

**Lowitja Institute 20th Anniversary and launch of
*Changing the Narrative in Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Health Research
Four Cooperative Research Centres and
the Lowitja Institute: The story so far***

The future is in your hands

By

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**Patron,
Lowitja Institute**

Canberra

9 August 2017

Dear friends all,

When I agreed in 2010 to have the Lowitja Institute named after me, I entrusted in the Institute my spirit and energy, my values and priorities.

I told them that I wanted them to be a courageous organisation committed to social justice and equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, to match words to action, to achieve real and tangible outcomes.

Also, to be known throughout Australia as a strong and sustainable organisation.

Looking at the work that it has done to date, I can say that I am very proud of the organisation, its leaders, its researchers, partners and participants, members and supporters, of our champions and friends.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Not that that is any reason for you to relax.

The future is in your hands, and there is still a big job to do.

Your job is to work ceaselessly, with confidence in who we are, with our knowledge timeless and modern, our endless strength and resilience, our capacity for hard work, our wise heads, our wonderful talented young.

We have the wise and true leaders like Pat Anderson who have fought by my side all along, energetic and fearless. I thank her for her leadership over the years and for taking her vision through to the formation of the Lowitja Institute.

We have outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and organisations in this country. They are more than capable to guide the decisions that need to be made in a way that is true to our cultures and that will therefore have the right outcomes.

In order to empower our capabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be at the centre of the decisions and properly resourced.

We must work with government to get the job done; we want our non-Aboriginal friends and colleagues to work with us. But it is important that we know when to step up and they know when to step aside.

I entrust you all to deliver on the agenda for us, and I want to thank you all very much.

For more information and a copy of *Changing the Narrative* please visit:

<http://www.lowitja.org.au/changing-the-narrative>