

VAN Network Clinical Yarns during COVID-19 Webinar

8 July 2020: Our Speakers



Natalie Johnson is a Proud Bundjalung woman from the Mid North Coast of NSW. Natalie has worked at ECAV for the past 5 years, initially as a State-wide Educator and is currently the Team Leader of the Aboriginal Portfolio. During this time her role has included facilitating and coordinating the Certificate IV in Aboriginal Family Wellbeing and Violence Prevention as well as the Advanced Diploma in Aboriginal Specialist Trauma Counselling courses.

Natalie has also facilitated many other courses within the Aboriginal Portfolio and across other Portfolios within ECAV.

Natalie has worked alongside others to develop an Aboriginal centred trauma informed framework, which is now delivered across ECAV training and advocates for the implementation across the violence, abuse and neglect sector.



Vickie Fair is a Biripi Aboriginal woman, mother of six children with kinship Cultural connections to Kamiliaroi, living and raising family on Tharawal lands. Vickie's family and community have lived experienced of the Stolen Generations – where Vickie's mum, Aunty Stella Russell, and aunts and uncles were stolen from their Cultural lands, and taken off Country to Cootamundra Girls Home and Kinchela Boys Home – not a "Home" environment. Vickie's personal insight gives strength to Vickie's commitment to taking a Human Rights lens to all aspects of her work – casework, research, clinical and therapeutic interventions, policy and legal advocacy.

With over 20 years of experience advocating for the community in which she lives, raises children, and works, Vickie prioritises Cultural Safety, identifying strengths and assets for those impacted by racism, violence, sexual violence, and human rights violations, whilst concurrently working to address systemic/ideological/professional barriers.

Vickie holds a Bachelor of Social Work (UNSW), Bachelor of Laws (UNSW), and Graduate Certificate in Legal Practice (NSW College of Law). Vickie will present reflections on recent changes to clinical practice as a result of COVID-19, from "face to face" interventions to the online space (Zoom and Skype) incorporating therapeutic and Cultural yarns (focusing on children 7-14 years).



Corina Kemp is a descendant of the Dieri / Paakintji Tribes, and commenced with the Far West Local Health District in 2012. Corina is currently employed in the position of Far West Local Health District Aboriginal Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol (MHDA) Clinical Leader. Within this role, Corina provides support to the growth and deliverance of the Aboriginal Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Trainee Program across the Far West.

"I work closely with the MHDA Services and the VAN Service in providing clinical care to outreach communities, I provide cultural supports to Aboriginal MHDA Trainees Staff, Team Leaders and Managers within the MHDA and VANs Services, I continue to support, guide and deliver positive Mental Health Drug and Alcohol and VANs referral pathways and education through Health Promotional activities and through yarning groups. I continue to strive for excellence working in rural and remote communities and to support our people to obtain positive health care and treatment within the Far West of NSW."

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Kyeesha Jones is a 19 year old Barkindji Women born and raised in Broken Hill, NSW. Kyeesha commenced with the Violence Abuse Neglect Service in 2019, and is the first Violence Abuse and Neglect Aboriginal Trainee in New South Wales.

"My overall goal for applying to for this role was and is to help our Aboriginal people who reside in rural and remote communities, especially young women and children to seek help and feel welcome to do so with the help and support of an Aboriginal VANs Clinician. I would like to pursue my career in further developing my learnings to complete a Masters in Social Work and I will continue to work and develop within Broken Hill and its surrounding communities to continue to provide support and advocacy for our Aboriginal Communities."



Lois Sallustio is a proud Wiradjuri woman who has worked in the role of Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer with the Mid North Coast Local Health District since 2011.

Compassion, sensitivity and cultural respect are integral to Lois' role which involves working very closely patients, carers and community within the hospital environment. Lois understands the uncertainty and fear experienced by Aboriginal people when they come to hospital and works hard to ensure they feel comfortable and safe at all times.



Shirlena Gallagher a proud Wadi Wadi Woman who grew up in the Illawarra. Shirlena has worked in several Aboriginal health services such as the Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service, Wollongong as an Outreach worker. She has worked for AMIHS Shellharbour supporting the child & Family nurses as an AHEO, then moving onto Moruya which is Yuin country on the south coast of NSW.

"I am fortunate to work for AMIHS Southern NSWLHD. I became part of the awesome team that I am now the Team Leader of. I manage and work in partnership with AMIHS antenatal & postnatal services-Midwives & AHWs, BSF child & family health CFHN & AHWs, New Directions Allied Health Team consisting of a Social Worker, Physio, Speech pathologist, Dietitian and an Occupational Therapist providing a holistic culturally focused multidisciplinary health service."



Simone Smith is a proud Dunghutti woman who has worked in Health since 2013, starting out in an Aboriginal Allied Health Cadetship where she then progressed onto becoming an Aboriginal Health worker with the Port Macquarie Drug and Alcohol Service.

Simone has worked in various roles across the Mid North Coast Local Health District as an Aboriginal Health Worker. She is currently working full-time across Drug and Alcohol and Mental Health Services while also studying a Bachelor of Health Science in Mental Health.

Simone is a role model to young Aboriginal women, not just through her career achievements, but also as an Australian and NSW representative rugby league player.