

## Aboriginal children and the effects of intergenerational trauma



**Emeritus Professor  
Judy Atkinson**  
International Indigenous  
Trauma Healing  
Educator and  
Researcher, NSW

Emeritus professor Judy Atkinson identifies as a Jiman / Bundjalung (Aboriginal Australian) woman who also has Anglo-Celtic, and German heritage. With a PhD from Queensland University of Technology, her primary academic, research and volunteer work focus is in the area of violence and relational trauma, and healing for Indigenous, and indeed all peoples.

She developed the 'We Al-li' program to which she is now an advisor. Her book, *Trauma Trails – Recreating Songlines: The Transgenerational Effects of Trauma in Indigenous Australia*, provides context to the life stories of people who have moved/been moved from their country in a process that has created trauma trails, and the changes that can occur in the lives of people as they make connections with each other and share their stories of healing.

Judy retired at the end of 2010, working with communities in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, in educational – healing work, what she calls *educaring*.



**Professor Catherine  
Chamberlain**  
Researcher  
and Midwife, ACT

Catherine Chamberlain is an Australian National Health and

Medical Research Council Career Development Fellow and Associate Professor at the Judith Lumley Centre, La Trobe University.

Catherine is a registered midwife and public Health researcher with over 25 years' experience in maternal health, and has worked in remote, rural and urban settings across health service, government and university sectors.

Catherine is a descendant of the Trawlwoolway people (Tasmania), and her research aims to identify perinatal opportunities to improve health equity across the life course. She is currently principal investigator for a large multidisciplinary project - *Healing the past by nurturing the future* – which aims to co-design perinatal awareness, recognition, assessment and support strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex childhood trauma.

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**Dr Caroline (Carlie) Atkinson**  
**Social Worker, NS**

Carlie (Caroline) Atkinson is a descendant of the Bundjalung and Yiman peoples and is an accredited social worker with a PhD (Charles Darwin

University, 2009). She is an Indigenous expert in Culturally Informed Trauma Integrated Healing Approaches (CITIHA) in Australia with a focus on systems transformation and implementation strategies. As part of her PhD, Carlie Atkinson developed Australia's first adapted, culturally sensitive, reliable and valid Aboriginal trauma assessment measure.

Carlie is currently CEO/Director (2012-present) of We Al-li, an Indigenous organisation that develops, delivers and evaluates CITIHA programs and activities.

She is considered an international leader in the area of complex and intergenerational trauma and strengths-based healing approaches in Indigenous Australia. She has focused her career on the interplay between trauma and violence in Aboriginal peoples in Australia and has developed extensive community and practice-based experience through her collaborative co-designed resource development work.



**Facilitator: Ms Dana Shen**  
**Aboriginal Cultural Consultant, SA**

Dana has 20 years' experience working across the public and not-for-profit sectors in the areas of health, families and child protection.

Dana is Aboriginal/Chinese and a descendant of the Ngarrindjeri people in South Australia and has a passion for working with Aboriginal people and communities. She commenced her career as a youth community development officer in both the Adelaide Hills and the Murray Lands. In this role she worked with young people, many of who were at risk, in order to create better environments for young people in their communities.

Dana went on to work in a number of senior roles with the SA public sector in which she was responsible for program management, service delivery, policy development and strategic planning.

Dana's most recent experience has been with The Australian Centre for Social Innovation (TACSI) where she held the role of Principal, Social Services, Systems & Aboriginal Policy. In this role she was responsible for implementing projects and supporting team members to apply innovative techniques and develop solutions to complex social and service problems. Before this, Dana was the Director of the Family by Family Program, a peer-to-peer model where families are matched together to create behaviour change.

## **Aboriginal children and the effects of intergenerational trauma**

Dana has extensive experience working with Aboriginal communities and brings a unique skill set in facilitation, Aboriginal cultural consultancy, mainstream service delivery and systems change. Dana's current work includes supporting organisations to plan for the future and improve service delivery, particularly with Aboriginal people and communities.

Dana is currently undertaking the MSc in Systems Thinking in Practice with the Open University, United Kingdom.

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