol counsellor.



Indigenous Allied Health Student Academic Achievement Award Winner Nicole Velkoski with Kathryn Refshauge (ACDHS)

Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award

Sponsored by Flinders University NT



The Allied Health Professional of the Year is awarded to an IAHA full member graduate who has worked in a relevant field for at least 5 years. The award recognises the recipients commitment, dedication and contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families /or communities within their profession.

Winner: Corrine Butler, Occupational Therapist

Corrine Butler is an Aboriginal woman with strong family connections to Yarrabah, Far North Queensland. She received an Occupational Therapy degree from James Cook University in 2009. She joined IAHA in 2009 as a fourth year Occupational Therapy student. Corrine has participated in multiple professional development opportunities, volunteering at IAHA Stalls and mentoring programs. She is co-founder of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Occupational Therapy Network. Corrine has worked as an Occupational Therapist in regional and remote areas across Queensland and the Northern Territory. She has worked for the Deadly Ears program in Queensland since 2015.



Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award Winner Corrine Butler with Monica Barolits-McCabe (Flinders NT)

Allied Health Inspiration Award

Sponsored by Ngroo Education Inc



The Allied Health Inspiration Award is awarded to IAHA full members who has demonstrated the ability to inspire others through their positive approach to their personal and professional allied health journeys – overcoming challenges and taking a strengths-based approach to success. The award also recognises the recipient's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Winner: Rikki Fischer

Waiting on Blurb for Rikki Fischer

Rikki is a proud Wiradjuri woman living and working on Larrakia Country in Darwin. She has a Bachelor of Health Science (mental health), Cert IV in AOD, Cert IV in Human Resources, Cert IV in TAE and a Diploma in Auditing.

Rikki has been a member of IAHA since 2014 and has played an active role in supporting IAHA's NT Aboriginal Health Academy. Her passion is working with high school students to achieve their dreams, lives their lives to their full potential and to have a healthy lifestyle. She is dedicated to growing and supporting the next generation, the future workforce and future role models in the community.



Allied Health Inspiration Award Rikki Fischer with Tirritjpa Ritchie (IAHA Deputy Chair)

Commitment to Indigenous Health Award



Sponsored by Flinders University NT **Flinders**
UNIVERSITY

The Commitment to Indigenous Allied Health Award is awarded to an IAHA Associate Member who has demonstrated a commitment and contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through allied health, and, who has demonstrated cultural responsiveness in the delivery of services/programs/initiatives to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Winner: Stephanie Armstrong

Stephanie is a proud Gamilaraay woman and has worked to increase the understandings around how to provide support for young Aboriginal women following their dreams. Stephanie has co-lead Weenthunga Health Network to provide leadership in strength based approaches to young women and their sense of identity. Her other focus is to increase the knowledge and understandings of Australians who wish to support improved Indigenous health outcomes. Her energy has seen her present workshop from schools to Universities so as to provide an informed network of supporters to local students. Always encouraging all to work with compassion, love and courage. Her respected position now sees her being termed as an Aunty, not only within her local Bendigo community but further afield in Victoria. She volunteers on many committees and boards. She is proud of being seen as a role model to many local Aboriginal women and especially to her two daughters.



Commitment to Indigeous Health Award Winner Stephanie Armstrong with Monica Barolits-McCabe (Flinders NT)