



Celebrating International Women's Day 2019

Australia's IWD 2019 theme is more powerful together, recognising the important role we all play in achieving gender equality. Indigenous Allied Health Australia would like to recognise the matriarchs who are central to our families and communities, and make enormous contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing.

On International Women's Day, we spotlight some of our previous IAHA National Indigenous Allied Health Award Winners. They are among the growing number of amazing women in IAHA's Membership.

2018 Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award – 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.

2017 - Indigenous Allied Health Inspiration Award – Celeste Brand

Celeste Brand is an Eastern Arrernte/Arabana woman, born and raised on Arrernte country in Alice Springs. She joined IAHA in 2014 as a second year Social Work student studying a Bachelor of Social Work at Curtin University in Perth. Celeste participated in multiple professional development opportunities and was a member of the IAHA Student Representative Committee in 2015 until the end of 2016 when she graduated. She is now working as a Social Worker in Alice Springs.

2016 Indigenous Allied Health Professional of the Year Award – Tameka Small

Tameka is from the Kamilaroi nation. After completing her Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics she gained a position at Hunter New England Population Health (HNEPH) as an Aboriginal Public Health Nutritionist. Here she has had the opportunity to work closely with the community, particularly in schools and sports clubs, advocating for culturally appropriate public health programs. Tameka has been involved with the restructure of Hunter New England Population Health with regards to cultural respect and development, with the introduction of cultural appropriateness screening of all programs each year to ensure that Aboriginal health becomes everyone's business. Additionally, Tameka is currently completing a PhD in behavioural science and medicine.

2015 IAHA Life Time Achievement Award - Professor Kerry Arabena

Kerry Arabena is the Chair of Indigenous Health and Director of the Indigenous Health Equity Unit at the University of Melbourne. A descendant of the Meriam people of the Torres Strait, she has a Doctorate in Human Ecology and an extensive background in public health, administration, community development and research.

Kerry's work has made significant contributions across many States and Territories in areas such as gender issues, social justice, human rights, access and equity, service provision, harm minimisation, and citizenship rights and responsibilities. Kerry is also leading the development of the First 1000 Days Australia initiative and is Chair of the Council and Co-Chair of the Research Advisory Committee.