

STEPHANIE THOW- TAPP

EXECUTIVE MANAGER

0448 759 8618

stephalistik89@gmail.com

16 Ashley Crt, Grovedale, VIC

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Aboriginal woman, mother and Executive Manager with 18 years' experience in Aboriginal Health, from grassroots work to senior leadership. Passionate about fostering strong community ties, promoting health equity, and championing self-determination. Collaborative leader inspired by the resilience and wisdom in Aboriginal leadership.

EXPERIENCE

VACCHO

July 2024

Executive Manager - Healthy Communities, Population Health Unit

- Leads a team supporting the implementation of VACCHO's strategic plan with a focus on Health, Healing and Aboriginal Health Promotion.
- Builds strong relationships with member organisations, staff and key external stakeholders.
- Coaches team development, manages budgets, workplans, and impact reports, and embeds cultural principles into team operations.
- Engages in regular strategic meetings and fulfills duties aligned with unit objectives.

VACCHO

Oct 2023 - July 2024

Senior Project Officer - Healthy Communities, Population Health Unit

- Ensure the key principles of Culture and Kinship: are embedded throughout the work and the work of the team.
- Attend community events and promote well-being through a life stage approach and health promotion.
- Manage relationships and support Victorian ACCO's to deliver effective health promotion programs.
- Develop and maintain internal project management.
- Promote culturally safe practices in mainstream prevention and early intervention health services and key stakeholders to improve access and care pathways for Community.

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EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Deakin University

Dec 2021 - Oct 2023

Indigenous Inclusion Officer

- Provide high-level operational support and leadership for the implementation and delivery of projects to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander students' success, retention, access and inclusion.
- Work in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, both internal and external, to advance the University's agenda in relation to equity, diversity, access and inclusion

Dental Health Services Victoria (DHSV)

Sept 2018 - Dec 2021

Aboriginal Community Development Officer

- Collaborate with stakeholders to lead the development and implementation of the organisation's Reconciliation Action Plan ensuring alignment with the Aboriginal Employment Plan
- Develop cultural learning framework for DHSV and sphere of influence
- Collaborate with VACCHO, DHSV and other key partners, to facilitate DHSV's engagement with ACCHOs and Aboriginal communities in Victoria to strengthen partnerships and ensure improved access to oral health services, including oral health promotion programs
- Prepare recommendations to inform delivery of new oral health initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Gippsland & East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative (GEGAC) Mar 2006 - Sept 2018

- *Senior Health Practitioner:* Delivered primary health care, conducted health checks, administered medications, and provided nutrition advice. Skilled in Spirometry, ECG, Retinal Photography, Audiometry, venepuncture, and first aid.
- *Koori Maternity Services Health Worker:* Provided culturally appropriate antenatal care, coordinated maternity programs, and collaborated with healthcare professionals to support Aboriginal women and families.
- *Dental Assistant/Oral Health Promotion:* Supported dental procedures, maintained infection control, and promoted oral health initiatives.

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EDUCATION

- Level 2 First Aid 2023 including CPR
 - Accredited Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Facilitator 2022
 - Diploma of Project Management 2021 - Holmesglen
 - Human Centred Design (short course) 2021 – Acumen Academy
 - Studied Bachelor of Nursing 2016-18 – Charles Darwin University, (Deferred)
- (completed elective units – Venepuncture and ECG) - VACCHO
- Provision of Eye Health and Training Program (Retinal Photography) – Australian College of Optometry 2016
 - Quality Assurance in Aboriginal Medical Services – Performing HbA1c and ACR 2014
 - Smoking Cessation 2016 – Cancer Council
 - Certificate IV in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care 2015
 - Otitis Media and Aural Health Care 2015 – Benchmarque Group
 - Certificate III in Dental Assisting 2008 - RMIT Melbourne
 - Graduated Year 12 in 2005 - Bairnsdale Secondary College

EXTRA

- Member of the Consumer Advisory Committee for the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital -ongoing
- Completed the Community Leadership Program – City of Geelong 2023
- Member of the Murnong Mob – to examine and address the effects of food and nutrition policies' on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health, with a focus on commercial determinants of health.
- Developed and implemented hearing screen programs in local East Gippsland primary schools – Care for Kid's ears.
- Organised annual Aboriginal Health Check days for children in East Gippsland.
- Quality Assurance in Aboriginal Medical Services State Leader for Tasmania, and Deputy Leader for Victoria.
- Member of the Aboriginal Oral Health Reference Group for Victoria 2010-2012

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SKILLS

- Leadership
- Customer Service
- Analytical
- Critical Thinking
- Negotiation
- Communication
- Tech Savvy
- Business Acumen
- Time-management
- Active Listening
- Adaptability
- Resourcefulness

OTHER

Pre-Requisites for Practice

- Working with Children's Check
- Immunisations as per Victorian requirements
- Australian Drivers Licence

Professional Memberships

- NATSIHWA
- CATSINAM
- AHPRA AHP (ATS0002115662)
- Institute of Community Directors

Awards

- Leadership in Practice Award – Deakin University
- Sim Health Award 2014 in Innovation, Education and Research
- Best Education Innovation – Using Simulation to improve cultural safety and close the gap between professional silos in maternity care

Referees available upon request