



the  
**Lowitja**  
Institute

Australia's National  
Institute for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander  
Health Research

## **FUNDING FOR LOWITJA INSTITUTE INVESTS IN FIRST NATIONS LED SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**28 May 2018**

The Lowitja Institute welcomes today's funding announcement by the Hon Minister Ken Wyatt AM MP.

The Institute is Australia's national institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research. We have a strong track record working with communities, researchers and policymakers. We align the evidence that informs policy and programs with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community priorities. We embed First Nations solutions and leadership in the decision making. This is critical to improving the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples.

The funding contributes to ensuring that the Institute will continue to deliver public value of more than \$3 per every \$1 invested. Examples of our projects include identifying mental health impacts of racism, supporting significant hospital care improvements for Aboriginal patients from remote areas, and granting a large number of postgraduate scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers. The Institute also partnered in the largest international study of health and wellbeing covering more than half the Indigenous population of the world.

Ms Pat Anderson AO, the Institute's Chairperson, said, "This funding means we can continue the legacy of our Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. Her vision for us is to be an organisation committed to social justice and equity, and to the strength, agency and knowledges of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

"This announcement by Minister Wyatt is very welcome," Mr Romlie Mokak, CEO of the Lowitja Institute, said. "While giving us much needed certainty, we still require Australian Government investment at the current level to continue our work. We are strengthened by the recognition and support across the Australian Parliament for the Lowitja Institute to remain as a key component of the national research architecture," Mr Mokak said.

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Media enquiries: Cristina Lochert, T: 03 8341 5555, M: 0413 833 354

More information: [www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au); Twitter: @LowitjaInstitut

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### ABOUT THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE

The Lowitja Institute is Australia's national institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research, named in honour of its Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. It is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation working for the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Established in January 2010, the Lowitja Institute operates on key principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership, a broader understanding of health that incorporates wellbeing, and the need for the work to have a clear and positive impac.