

Franklin Women

May 2016 Newsletter

I must start off this month's newsletter by saying a big thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our survey. We cannot wait to start going through your feedback to help us prioritise future activities that will be of most benefit to you. Oh, and a big congratulations to Shona Goldsmith from the Cerebral Palsy Alliance who was the lucky survey prize winner – thanks to [ThinkWell](#) Shona has some great academic professional development books coming her way.

I feel like our Anne Kelso event was just yesterday (a sign that time is moving so fast) but we now have registrations open for our second event for the year – [Funding outside the box](#). With the success rates for NHMRC grants at an all-time low it is time to be innovative and start thinking of other mechanisms to fund research projects and that is the aim from this event. We have some great speakers (both funders and researchers) from different funding sources that you might not have thought of, or have wanted to try but didn't know where to start. All the details are in this month's newsletter and of course on our website.

Hope to see you there, and happy reading!

Melina and the FW team



What happened this month

- Nominations are now open for the 19th annual [Women in Technology](#) (WiT) awards – why don't you submit an application or nomination?
 - Thinkable and the Sun Foundation have launched an exciting [Peer Prize](#) for women in science – all entries will be showcased in an open knowledge hub, how cool is that?!
 - The Advisory Board for the [Medical Research Future Fund](#) are seeking public submissions to help form their strategy and immediate priority areas.
 - The [2016/17 federal budget](#) was announced – here is a useful summary of what's relevant for science, research, innovation and higher education.
 - The Australian Academy of Science announced their new [Fellows for 2016](#)
 - There's been a new installment of the [FW Blog](#) from Anee Baird about her career journey in the area of music therapy and science engagement – brilliant!
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FW Journal Club

This month's Journal Club comes from [Dr Kylie Lee](#), NHMRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow from the Indigenous Substance Use Program, Discipline of Addiction Medicine, The University of Sydney.

[Lee K, Chikritzhs T, Wilson S, Wilkes E, Gray D, Room R, Conigrave K \(2014\) Better methods to collect self-reported alcohol and other drug use data from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Drug and Alcohol Review, 33, 466-72](#)



What were the aims of this research? People are often asked to describe how much they drink, for example, in clinical settings or when filling out surveys, and national drinking surveys are used by governments to help allocate alcohol treatment funding. However, researchers estimate that surveys on Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander drinking can be 'out' by a factor of seven. Therefore, with NHMRC funding, we set about designing and testing an iPad app to help people report their drinking more accurately. In this study we developed, piloted and field tested this new approach to collect self-report data on current alcohol use behaviours (including consumption and other patterns of use, dependence and harms) at a population level in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

What are the top 3 take home findings of your research? 1. There is a pressing need for a survey tool, which collects comparable, standardised data on alcohol (and other drug) use but which is flexible enough in terms of design and administration to be employed in, and responsive to, varying

Indigenous contexts. 2. Given the challenges posed to questionnaire development and administration by cultural, language and local environmental diversity in Australia, a potential data collection tool would need to be field tested in urban through to remote community settings. This practical testing would include translation into local Indigenous languages (where those languages are commonly spoken) and 'back translation'. 3. Accurate and practical measures of substance use behaviour could guide policy and program delivery across Australia and make it possible to more readily bring survey findings back promptly to communities.

How does this research contribute to the field? Good data on alcohol use and alcohol dependence is key to informing programs to prevent and treat alcohol (and other drug) use. However, the data available now on drinking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians is very poor. Also, lack of good data makes it hard for communities or agencies to monitor how well they are going with prevention or treatment efforts. This app intends to change that.

What is your current role and organisation and how long have you been there for? Since 2005, I have been working at the University of Sydney (Addiction Medicine) on Aboriginal alcohol and other drugs research. In my current role as senior lecturer, I work with a diverse team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers, health professionals, community leaders and students. I also produce films with [The Perfect World](#) designed to get communities thinking about a range of health issues.

What new skills or projects are you currently working on? Currently, I am having some time off with my second baby. But our team has been fortunate enough to receive two large grants to further our work on alcohol use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. One is about supporting Indigenous primary care services to reduce the harms from alcohol. The other is continuing to build, then trial, our app to collect more reliable data on alcohol use behaviours from Indigenous Australians. Exciting times!

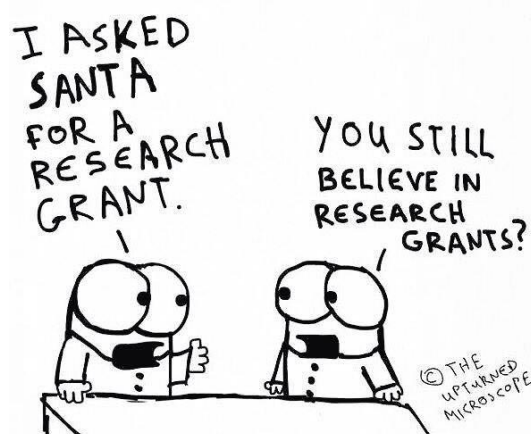
Who is a woman that inspires you? Can I mention two women? They work closely together and I have worked with them both since 2003. Muriel Jaragba is an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker on Groote Eylandt (in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory) and the 2011 Deadly Awards Health Worker of the Year. Jenni Langrell is the Health Centre Manager of Angurugu Clinic on Groote Eylandt. Their expertise in and commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of the Anindilyakwa people is inspiring.

What food have you eaten too much of in your life? Home made Yorkshire puddings and green papaya salad, and ricotta filled half-moon shaped donuts from Pasticceria Papa (in Haberfield NSW).

Have you published recently? Firstly congratulations! Secondly drop us a line at hello@franklinwomen.com. We'd love to hear from you and are always on the lookout for journal club contributors for our newsletter. ☺

FW Event- Funding outside the box

Our second event for 2016, Funding outside the box, is on the evening of Thursday 23rd June, at CBD Bistrot, Sydney. It is all about expanding your horizons and sharing tips on different mechanisms of acquiring research funding. A teaser below plus all the details and registration info on our [website](#).



As the success rate for health and medical research grant applications to NHMRC, the peak funding body, is at an all-time low of around 15% (and for most grant types even lower for women!), many excellent research projects end up going unfunded, particularly those that may be more innovative or 'risky' – which is what science is all about, right?

The good news is there are other ways for researchers to fund their research projects (such as crowd funding, government tenders, industry partnerships and philanthropy, to name a few) but we often don't have as much exposure to them, or know how to take that first step. Luckily, there are a few among us who have had great success with some of these alternative funding mechanisms and we have invited them along to talk about their experiences and share some tips and tricks they have picked up along the way.

But the researcher's perspective is only one half of the story. So we have also invited leaders from some of these other funding groups (particularly crowd funding, philanthropy and industry), to talk about their wants and needs from a research project. Together we'll

learn how these funding avenues differ to that of the NHMRC, and how you as the researcher may need to approach them differently.

Of course, in addition to hearing from our awesome speakers, there will be plenty of time for questions and to mingle with other women in health research careers over some delish food and drinks. To check out our speakers and to register, please visit our [website](#). You can join in on the conversation on the night on Twitter with the hashtag #outsidethebox.

Writing for the Conversation

Female scientists are currently [underrepresented](#) in the media, so this month we've invited health and medical researcher [Sasha Petrova](#) to talk about how you can disseminate your research by writing for *The Conversation*, one of Australia's largest independent news and commentary sites.



THE CONVERSATION

As a dedicated employee of *The Conversation* I'll admit that I write this with a fair amount of bias. Nevertheless, let me tell you why an academic in any field should think about disseminating their research to the public by writing for us!

Firstly, did you know our audience is made up of [3.3 million unique monthly users](#), just on our site alone?

And we also have a creative commons licence, which means anyone can republish our articles. With these republications, we reach about 35 million readers around the world, pretty awesome hey?

Secondly, and most importantly, if you're an academic in medicine, chances are the general public has little to no idea about the unique and exciting findings of your research. This is a real shame, because in so many cases they actually want to know! Our readers love finding out about ways new cancer treatments are discovered, how neuroscience explains sleeping patterns, how viruses become resistant to drugs and how women can develop better relationships with their doctor.

Academics know the answers to all these and more! But this valuable information appears mainly in formal journal articles, which for many reasons are inaccessible to the average person. *The Conversation* is like a conduit of this information. We have several sections (politics, economics, environment, arts etc) and they all have a similar job – to translate. Our three health and medicine editors (all women, might I add!) are there to help tailor specialist knowledge to the general public.

So consider writing for us. We love to publish stories on new research of relevance to society or explanations of the diseases we hear so much about but never really understand the details of. But mostly, we like stories related to current affairs, is there a way an issue in the news can be analysed, explained or looked at differently? If so we would love to hear about it!

A few things to remember before you [send us a pitch](#):

- Read some of our articles to get an idea of our style. A good way to keep abreast of the kinds of things we publish is to [subscribe to our newsletter](#).

- To be a lead author on an article, you must be a current researcher or academic (associate or honorary roles with universities are usually fine), and you have to write on an area you are an expert in, i.e. your area of research.

- And finally please remember, we receive a large number of pitches and eventually have to prioritise. This doesn't mean we don't like your idea – it might just mean there are other subjects in the news that we need to cover as a priority, or we recently published something quite similar. Don't let that discourage you from submitting a piece again later on!

Sasha is the Health and Medicine Researcher at The Conversation, which means she researches things, writes news stories and edits articles. She tried to get into medicine once but gave up and got into health journalism instead. She is happy with her decision.

We are loving right now...

Tea!! This month we felt first signs that winter is indeed coming this year, and there is no better way to warm up than with a cup of tea...

- This mug said it best, there is [always time for tea!](#)
 - Need more convincing that tea is so great? We have one word for you – [scones!](#)
 - Plus tea is so versatile! Try adding some to sweet or savoury [recipes](#)
 - But where should I buy some tea from we hear you ask? That's got to be [The Tea Centre](#) ([Tea for Sunday](#) and [Earl Grey Special](#) are two of our personal favs)
 - Need some tea accessories? Check out these [25 lovely tea cosies](#) or [crochet the world's easiest tea cosy](#)
 - Finally, combine two of our favourite things and what do you get? [Hedgehogs in teacups!](#)
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We want to include your contributions in our newsletter. If you have published your work recently or are doing (or know of) something that other women in our field would be interested in, drop us a [line](#). Want to receive our newsletters directly to your in-box? [Subscribe here](#).