

RE-THINKING HOW WE ASK ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES ABOUT THEIR DRINKING

Preferred length: 60 minutes

Authors:

KS KYLIE LEE^{1,2,3,4,5}, JAMES H CONIGRAVE^{1,2}, SCOTT WILSON^{1,2,6}, JIMMY PERRY⁶, CATHERINE ZHENG^{1,2}, TEAGAN J WEATHERALL^{1,2}, KATHERINE M CONIGRAVE^{7,1,2}

¹NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Indigenous Health and Alcohol, Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney, Camperdown, Australia, ²The Edith Collins Centre (Translational Research in Alcohol, Drugs and Toxicology), Sydney Local Health District, Camperdown, Australia, ³National Drug Research Institute, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, Perth, Australia, ⁴Burnet Institute, Melbourne, Australia, ⁵La Trobe University, Centre for Alcohol Policy Research, Bundoora, Australia, ⁶Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council South Australia, Underdale, Australia, ⁷Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Drug Health Services, New South Wales, Australia

Presenter's email: kylie.lee@sydney.edu.au

Aim: *There are challenges in assessing alcohol consumption in any population. These challenges can be amplified for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) Australians, because of sharing of drinking containers, episodic drinking patterns, and culturally distinct approaches to communication. This panel symposium will discuss the merits of a new validated approach to collect self-reported drinking data from First Nations Australians. The symposium will introduce this digital tool, as well as the tailored feedback provided to each person, via the same digital tool. Panelists talk from clinical, community, cultural and research perspectives.*

Chair: Adjunct Associate Professor Scott Wilson

Chair's email: scott@adac.org.au

Panellist 1: Associate Professor Kylie Lee

Panellist 1 email: kylie.lee@sydney.edu.au

Panellist 2: Jimmy Perry

Panellist 2 email: jimmy@adac.org.au

Panellist 3: Teagan J Weatherall

Panellist 3 email: teagan.weatherall@sydney.edu.au

Panellist 4: Katherine M Conigrave

Panellist 4 email: kate.conigrave@sydney.edu.au

Detailed description of topics to be discussed:

- Why usual approaches for assessing drinking can be challenging among First Nations Australians, and possible solutions
- The process of developing a tablet computer-based application (an iPad 'App') to help First Nations Australians to describe their drinking.
- A demonstration of the revised Grog App: its key elements – and how these address the identified challenges

- How can we tell if such an App is accurate and acceptable? Available evidence.
- Designing a brief intervention (with feedback tailored for the respondent) for use via the Grog App: underpinning concepts.
- What the Grog App tells us about patterns of drinking in two community representative samples (urban and remote), including drinks per occasion, preferred beverages, dry patches and dependence.
- Why in-depth self-report data collected on the Grog App can better inform prevention and treatment efforts than standard household surveys.

Discussion Section: The overall aim of this panel symposium is to get the audience thinking on ways to re-think how we ask First Nations Australians (and other priority populations) to describe their drinking. Such self-report data is important as it informs resource allocation for prevention and treatment programs.

Adjunct Associate Professor Scott Wilson will chair this session. Scott co-conceived the Grog App and has significant experience as CEO of an Aboriginal community controlled drug and alcohol organisation. Scott will set the scene for the panel symposium by asking each speaker to talk to the discussion points listed above. He will then bring the audience into the discussion by encouraging audience questions based on each discussion point.

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