

Lowitja Institute Research Themes

Aim

Lowitja Institute's Research Agenda 2019 to 2023 aims to achieve positive health and wellbeing benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through the empowerment, sovereignty, and connectedness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Themes

The Agenda focuses on four key themes:

1. Empowerment,
2. Sovereignty,
3. Connectedness, and
4. Cultural safety and respectful systems in the health sector.

	Empowerment	Sovereignty	Connectedness	Cultural Safety & Respectful Systems
The Lowitja Institute Research Agenda 2019 to 2023	<p>This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can take responsibility for, and control of their everyday lives to support decision making and behaviour change that contribute to self-determination and social transformation.</p>	<p>This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can celebrate and improve sovereignty over their health and wellbeing. This can be interpreted as concepts such as agency and control, access to services, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.</p>	<p>This theme seeks to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' relationship and belonging to environment and country for strong health and wellbeing and the way belonging, environment and country is reflected and strengthened through knowledge translation.</p>	<p>This theme seeks to address the ways that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique physical, mental, social, spiritual and cultural needs are embedded at all levels of health care from policy development and implementation to health service management and delivery, research and education and training to improve health system quality and safety.</p>
	<p>The following topics are prioritised for this theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and social determinants • Knowledge translation for positive change and environmental sustainability • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways of thinking, speaking and being that underpin community-controlled approaches • Preservation and literacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages • Genealogies • Protection, repatriation, and rejuvenation of cultural practices relating to health and wellbeing — including medicinal, therapeutic, and nutritional and healing-related knowledges and practices. 	<p>The following topics are prioritised for this theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health technologies and health research technologies • Empowerment approaches and methods underpinning data sovereignty • Community health initiatives and programs built on place-based knowledge • Food sovereignty • Nation building • Data and genomes 	<p>The following topics are prioritised for this theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander workforce and workforce development • Protection, repatriation, and rejuvenation of cultural practices relating to health and wellbeing — including medicinal; therapeutic; and nutritional and healing-related knowledges and practices • Structures and networks that will connect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living with disability with researchers, services and policymakers within values and cultures that promote their inclusion. • Growth across professions and disciplines for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Researchers including emergence of new roles for example navigators • Practices that promote Identity, belonging, and place (country) and fosters national pride i.e. birthing on country • Civil historical truth telling and acceptance projects 	<p>The following topics are prioritised for this theme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health information management systems for monitoring of cultural safety and respect • Comprehensive truth telling processes, and the acceptance of these truths, to dismantle colonial narratives and systemic racism in health research, policy, and service delivery • The embedding of cultural integrity into organisations which foster the cultural determinants of health