



MEDIA RELEASE

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MAJOR TOBACCO AWARD FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH LEADER

The 2013 Dr Bob Elphick Medal for outstanding contributions to tobacco control has been awarded to Dr Juli Coffin, Associate Professor in the Centre for Research Excellence, Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and Research Coordinator at Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Services (GRAMS).

The Elphick Medal is awarded annually in memory of Dr Bob Elphick, a pioneering chest physician who was President of ACOSH from its inception in 1971.

The 2013 award was presented to Dr Coffin by WA Director General of Health, Professor Bryant Stokes this morning.

Professor Stokes said, “Dr Coffin is a very worthy winner of this award. She has worked tirelessly to reduce the harms of smoking and inspires us all to do more”.

The award recognises Dr Coffin’s contributions to tobacco control through research, teaching, policy development in WA and nationally, and leading important tobacco control projects. Dr Coffin’s work has ranged from research around family interventions to reduce tobacco smoke exposure of Pilbara Aboriginal children to a range of tobacco control projects and developing communication resources for Aboriginal people.

Dr. Coffin said, “It is an honour to receive this award, which recognises the work being done for the most disadvantaged people in the community. I am lucky to have had both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal support for my work. It is especially important that Aboriginal people are supported to design and implement solutions for our own needs.”

ACOSH President Professor Mike Daube said, “Juli Coffin has made an extraordinary contribution to tobacco control in WA and nationally. ACOSH is delighted to present her with its major annual award”.

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For further information – Associate Professor Juli Coffin can be contacted on – 0409 377 891
Mike Daube – 0409 933 933.