

## Teamwork brings it for Under 8s Expo



More than 300 people and 12 agencies joined in this year's Under 8s Child Expo, Childcare Links Co-ordinator for Gurriny Health Services Lynn Yeatman (*front and centre above*) says.

"This is a nation-wide event which is about engaging families, especially 0-8-year-olds, and helping all the agencies to network together, so it's a big day," she said. "It was a great turnout, giving everyone a chance to meet each other so they see who we work with, and to support families with young children."

Transition Manager Ruth Fagan said the Under-8s Expo was critical in the move towards community controlling their own health futures.

"As part of the transition we've identified that we have to deliver some kind of young adult program in the community," she said. "About 52% of the people who live here are under the age of 25 and it's important we have programs focussed on prevention which target this group so our future parents and leaders aren't developing chronic diseases by the time they're in their early 40s."

"Some of our Queensland Health and Gurriny team have

already started the initial discussions around what the young person's program will look like and over the next three months we hope to have something of a plan.

"The whole young adult program was an idea that came out of all of us talking about what we might look like in the future - and the future is all about these young people taking care of themselves and hopefully down the track, their own families."

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## Deadly Sex promotes networking opportunities

Gurriny's Milton Mossman and Tamar Patterson presented a workshop on networking to the 2013 'Deadly Sex' congress attended by more than 40 other Sexual Health workers from across Queensland in Cairns last month.

Deadly Sex coordinator Tony Coburn said the congress was all about networking between individual workers and communities.

"Deadly Sex is about bringing all our Indigenous health workers together to upskill them, to give them continual upgrades of what's happening, the latest information so that they can give correct information when they go out into our community," he said.

"That means they can then build a rapport and encourage people to go and have health checks and do that important business that always gets left behind.

"It's also a brilliant opportunity for people to

network because our community is so transient, so it gives them an opportunity to build links and put names to faces that they're always dealing with people or working with people."

Milton said the presentation went well, even though he was nervous. "Once we got out there we were like 'they're just the same people as us' – Indigenous and sharing knowledge," he said.

Tamar said the presentation came about through the Cairns Indigenous Sexual Health Network (CISHN), of which



Gurriny is an active member.

"Around this table we're able to bring our challenges and issues and get the support and the guidance we need to make it better, not only for the Indigenous community of Yarrabah, but for the Indigenous community throughout the Cairns area," she said.







# News Bits



THERE WERE TWO nice finishes to the Under 8s Expo last month. The first was the opportunity for CEO Sue Andrews (*above*) and the rest of the community to bid farewell to Dr Jason who has moved onwards and upwards to Canberra to be closer to his family. He will be working at Winnungu Health Service, which is the local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, and at NACCHO as their Public Health Physician.

The second nice finish, of course, was turning the fire hoses on at the end of a long hot day, which was well-appreciated by the kids who were still there!



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- What's next!
- Transition update
- Board and staff profiles and pics