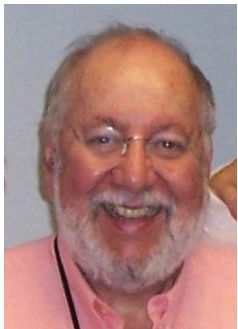


## **NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY 22ND MARCH 2012**

The Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing with Kulunga Research Network invites staff, students and members of the public to attend a seminar

# *The Case for an Apology by the Australian Mental Health Professions to Aboriginal and Islander peoples*



## **PROFESSOR ALAN ROSEN**

Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, Greater Western Area Health Service, NSW  
Professorial Fellow, School of Public Health, University of Wollongong  
Clinical Associate Professor, Brain & Mind Research Institute  
Research Psychiatrist, Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health,  
University of Newcastle

**Thursday 22nd March 2012**

**1pm - 2pm**

**Seminar Room**

**Telethon Institute for Child Health Research  
100 Roberts Road, Subiaco**

The official apology to all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd was only a start.

Over many years, psychiatric professionals have dominated the lives of people with mental illnesses. We have been responsible for their forced separation and disconnection from their families; incarceration in remote regions; their being humiliated, stigmatised and sequestered as moral lepers; the loss of their identities as people, denying them their human rights, their dignity and entitlement to full membership as citizens. Mental health professionals have become the officially anointed custodians of people with mental illnesses – “for their own good”. We have inadvertently broken their spirits, disempowered them, alienated them from their kin, and in many instances de-skilled them and depleted community knowledge of how to look after their own. The case for regret and apology for the past suffering of Aboriginal Australians with a mental illness is pressing.

**RSVP to Tamika Heiden, [theiden@ichr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:theiden@ichr.uwa.edu.au)**

Free and paid parking available around the Institute building

