

## **DR TRACY WESTERMAN, CURRICULUM VITAE**

### **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

**1992 – 1998 Department for Community Deveelopment. Graduate Welfare Officer, Psychologist. Goldfields.** Child Protection and case worker responsibilities throughout the Goldfields and Western Desert Communities

**1995-1998.** Psychologist. Involved undertaking complex assessment, therapy and interventions with very high risk Aboriginal clients in the Department.

**1998 – Present. Indigenous Psychological Services Pty Ltd. Founding Managing Director**

- Management of the organization including staff supervision, support and development
- Development of IPS strategic direction including its business and operational planning
- Oversee all major projects and contracts and client liaison
- Delivery of public training workshops Australia wide
- Delivery of mental health intervention programs into remote and communities Australia wide
- Conduct research into Aboriginal mental health, delivery of conference and keynote presentations Australia wide and internationally,
- Development of unique, evidence based training programs, community based interventions, psychological tests and assessment tools
- Evaluation of intervention programs and publication of results

**November 12, 2019: Founding Director, The Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health Corporation (“the Jilya Institute”), probono**

Incorporated the non-profit Jilya Institute to directly address the escalating rates of Indigenous mental health, suicide, incarceration, child removal in a manner that ensure best practice. Dr Westerman currently donates all of her time probono to the Jilya Institute and has donated all of the intellectual property from test data and her youth & community mental health intervention programs into the Jilya Institute. [Further information on the Jilya Institute can be found here](#) which aims to drive best clinical practice and ensure that outcome causal pathways to suicide, mental health, criminogenic, education outcome is collected nationally and longitudinally (Stream 1); to inform content of intervention and prevention programs to determine therapeutic treatments of best practice (Stream 2) and best practice, evidence based intervention programs are mobilised into high risk Aboriginal communities in train the trainer level through ongoing mentoring and support (Stream 3). Finally, Dr Westerman also personally funded and personally mentors all 15 recipients of the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program (Stream 4).

### **PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER AWARDS:**

Dr Westerman has spent the past 25 years dedicated to Indigenous psychology, mental health, cultural competence, psychometric testing development and suicide prevention. Her most notable awards include:

- Telstra Women’s Business Award (WA), Small Business, 2020
- [Australian of the Year \(WA\), 2018](#)

- [Inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame 2018](#)
- [Curtin University Lifetime Achievement Award, 2018](#)
- 40 under 40 WA Business Awards (2009), recognising Dr. Westerman as one of the best businesspeople in WA under 40 – awarded the “Strategic Alliance Award” for runner up
- The National Health & Medical Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellowship to investigate ADHD in Aboriginal people, (2006) and,
- The Suicide Prevention Australia Award for Emerging Researcher (2006)
- The NAIDOC National Scholar of the Year (2002)
- The Mark Liveris Award, Curtin University, Health Sciences for best Oral Presentation of PhD

In addition, Dr Westerman has achieved numerous outcomes in advancing Indigenous psychology in Australia and internationally including:

### **Contribution to Psychology, Aboriginal Mental Health and Suicide Prevention:**

- Becoming the first Aboriginal person to complete a Masters and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Clinical Psychology in 2002
- In 1998 she started Indigenous Psychological Services (IPS) -a private business that has operated successfully and in the complete absence of Government or other funding
- Her management of IPS has resulted in her recognition as one of the foremost business leaders under 40 in Western Australia in 2009 and as the Winner of the Telstra Women's Business Award (2020) for WA, small business,
- Development of 24 evidence based, Aboriginal mental health and suicide prevention training packages
- Delivered over 400+ individual private contracts across Australia including training, cultural audits, organisational cultural reviews, cultural policy and procedure development and general mental health and suicide intervention reviews,
- Personally trained **30,000+** mental health practitioners across Australia making her the “**clinicians clinician**” when it comes to practitioners across Australia choosing to be trained in Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention by Dr Westerman for over 21 years and at a level that would make her arguably the most in demand trainer in Australia. This includes accreditation in her unique psychometric tests thus enabling these clinicians to reach many thousands more Aboriginal people at risk
- Invited keynote speaker at over 50 conferences Australia wide and an international keynote speaker on five occasions in Canada, New Zealand and America (refer to Appendix 1),
- Developed EIGHT, world first, unique psychometric tests including suicide prevention and mental health screening tools which allow the early intervention to Aboriginal youth and adults at risk of suicide and mental ill health. Including:
  - the [Westerman Aboriginal Symptom Checklist – Youth \(WASC-Y\)](#) aged 13-17 years, and [the Adult version \(WASC-A\)](#). The WASCY/A are the only uniquely developed culturally and clinically validated screening tools capable of identifying Aboriginal people at risk of suicide and mental ill health. These tools resulted in several crucial world firsts:
    - They determined a unique set of risk and protective factors for Aboriginal suicide and mental health for the first time and was cited by Canadian Health (2009) as making a substantial contribution to Indigenous youth suicide,

- Determined and operationalised cultural resilience as a factor in suicide prevention. The WASCY and WASCA determined that cultural resilience buffers suicide risk for the first time at a population level (Westerman, 2003, 2019 in preparation),
- [Self-funded the development of the first ‘whole of community’ mental health and suicide intervention programs capable of targeting unique risk and protective factors](#). These are the only programs that have been delivered successfully across whole communities with different types of intervention; across different tribal and language groups and demonstrated outcome measured reduction in suicide and mental health risk factors. To date, they have been delivered into Perth, Roebourne, Kalgoorlie, Laverton, Mullewa, Wyndham, Mowanjum and Broome (Western Australia); Katherine, Alice Springs, Galiwinku, Gove, Maningrida, Tiwi Islands (Northern Territory); Bowraville and Tabulum (New South Wales); Echuca and Warrnambool (Victoria) and Doomadgee (Queensland).
- **Sadly, these programs have not been able to be delivered in WA since 2009 due to an absence of funding. This has led to the recent incorporation of a non-profit “The Westerman Jilya Institute for Indigenous Mental Health” which Dr Westerman has developed pro bono; contributed her own personal funds towards and will donate the intellectual property of these intervention programs into Jilya to ensure greater access and reach to high risk communities.**
- Determined mental health and suicide prevalence data using a clinically and culturally validated tool for the first time (Westerman, 2003),
- Determined covariants to disorder for Aboriginal people for the first time (see Westerman, 2003 and Westerman, 2019 in preparation).
- Resulted in the capacity of clinicians to screen Aboriginal people for early stages of risk and measure treatment outcome.
- The first culturally and psychometrically validated measure of [Aboriginal mental health cultural competency \(CCP: Westerman, 2003\)](#) which determined the skills that were essential to being effective in working with Aboriginal people for the first time.
- This has been since followed up with two more measures that can determine and improve cultural competencies – [the General Cultural Competency Profile \(GCCP: Westerman, 2012\)](#) is for use in the general (non mental health) workforce such as teachers, police etc.,
- The [Cultural Competency – Child Protection](#) (CCP-CP: Westerman, 2019) which has attracted national and international interest given the over-representation of Indigenous children in out of home care (54% in WA and this is consistent across most states). The CCP-CP provides our best opportunity to directly measure the improvements in child protection cultural competencies against the rates of removal of Aboriginal children. **This would provide a first opportunity to address the main factors implicated in generational Indigenous child removal.**
- The Cultural Competency Profile for Foster Carers (in development). With over 33% of Indigenous children in the care of non-indigenous carers and with significant research evidence indicating that a strong sense of cultural identity is crucial to positive outcomes across health, mental health, education, employment being able to determine and address the cultural competencies of foster carers is crucial.
- [The Cultural Needs Scale \(CNS\)](#). This determines the extent of cultural need/barriers for Indigenous people in the workplace, enabling the proactive addressing of these barriers to ensure workforce retention,
- The Acculturation Scale for Aboriginal Australians. A tool that has been developed uniquely for Aboriginal Australians to gauge cultural connection and identity formation. This enables a number of important therapeutic interventions and outcomes. It is also used in criminogenic environments.

- The Acculturative Stress Scale for Aboriginal Australians. This tool gauges the extent of stress experienced by Aboriginal people as a result of marginalisation, racism and enables clinicians to be able to proactively treat and address this stress. It is also used in criminogenic interventions which have implicated culture stress in offending behaviours.
- Designed and delivered the only programs in Australia that have demonstrated the ability to improve [Aboriginal mental health cultural competencies](#) (Westerman & Butt, 2009; Westerman & Sheridan, in preparation). [Please click here for an overview of the results of these programs](#)
- [Validated Culture Bound Syndromes in Aboriginal populations for the first time empirically](#) which is a significant piece of research in Australia.
- Dr. Westerman has addressed numerous Parliamentary Inquiries as an expert witness including:
  - 1999. Expert Witness to the Gordon Enquiry into sexual abuse into Aboriginal communities
  - 2007. Northern Territory Senate Inquiry into Substance Abuse in legislation and programs in Aboriginal Communities
  - 2006. WA State Government Senate Inquiry into the Parenting Support Bill
  - 2011 NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the Bowraville Serial Murders. Expert Witness
  - 2016. WA Parliamentary Inquiry into Indigenous Suicides

### **Industry Recognition:**

- 2005 the Canadian government sent a delegation to Australia to explore the innovative approaches with regard to suicide prevention in Aboriginal Australian communities and recommended a similar approach to address high rates of Inuit suicides in Canada
- Canadian Health Report (2009) which reviewed mental health programs across New Zealand, Canada and Australia named my work as a “significant contribution” to the field of Indigenous suicide internationally,
- 2005. Editorial Board for the Ausenet e-journal to review articles submitted for publication
- 2005. Board Member of the Western Australian Community Foundation
- 2006. Committee Member for Healthway Research Grants

### **PROBONO AND CHARITY WORK:**

1. Approximately 30% of its services at no cost to individuals communities including:
  - community intervention programs,
  - over \$100,000 of free places at training workshops for community and Indigenous service providers,
  - self-funding of all research including the development of unique programs, validation of eight unique, world first psychometric tests,
  - mentoring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students undertaking university studies and
  - mentoring of Aboriginal people in the mental health and psychology fields.
2. Personally funded and launched the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship Program. This Australia first initiative directly addresses the needs of bereaved Indigenous families and communities based upon decades of Inquiries, the most recent being the **Fogliani Coronial Inquiry** into the deaths of 13 Aboriginal children in the Kimberley which cited that all of the bereaved children experienced ‘system failure’ or more specifically a lack of access to specialist programs and services in these high risk areas. Dr. Westerman started the scholarship as a direct response to this critical need in Indigenous communities which have not been responded to by successive governments. The scholarship includes:

- A personal donation of \$51,800 to the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship. Refer to media [here](#).
- The donation of her personal time to develop the scholarship and mentor the recipients in evidence based best practice in suicide and mental health prevention
- Personally fund raising over \$800,000 to fund FIFTEEN Indigenous Psychology Scholarships in the first year of the Westerman Jly Institute

**SOME MEDIA ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP HERE:**

- [Incredible young people represent ‘the future of our communities’](#)
- [Indigenous scholarship to honour 40under40 winner](#)
- [Dr Tracy Westerman Scholarship Program](#)

**OPINION PIECES, TV and media**

A significant number of opinion pieces [here but](#) the most heavily influential include:

- a. [Where is the funding going?](#) Featured by IndigenousX, National Indigenous Times and Australian Doctor.
  - b. [What are the causes of indigenous suicides?](#) Featured by the National Indigenous Times, IndigenousX
  - c. [Our children’s lives deserve more than silence](#) featured by SBS (NITV) in response to the silence of our political leaders and mainstream media of the suicide deaths of Aboriginal children
  - d. [Why don’t Indigenous suicides matter?](#) Featured on IndigenousX and the National Indigenous Times
  - e. Sick Heart of a Generation. A ¾ page feature in “The Australian” newspaper.
  - f. [Response to the Governments response to the Fogliani Inquiry](#)
2. Significant public presence on [radio and TV educating](#) can we found here which are about Dr Westerman’s desire to education the public on Indigenous mental health and suicide prevention.
- a. Featured on “All in the Mind” podcast on [‘Why do we need more Indigenous Psychologists’](#)
  - b. [Caama Radio \(Alice Springs\) interview](#)
  - c. [Noongar Radio extended interview](#)
  - d. Features on ABC National with Geraldine Dougue; the Lifematters program and significantly more that are too numerous to include in this application

**KEYNOTE ADDRESSES (NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL)**

- Westerman, T.G (1997) Psychology Week Conference, Perth, WA. “Psychology and Aboriginal Mental Health: Bridging the Gap”.
- Westerman, T.G. (1999) International Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, December 5th at Perth. Paper entitled “The development of a measure for the purpose of identifying Aboriginal youth at risk of suicide, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem”.
- Westerman, T.G. & Vicary, D.A. (2000) “Applied Interventions with suicidal Aboriginal clients”. Suicide Prevention Australia Conference, April 1 –3, 2000, Sydney, NSW.
- Westerman, T.G. (2000) Suicide Prevention Australia Conference. “The development of a measure to identify Aboriginal youth at risk of suicide, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem”.

- Westerman, T.G. (2000) Youth Suicide Prevention Conference for Catholic Education School Psychologists. “Working with suicidal Aboriginal clients”. Esplanade, Fremantle, May 26th.
- Westerman, T.G (2000). “Working with ‘at risk’ Aboriginal youth”. “Next Step” professional development forum, September 7th, 2000.
- Westerman, T.G (2000). “Assessing Aboriginal youth at risk of suicide, depression, anxiety and low self-esteem”, Health Department, September 14th, 2000.
- Westerman, T.G (2000) “Working with suicide and depression” School Psychologists Association Conference, Education Department, September 21st, 2000.
- Westerman, T.G. (2001) Suicide Prevention Australia Conference, Sydney. “The Westerman Aboriginal Symptom Checklist – Youth (WASC-Y)”
- Westerman, T.G & Dalton, B. (2001) Suicide Prevention Australia Conference, 2001. “The Western Mining Indigenous Employment Initiative: combining mental health prevention with employment opportunities”.
- Westerman, T.G (2002). Identifying internalizing disorders in Aboriginal populations: the cultural manifestations of disorder. Mental Health Symposium, Perth, March 18.
- Westerman, T.G (2002). The MHS Conference. “Mental Health Outcome Measures and Aboriginal People”. Sydney, August, 2002
- Westerman, T.G (2002). Keynote Address: Mental Health Promotion and what it means for Aboriginal People. Mental Health Symposium, Perth, March 18.
- Westerman, T.G (2002) Women’s Refuge Conference of WA, Inc. Working with Aboriginal Youth and Children: A community development approach to the prevention of suicide in the Derby region.
- Westerman, T.G (2002). Keynote Address: Assessment of Aboriginal People: measuring the success of intervention programs with Aboriginal people, Auseinet Forum, Adelaide, September
- Westerman, T.G (2002). Keynote Address. Women’s Refuge Conference of WA Inc. Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Mandurah. Aboriginal Children and Domestic and Family Violence: An analysis of the nature of violence in Aboriginal communities and the psychological impacts on Aboriginal children.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003) Keynote Address. Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference. Co-occurrence of Disorders in Aboriginal populations: how does this affect diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. Darwin, May 6th.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). International Keynote Address. How do we as Indigenous People Prevent Suicide – models of best practice and intervention. Iqualuit, Nunavut Province, Canada
- Westerman, T.G. (2003) Keynote Address and Expert Panel, Unchartered Territory Conference, Darwin, Northern Territory. “A Model of Best Practice for Aboriginal Suicide Prevention. Preliminary Results from work in Western Australia. May 8th.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). Keynote Address. Why is it important to have specialist mental health services for Aboriginal people? Pilbara and Kimberley Regional Education Conference – students with special needs. Karratha, June 13th , 2003.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). International Keynote Address. How do we as Indigenous People Prevent Suicide – models of best practice and intervention. Iqualuit, Nunavut Province, Canada.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). International Keynote Address. Therapeutic Interventions with Aboriginal clients. Nome, Alaska, USA, October 15th – 17th.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). International Workshop Presentation:. How do we as Indigenous People Prevent Suicide – models of best practice and intervention. Nome, Alaska, USA, October
- Westerman, T.G. (2004). Keynote Address. Making a Difference Conference. What is effective with Aboriginal people – ways forward. Alice Springs, June.

- Westerman, T.G. (2004). Keynote Address. Models of Intervention: incorporating traditional with westernized models of service delivery. Armidale, NSW, June.
- Westerman, T.G. (2005). Keynote Presentation. Ethnic Child Care Resource Unit. Aboriginal families and the emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal children, Perth, WA
- Westerman, T.G. (2005). Keynote Presentation. The Northern Territory Australian Psychological Society Branch Conference, Darwin. The parameters of culturally derived psychological and mental health assessment of Aboriginal people: where does the differential diagnosis come into play?
- Westerman, T.G. (2005). Keynote Presentation. Aboriginal Child Behaviour Management – how to use cultural strengths in the classroom. Association of Independent Schools. Broome
- Westerman, T.G. (2006). Keynote Presentation. Association of Independent Schools of WA & Catholic Education Office Child Protection Conference. Aboriginal Family Violence: Demystifying Culture from Abuse. Fremantle, WA, January.
- Westerman, T.G. (2006). Keynote Presentation. Mater Community Youth Mental Health Services Conference. Assessment of Attachment Disorders in Aboriginal People. Brisbane, QLD, May.
- Westerman, T.G. (2006). International Keynote Presentation. Can Psychology services meet the needs of Indigenous people? The Australian Psychological Society and New Zealand Psychological Society Combined Conference, Auckland
- Muuji Forum (2007). Keynote Presentation. Self-care and Worker Burnout. How to address compassion fatigue in the helping profession, Canberra, ACT
- Westerman, T.G. (2007). Effective Practice in Indigenous Suicide: What impacts can be made by adopting a unique cultural approach, Suicide Prevention Australia, Sydney, NSW
- Westerman, T.G. (2007) Keynote presentation. The value of unique service provision for Aboriginal Australians – the benefits of starting from scratch. Psychology and Indigenous Australians: Effective Teaching and Practice Conference, Adelaide 13 July (2007)
- Westerman, T.G. (2007). Keynote presentation. The value of unique service provision for Aboriginal Australians – the benefits of starting from scratch. Making Waves 33rd International Conference of the ACMHN, Cairns 12th October
- Westerman, T.G. (2007). International Keynote presentation. The value of unique service provision for Aboriginal Australians – the benefits of starting from scratch. Two Nations, Ten Cultures? Combined APSAD & Cutting Edge Addiction Conference, Auckland NZ, 4-7 November
- Westerman, T.G. (2008). Keynote presentation. Psychometric Assessment of Aboriginal People: getting it right. The Victorian Transcultural Psychiatry Unit, Melbourne, June.
- Westerman T.G. (2009). Keynote Presentation. Culturally competent forensic mental health assessment: where are we at? Australian Institute of Criminology, Sydney, August.
- Westerman, T.G. (2009). Keynote Presentation. Development of innovative models of mental health service; what we have learnt. Australian Community Support Organisation Conference, Melbourne
- Westerman, T.G. (2009). International Keynote Presentation. Is best practice really elusive when working with Indigenous people? Wellington, New Zealand, September
- Westerman, T.G. (2009). Keynote Presentation. Unique Aboriginal mental health service provision – what are the benefits and what has been achieved? WA Country Health, Kalgoorlie, November
- Westerman, T.G. (2010). Aboriginal Parenting Differences - how to recognize the value in effective intervention and prevention. QEC Early Parenting Program 6th Annual Conference. Melbourne
- Westerman, T.G. (2012). Cultural Competence in Aboriginal Mental Health: the predictors of best practice. WA Drug & Alcohol Conference, Perth



- Westerman, T.G. (2012). A culturally competent mental health workforce: the work of IPS in delivering best practice workforce development programs across Australia, Western Regional Alcohol and Drug Dual Diagnosis Conference, Warnambool, Victoria
- Westerman, T.G. (2017). Working with dual diagnosis in Aboriginal mental health: where is the evidence base? Tamworth Aboriginal Medical Service, Tamworth
- Westerman, T.G (2017). Developing culturally competent workforces – what is the payoff for Aboriginal clients and service delivery, Sydney, YFoundation.
- Westerman, T.G (2017). Cultural Competence in child protection: how can we ensure minimum standards. An introduction to the work of IPS in the Department of Communities, Perth, WA
- Westerman, T.G. (2017). How do we prevent violence in Indigenous Communities. Culturally informed practice. KWY Conference, Adelaide.
- Westerman, T.G (2018). Cultural Competence in Educational Institutions – Why it is vital to outcomes for Indigenous people. TEMC Conference. Burswood, WA
- Westerman, T.G (2018). Indigenous Literacy Day Round Table. Catholic Education WA Kaartdijin Week 2018. Leederville, WA
- Westerman, T.G (2018). Cultural Competent Forensic Mental Health Assessment. District Court of Western Australia Judges' Conference 2018. Perth, WA
- Westerman, T.G (2018). WA Australian of the Year Social Inclusion Breakfast Forum: Social Inclusion's Role in Community Wellbeing. Crawley, WA
- Westerman, T.G (2019). KWY, National Child Protection Summit, Adelaide. The Cultural Competency Profile – Child Protection – results for a whole of organisation cultural audit and review
- Westerman, T.G (2019). Curtin University, Occasional Address to 1,300 Psychology and Social Work Graduates
- Westerman, T.G (2019), WA Leadership Conference ACHSM. Leadership in Aboriginal Mental Health & Suicide Prevention
- Westerman, T.G (2020). Adelaide, Department of Human Services. The assessment of wellbeing in Aboriginal populations: why are we so afraid of difference?

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

- Westerman T.G. & Wettinger, M. (1998) Working with Aboriginal People. Psychologically Speaking, Western Australian Psychological Society.
- Westerman, T & Wettinger, M (2001) Establishing Rapport with Aboriginal clients. In Centre for Aboriginal Studies Psychological Practitioners Handbook,
- Westerman, T.G. & Vicary, D.A (2001) Preventing Aboriginal Youth Suicide. In Dudgeon,P., Pickett, H & Garvey, D. Centre for Aboriginal Studies Psychological Practitioners Handbook
- Westerman T.G (2002). Psychological Interventions with Aboriginal People. Connect Magazine, Health Department of Western Australian.
- Westerman, T.G. (2003). Development of an inventory to assess the moderating effects of cultural resilience with Aboriginal youth at risk of depression, anxiety and suicidal behaviours. Unpublished PhD, Curtin University, Perth, WA.
- Westerman, T.G. (2004). Guest Editorial. Engagement of Indigenous Clients in Mental Health Services: what role do cultural differences play? Australian e-journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH), Volume 3, Issue 3



- Westerman, T.G. & Vicary, D.A (2004). Guest Editorial. That's just the way he is': Some implications of Aboriginal mental health beliefs. Australian e-journal for the Advancement of Mental Health (AeJAMH), Volume 3, Issue 3
- Westerman, T.G (2010). Engaging Australian Aboriginal Youth in Mental Health Services, Australian Psychologist, Vol 45(3), pp 212-222.
- Westerman, T.G & Sheridan, L (2020). A whole of community Indigenous suicide intervention program. Results from high risk remote communities, Australian Psychologist, 55, 363-374
- Westerman, T.G (submitted). Culture-bound syndromes in Australian Aboriginal Populations: where is the evidence, Clinical Psychologist
- Westerman, T.G & Sheridan, L (in preparation). The Westerman Aboriginal Symptom Checklist – Youth (13-17 years). A culturally and psychometrically validated tool for at risk Aboriginal youth.
- Westerman, T.G (in preparation). Prevalence and co-variance of mental health based upon the Westerman Aboriginal Symptom Checklist – Youth (aged 13 -17 years).

#### **RESEARCH GRANTS:**

- Rio Tinto Mining Corporation Research Grant for PhD research into depression, suicide and anxiety disorders within Aboriginal youth, 1999 – 2000 (\$40,000)
- ReCap Grant, Curtin University for PhD research, 2001 (\$4,000)
- Healthway Research Grant for research and developing indigenous conceptualizations of anxiety and depression to inform development of an early intervention program for Aboriginal children. Curtin University Research Team, 2001 – 2004 (\$300,000)
- Healthway Starter Grant to develop an early intervention program for Aboriginal youth at risk of suicide and depression (Westerman, Hay & Vicary, 2002-2003: \$50,000)
- Healthway Research Grant to develop an early intervention program for Aboriginal youth at risk of suicide and depression (Westerman, Hay & Vicary, 2002-2003: \$300,000). First Aboriginal person to be awarded this fellowship as a Chief Investigator
- Telstra Foundation Research Grant for developing project content for working with suicidal and depressed Aboriginal youth (Westerman & Hay: \$90,000) 2002-2004.
- National Health & Medical Research Council, Post-Doctoral Fellowship (\$120,000)