

Our Structure

The Lowitja Institute is independent of government and other centres of health and policy administration. It is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and is structured as a public benevolent institution. It has three main organisational parts:

- **An independent Board** – the majority of whom are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: **Ms Pat Anderson** (Chairperson), **Ms Stephanie Bell**, **Professor Peter Buckskin**, **Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver**, **Mr Robin Lonergan**, **Dr Louise Morauta** and **Dr Sanchia Shibasaki**.
- **The CRCATSIH** – is hosted and managed by the Lowitja Institute through to June 2014. There are 12 partners from around Australia – including community-controlled health services, State, Territory and Federal government departments, and academic research institutions – who support the implementation of the current research agenda.
- **Congress Lowitja** – provides our research users and other stakeholders with an opportunity to refine the Institute's strategic vision and research agenda, and meets biennially.

The Lowitja Institute Board – Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Professor Peter Buckskin, Dr Sanchia Shibasaki, Ms Pat Anderson (Chairperson), Mr Robin Lonergan and Dr Louise Morauta – with Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue (seated). Board member not present – Ms Stephanie Bell



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For more information about the Lowitja Institute and the CRC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, go to:

www.lowitja.org.au



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



Maximising the Impact of Research, Knowledge and Innovation



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and organisations must be fully involved in the initiation, design and implementation of research the Institute undertakes. As a matter of priority, there needs to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation at all levels of health service, policy, administration and practice.

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue
The Lowitja Institute launch | February 2010

Who We Are

The Lowitja Institute is a not-for-profit company formed to build a national strategic research agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our agenda is determined by the priorities of Australia's First Peoples through extensive and ongoing consultation and partnerships. The principle of strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership at all levels of research and innovation is central to our identity.

We are committed to maintaining the traditions of research excellence and collaborative endeavour established by our forebears, the pioneering Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aboriginal and Tropical Health (1997–2003) and its successor the CRC for Aboriginal Health (2003–2009). The Institute currently hosts the CRC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (CRCATSIH) until June 2014, when its funding will cease.

Based in Melbourne with offices located in other Australian States and Territories, the Institute:

- Works with Australia's leading health research institutions, policymakers and community organisations to commission and invest in targeted, world-class health research that will improve the health and lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Ensures that knowledge arising from research is communicated widely and that innovations identified by research are implemented and evaluated.
- Collaborates with Australian educational and training organisations to support the growth of a professional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, and health research, workforce.

Our People and Philosophy

The Institute's Patron is **Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue**, AC CBE DSG, the widely admired and respected champion of Aboriginal rights, who was previously Chair of the CRC for Aboriginal and Tropical Health and Patron of the CRC for Aboriginal Health. Although Dr O'Donoghue is the Patron of many organisations, the Lowitja Institute is the only one to which she has given her name. In so doing, she has set a clear charter for how she wants the Institute to achieve its aims.

A STRONG AND EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Our team is led by nationally recognised health advocate **Ms Pat Anderson** as the Institute's independent Chair, and renowned academic **Professor Ian Anderson** as our Director of Research and Innovation.

REALISING DR O'DONOGHUE'S VISION:

We are committed to closing the health gap by establishing working partnerships, building capacity and setting research priorities with the people who are going to benefit from that research – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations and communities.

RESEARCH METHODS REFINED OVER MANY YEARS:

We invest in commissioning high-quality research, accessing funds and facilitating engagement between researchers, government, partner organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to maximise the impact of research, knowledge and innovation.

Our approach works because there is evidence that where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had decisive input into the design of research and the delivery of health services, positive health outcomes are being achieved.

The Research Agenda

Until June 2014 the Lowitja Institute will be supporting the CRCATSIH in the roll-out of its research program, the aim of which is to produce the knowledge, tools and resources that can improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We want to do this by being open and responsive to new knowledge and ideas, by nurturing and building upon the skills of our staff and researchers, and by being innovative and dynamic in ensuring the uptake of relevant research findings and products.

The Institute is developing its research agenda and requires untied funding to facilitate and expand its three program areas:

- 1. HEALTHY START, HEALTHY LIFE:** ensuring that primary health care services are able to access and use innovations in biomedical, clinical, social and implementation research that will help them provide the best quality care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- 2. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND SETTINGS:** addressing health through a community and family focus that promotes positive and supportive social and physical environments, to ensure that health promotion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people includes innovations at the broader community and social level.
- 3. ENABLING POLICY AND SYSTEMS:** tackling the fundamental constraints and challenges that contribute to poor performance in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy and programs by developing and evaluating tools and resources to reform health system policy and improve capacity to implement programs effectively.