

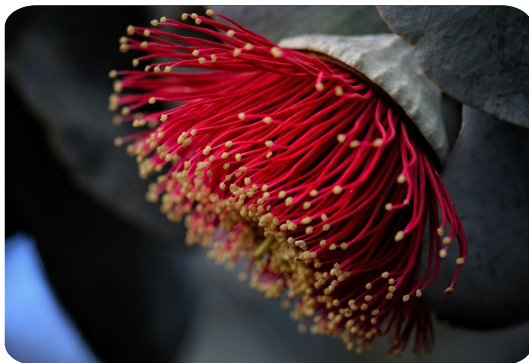


Welcome to the third Replanting the Birthing Trees (RBT) e-news!

We hope everyone has had a good break and start to 2024. Last year was a busy year starting with the amazing Gathering the Seeds conference to kick off, and then lots of groundwork, including ethics submissions, to prepare for implementation this year. We are excited in 2024 to have ethics approval and be starting to work more directly with partner services – including information sessions, interviews with service providers and parents – and preparing for training in Victoria. In WA, the team are continuing to implement Baby Coming You Ready, and we will crossover implementation activities in 2025. We thank everyone for their hard work and commitment to improving care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the critical first 2000 days.

In solidarity,

Professor Cath Chamberlain and Professor Rhonda Marriott on behalf of the RBT project team



Workstream Updates

Update from the Resource Repository and Support Framework workstreams

The support framework and resource repository are being merged into one workstream as we are working with the same digital experts to develop both products.

Existing resources are in the final stage of review and website development is scheduled to begin in February 2024. Several more resources are under development and expected to be ready for review in March 2024.

The support framework is being piloted with the Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future (HPNF) project, starting data collection in Gippsland Victoria.

Update from the Culturally-Safe Assessment workstream

The Baby Coming You Ready team have been invited to Atlanta to discuss the rubric, and we look forward to hearing about the trip when they are back. Sally Kendall is visiting Victoria and WA in February from the UK, and we are looking forward to learning about the Tool for measuring Parenting Self-Efficacy (TOPSE), and we will record the presentation for those who can't make it on the day.

The Aboriginal Complex Trauma and Strengths Questionnaire is still under review but we hope the preliminary validation of this tool will be published in the coming months.

Update from the Workforce Development Resources to build capacity for safe skillful care workstream

The online [Emerging Minds training](#) is freely available and receiving very positive feedback.

Over 20 training sessions have been piloted in the HPNF project in Gippsland and we have been overwhelmed with demand for more training.

HPNF and RBT are currently working with implementation sites and We Al-li to lock in dates for the advanced training delivery.

Update from the Culturally-Safe Trauma-Integrated Continuity-of-Carer Implementation Support workstream

A full draft of the scoping review is being sent out for review and comment, and a meeting is being held next week to discuss the best way to visually present the findings. The next step will be to meet with service organisation representatives to discuss findings and clarify what would be helpful resources.

Update from the Supporting Aboriginal Families to Stay Together from the Start workstream (SAFeST Start)

The team is busy finalising planning for the first co-design workshop for service providers to inform our Wise Counsel model of care. In mid-February, we will have Indigenous and non-Indigenous professionals attending our co-design workshop from across Australia to help us refine our thinking on elements that are essential to the Wise Counsel model of care, and how it may operate in practice. We are also busy writing our Wise Counsel scoping review paper, synthesising findings from other relevant models of care internationally to prevent infant removals by child protection.

Update from the Implementation and Evaluation workstream

Victorian update - The current focus is on service provider and parent interviews. To date we have completed 20 service provider interviews from a range of craft groups including midwives, administration, nurses (neonatal nurseries), security, obstetricians, social workers, and executive members. Everyone has been very generous with their time, and we have had fantastic open, insightful conversations with all of them. There is clearly an appetite to proactively support perinatal equity as well as identified challenges to achieving this.

There are seven mums from The Royal Women's hospital who are happy to be interviewed and this will commence in the next couple of weeks. The Aboriginal liaison officers at the Mercy Hospital for Women are in the process of reaching out to parents and we are hoping to have a group identified very soon.



Update from HPNF

HPNF have circulated the draft protocol paper to project investigators, partners and friends. The HPNF training team have delivered the one-day face-to-face Intermediate training to 100 service providers with another 100 registered for sessions across February and March at Latrobe Regional Health (LRH). The team are now planning several community-based training sessions for providers in relevant organisations external to LRH. The evaluation feedback from the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive leading to LRH mandating the training for relevant craft groups. We are working with the LRH education and training unit to develop a strategy for them to take over delivery of the training. We are still working on recruiting more parents to do pre-implementation interviews with 8 so far. Service provider interviews are complete with 24 conducted. Organisational readiness survey is complete, and data analysed. Data analysis have commenced for KAP assessment of service providers pre and post training with invites for 3-month follow up surveys soon to be circulated. We have struggled to progress the parent resource development with difficulty recruiting parents to participate in resource development workshops so will be shifting strategy to draft a parent trauma resource and dads pack and invite community members to provide feedback. Several offshoot groups have been formed within the implementation site LRH as a result of the HPNF project, including working groups to improve cultural safety in the physical environment and a group working to progress uptake of models of care to improve cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents access the service during the perinatal period.

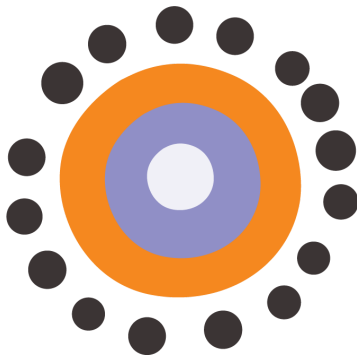


Dr. Jacqui Sundbury conducting HPNF training sessions at Latrobe Regional Health.

Staff Movements

The project team is pleased to welcome Skye Stewart who has recently joined the team.

Thank you and farewell to Lyndal Alchin. Our best wishes to Maedeh Aboutalebi Karkavandi who is on maternity leave.



For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, our connection to culture, country, community, kin, and family are critical to our wellness. There are things that we can all do to keep our spirits strong, and our families and communities supported.

Click [here](#) for [Gayaa Dhuwi \(Proud Spirit\) Australia](#) 20 tips for staying healthy and looking after yourself - our way.

Plant the seeds of hope with us

Contact us at rbt-project@unimelb.edu.au

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