

## Using action research for institutional capacity development regarding Indigenous health within the national public health curriculum

Dr. Bill Genat, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, University of Melbourne  
bgenat@unimelb.edu.au

Mr. Paul Stewart, Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit, University of Melbourne

This paper is a work in progress report on the use of action research towards the strengthening of Indigenous public health curriculum within Master of Public Health programs at Australian universities. The project has three interlinked action – reflection cycles with distinct groups of participants. The first component is participatory action research with a group of Indigenous public health academics to identify and further develop effective and sustainable strategies of curriculum review in partnership with specific MPH programs. This group of Indigenous public health academics is engaged with MPH programs nationally through program managers and key public health academics to strengthen Indigenous components of MPH curriculum. A second and parallel component of the project is capacity development for each of the Indigenous public health academics engaged in the curriculum review process. Each member of the group is engaged in their own action-reflection cycle building research skills and curriculum development skills. The third component is instituting sustainable on-going action- reflection cycles of curriculum review within each of the MPH programs. This paper reports on the emergent learnings from the early phases of this project, the development and implementation of the initial strategies to engage in the curriculum review, personal capacity development trajectories of individual academics and strategies for establishing action reflection cycles for review of Indigenous curriculum components in mainstream academic programs.