



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

Poche Centre for
Indigenous Health



The Centre of Best Practice in
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Suicide Prevention

Report to the Anika Foundation from the Poche Centre of Indigenous Health, University of Western Australia

Background

The Anika Foundation made funds available to support a number of bursaries for Indigenous scholars (aged between 18-30) to attend the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference and the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference, 20th - 23rd November 2018 hosted by the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Western Australia.

The aim of the Conferences was to bring together experts, leaders and members of the national and international Indigenous community to identify culturally appropriate approaches to suicide prevention.

The theme of the Conferences, ***Building a Stronger Tomorrow: Connecting our Communities Through Culture***, reflects the unique opportunities for Indigenous people and communities, policy makers and researchers to share learning and to collaborate on solutions that work in Indigenous suicide prevention.

The conferences attracted over 500 delegates from across Australia and the World. The Conferences were preceded by the World Indigenous Youth Cultural Exchange Day, held on 19th November 2018.

Successful Applicants

Applicants were requested to show an interest in leadership development, a willingness to participate in the youth stream during the conference and a commitment to sharing the knowledge learnt with their community. Participants also agreed to provide a written report to the Anika Foundation on the conference information relevant to their communities.

Manel	Aggie	NISPC	Western Australia
Ramirez-Watkins	Ashton	NISPC	Western Australia
Daley	Megan	NISPC & WISPC	ACT
Tabuai	Allena	NISPC	Injinoo, North Queensland
Woosup	Denley	NISPC	Injinoo, North Queensland
Wyatt	Willara	NISPC & WISPC	Western Australia

Four of the bursary holders provided a video interview in place of a written report.

Questions asked of the Anika bursary holders:

1. *Who you are (name)?*
2. *Where you are from?*
3. *What do you hope to achieve by attending?*
4. *How will attending the conference improve you and your community?*
5. *How will you share the knowledge you have gained from the conference with your community?*

Link to the participants' video report. [ISPC Report](#)

Allena Tabuai participated in an interview but later withdrew her consent for the video to be shared. During the interview she spoke on what she had learned about grief, self-healing and the knowledge she had gained throughout the conference sessions held by Indigenous leaders and others. She felt that the experiences of the people presenting, what they had been through and how they dealt with the grieving and healing process, would benefit her community. She also spoke of the prevalence of suicide in her own community, her lived experience of bereavement and the lack of mental health services. ***“I have learned a lot about grief and self-healing that will benefit family and community where I come from”.***

Denley Woosup from Cape York attended the conference but did not participate in a video interview.

Link to: [Love and Hope Video](#)

(Featuring the voices of Indigenous people from Australia and Canada the song was co-written by young people with song writing mentors from the Homelands Tour and the Youth Music Mentoring Project at the 2nd National and World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conferences).



Copy of Conference Recommendations attached

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8th May 2019