

KEYNOTE SPEECH BY MS CHRISTINE CORBY OAM CHAIRPERSON AH&MRC, CEO OF WALGETT AMS

First I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, and to pay my respects to Aunty Norma Simms and elders present.

Minister Lynch, MP, Professor Layland, Professor Holden, Randwick Deputy Mayor Robert Belletti, Dulcie Flower OAM, funding representatives, other distinguished guests, graduates and guests.

Ladies and Gentlemen – thank you for the opportunity to address you at this important celebration of learning and education.

This 3rd Graduation Ceremony is significant for the College as it signifies the continuity of education delivered under the Aboriginal Community Controlled ethos.

As you know, Aboriginal people have been delivering health care and healing within their communities for around 60,000 years now.

This health care by Aboriginal people for Aboriginal people is reflected in today's many Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services around the State since the establishment of the first Aboriginal Medical Service in Redfern in 1971.

The role of Aboriginal Health Workers cannot be understated and their integral role in making health services more accessible to Aboriginal people by bridging the cultural gap is recognised.

So, today we celebrate the achievements of many Aboriginal Health Workers and Managers, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. We praise their dedication and hard work to improve and expand their skills and knowledge by completing courses at the Aboriginal Health College.

We recognise that everyone's experience is different – that learning is both formal and informal – and that the Aboriginal community in particular has borne the legacy of educational disadvantage from the past.

For some today this is a first qualification while for others it is a continuation. You should all equally celebrate your achievements.

The new knowledge and skills that you have each gained by undertaking study with the College will benefit the communities you serve as well as improve your own capacity and career opportunities – a long held vision of our sector.

Education is a journey ... a journey that requires commitment and dedication.

It is this learning journey that will help you to continue your excellent work with your clients and your Communities to improve health outcomes. It does not stop with the awarding of these Certificates but continues on ...

Knowledge must be shared and re-enforced. Education is a key to success and empowerment.

We must educate politicians and bureaucrats about appropriate ways to solve problems that face our Communities and educate them about ways to engage with Aboriginal Communities.

We must teach our people into maintaining healthy lifestyles and taking healthy options.

Finally – we require our educated workforce to continuously improve, to build their capabilities and to ensure the quality of their contribution taking their grounded theory from the College to the practical application in their respective roles.

This is the aim of the Aboriginal Health College of the AHMRC.

You, as graduates, will now go forward to assist in fulfilling those aims through your roles.

**CONGRATULATIONS
– ENJOY YOUR MOMENT
WE ARE ALL PROUD OF YOU**



GRADUATION 2010

4th March 2010

Dubbo Secretariat Colour Copy Shop www.dubsec.com.au

WAMS Staff Graduate at the Aboriginal Health College

Layland Auditorium, Little Bay, NSW



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Aboriginal health education in Aboriginal hands

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2010 Aboriginal Health College Graduation Ceremony



Congratulations to the following staff members on their achievements:



Phyllis Tighe
Certificate IV in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (practice stream)



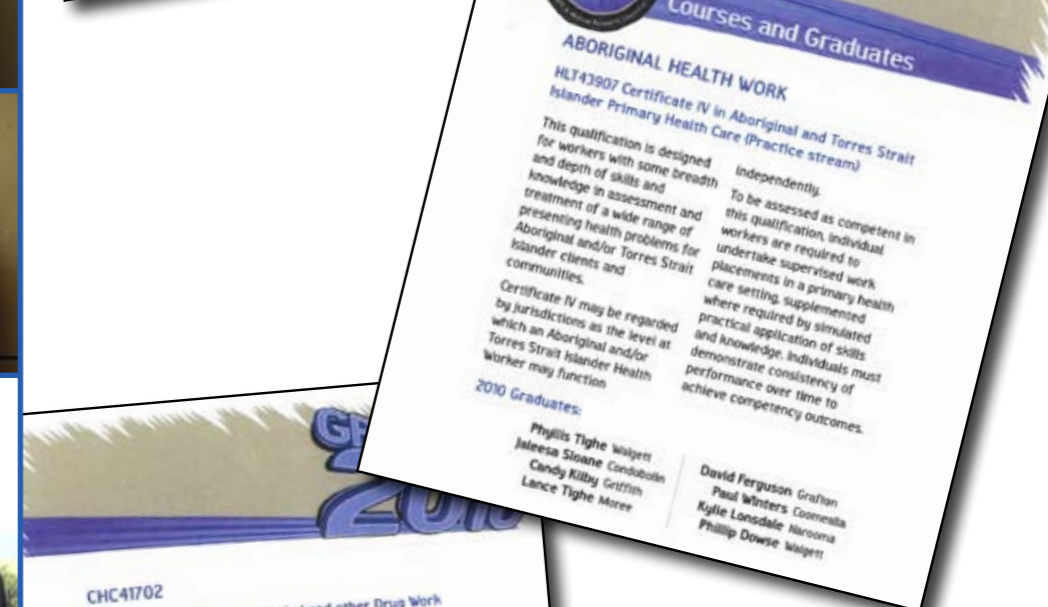
Phillip Dowse
Certificate IV in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (practice stream)



Kelly-Anne Rowe
Certificate IV in Alcohol & other Drug Work



Frederick Gibson
Certificate IV in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Community Care) (Social & Emotional Wellbeing)



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