

### **Fir Square Combined Care Unit (paper and poster)**

**Sydney Michelle Weaver, MSW, RSW and Sarah Payne, RN, MA**

BC Women's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, opened Fir Square Combined Care Unit in 2003 to serve pregnant women struggling with substance misuse. Fir Square provides a harm reduction, strengths-based, non-judgmental, supportive approach with substance-using pregnant women. The program objectives are to help women reduce substance use and related harms, improve infant health outcomes and increase numbers of women safely retaining custody of their infants, increase access to medical services for substance-using women and increase numbers of women accessing treatment for problematic substance use.

### **Australian Aboriginal Culture Workshop**

**Duncan Williams**

Duncan Williams from Beaudesert, Queensland, is proud to identify himself as an Aboriginal person of Australia with a Scottish descent. In this two hour workshop Duncan will share his story of growing up in a time when the *White Australia Policy*, the *Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of Sale of Opium Act*, and the *Aboriginal Preservation Act*, were in full force. Duncan considers himself lucky not to be taken away from his family. He will provide an overview of what his Aboriginal family faced during three periods of Australia's history: Terra Nullius (meaning "unoccupied land"); vulnerability of removal from their families under a range of legislation (1890s 1940s); and children confined to dormitories and government settlements (1941 1965). Participants will be taken on a journey through Australia's Aboriginal history and culture, and inspired by the strengths of Duncan and his family.

### **Beyond Boundaries: Creative thinking workshop**

**Dr. Irena Yashin-Shaw (pre & post conference)**

Every life, community and workplace faces challenges daily. If those challenges are approached with an attitude of mindfulness and creativity then the outcomes will be more beneficial and productive. This 'hands-on', 'minds-on' workshop will show people how to access and apply the vast store of knowledge and understanding we all have in order to solve challenges creatively and usefully. It is designed to unlock the enormous potential stored within all of us. Based on her PhD research, Dr Yashin-Shaw delivers a completely new cognitive tool for thinking creatively which incorporates some of the well known elements used in creative problem-solving but goes beyond these to place them in a broader context. The new model called *StrateGEE*<sup>®</sup> helps people to not only initiate the creative thinking process but to then sustain it until they reach the outcome they seek. The workshop reveals powerful techniques to: generate ideas; explore emerging solutions; evaluate potential outcomes; and think strategically. Participants will become familiar with using different modes of thinking to solve different kinds of problems. Participants are invited to bring along some issue or challenge which would benefit from an innovative approach for possible work-shopping.

### **Thinking Beyond the Boundaries: A New Model for Creative Problem-Solving**

**Dr. Irena Yashin-Shaw**

We are living in an era of unprecedented global change and knowledge proliferation. We need new ways of thinking about the challenges facing our global village as well as the challenges that face us every day in our lives and in our jobs. Thinking creatively about these challenges has the potential to strengthen individuals, communities and organisations by enriching problem-solving and decision-making processes. Gaining facility with creative thinking strategies can help people, teams and leaders at all levels to use innovative approaches to existing challenges. Now more than ever we need conceptual tools to help us break free from the constraints of habitual thinking. In this session a new research based model for creative problem-solving is presented. The *StrateGEE*<sup>®</sup> model provides an heuristic approach or framework to thinking creatively. It identifies four different kinds of thinking used during creative problem-solving; mechanisms by which cognitive resources may be synergistically and creatively deployed; and ways of combining knowledge and thought processes to produce creative outcomes. It incorporates some of the well known strategies used in creative problem-solving such as brainstorming, perspective-shifting and synthesising but adds to and goes beyond these to place them in a broader context. The model therefore is a compilation of many strategies designed to help with the generation of new ideas, as well as the exploration and evaluation of these ideas. It also incorporates the important role of strategic thinking which guides the whole process. Unlike some approaches to creative thinking which focus primarily on idea generation; this model scaffolds the entire problem-solving process from conceptualisation through to final outcome recognising the fact that if original ideas are to be valuable then they must also be applicable and useful.