



Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture 2009

Journeys of Love and Activism: Aboriginal women sharing the caring

Dr Tamara Mackean, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health,
The University of Western Australia

Aboriginal women have a long and proud history as custodians of care and connection within and between families. Throughout modern history this role has evolved to include advocacy and activism as Aboriginal women (and men) have fought for the rights of their children, their Elders, their people and their Country. Alongside this, Aboriginal women have also carried their own burdens of trauma with dignity, resilience and strength.

In this lecture Dr Mackean will explore the contemporary nature of Aboriginal family and kinship; the role Aboriginal women have played and continue to play in reducing disparities in life experienced by Aboriginal people; and the healing journeys many Aboriginal women take not only for themselves but for their communities.

Dr Mackean will illustrate the above with her family's story and her own journey as an Aboriginal doctor and leader through adversity and success, as well as draw on examples of other Aboriginal women and their accomplishments. A personal family poem will conclude the address.

Lecture Details

Date: Thursday 5 March 2009

Time: 6-7pm

Venue: University Club Theatre Auditorium, UWA

(The nearest carpark is P3 off Hackett Drive Entrance 1)
Wheelchair accessible venue.

This is a free public lecture, All Welcome.

Please RSVP your attendance by sending an email to Jayde.Fuller@communities.wa.gov.au
or phone 08 62178211.

The annual Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is a partnership arrangement between the Australian Association of Social Workers, The University of Western Australia and the Department for Communities, Office for Women's Policy.

The Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture is held annually to commemorate the life and achievements of Grace Vaughan who died in 1984. She was a social worker, social activist and parliamentarian who was dedicated to the improvement of life at all levels and had a deep commitment to Australia's participation in the Asian region and to ensuring women's full participation in society.

About Dr Mackean

Dr Mackean is a descendent of the Waljen clan of the Wongai Peoples of the Goldfields region in Western Australia. She graduated from University of NSW in 1999 with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and was joint winner with Dr Kelvin Kong of the Alumni Award for Achievement.

Following varied clinical experience in obstetrics, psychiatry, ophthalmology and general practice, Dr Mackean became involved in medical education and worked as a Senior Lecturer at Flinders University SA for five years. During her tenure she was awarded a Staff Award for Outstanding Contribution to the University as well as being recognised nationally and receiving the inaugural LIMEight Award for Leading Innovation in Cultural and Organisational Change in 2007

Dr Mackean is currently a Senior Research Fellow with the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at the University of Western Australia. She is also a trainee with the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Dr Mackean is the President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association and works with governments, organisations, communities and individuals to bring about positive change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' wellbeing.

This lecture precedes International Women's Day celebrations. The 2009 theme of "Sharing the Caring for the Future" will focus on the contribution of women in their caring roles, and explore the strategies needed to share the responsibility for caring across our community.

More information on official events is available from the Department for Communities website:

<http://www.community.wa.gov.au/DFC>

