



the  
**Lowitja**  
INSTITUTE  
Australia's National Institute  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Health Research

*Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*

# Media Release

12 July 2011

## The Lowitja Institute Launches Guide to Help Researchers

An important resource and contribution to ensuring health research has a real impact on improving the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and on helping to 'close the gap', will be launched by Gail Garvey, Deputy Division Head of the Epidemiology and Health Services Division at the Menzies School of Health Research, this Thursday morning at the Primary Health Care Research Conference 2011, Brisbane.

*Researching Indigenous Health: A Practical Guide for Researchers*, written by Alison Laycock with support from Diane Walker, Nea Harrison and Jenny Brands, is a companion volume to *Supporting Indigenous Researchers: A Practical Guide for Supervisors* (2009).

The guide has been developed in response to a need identified by the Lowitja Institute for resources and advice about how to conduct best practice health research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The principles in both guides embody the Lowitja Institute approach of involving Australia's First Peoples in setting the research agenda and ensuring their priorities are the ones that matter most.

Project Manager and co-author Diane Walker oversaw the development of the guide and emphasises its usefulness. 'We wanted to develop a resource that provides existing and potential researchers with information about the history, context, values and changing priorities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research in Australia, and guidance in how to design and manage successful research projects,' said Ms Walker.

Input from many contributors is a key feature of the guide and has resulted in diverse content and hands-on advice for researchers, according to writer Alison Laycock. 'Putting together this guide was a truly collaborative effort from many people, particularly those who generously shared their knowledge and experience. By sharing their stories, contributors have brought to life the principles of the approach to research advocated by the Lowitja Institute,' she said.

Copies of the guide will be available for purchase at the conference and via the Lowitja Institute website at [www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers](http://www.lowitja.org.au/resources-researchers) from Thursday 14 July, 2011.

Diane Walker and Alison Laycock will be available for interview on Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 July.

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**[www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)**

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