



Healthy Start, Healthy Life PROGRAM

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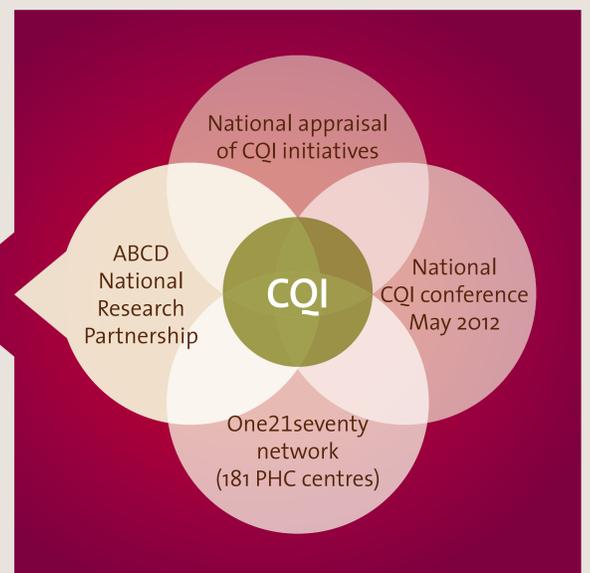
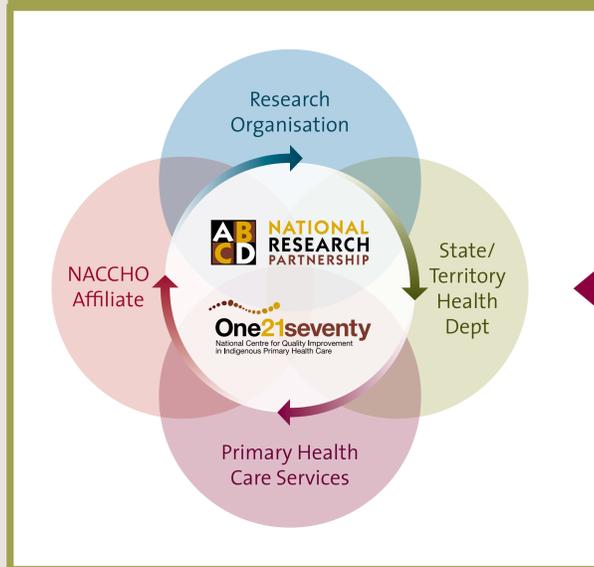
the Lowitja INSTITUTE

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

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

The Lowitja Institute, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, is an innovative research body based in Melbourne with offices in Brisbane, Adelaide and Darwin. The Institute ensures that research is put into practice, through **A.** focusing research efforts on the priorities identified by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector; **B.** involving key stakeholders throughout the process; and **C.** communicating and supporting the use of the products of research in policy and practice.

ABCD National Research Partnership



Improving primary health care

A major focus of the Healthy Start, Healthy Life program is improving the overall quality of primary health care available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including the use of evidence-based Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) approaches.

Our CQI activity includes working with a large CQI support organisation, One21seventy, that provides services to more than 180 primary health care centres nationally; a national CQI conference for 2012; a national research network with state/territory research groups with partners from the community sector, state/territory governments and research bodies; and an independent appraisal of the range of quality improvement initiatives currently used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care.

Streptococcus vaccine trial

Streptococcus pyogenes is a bacteria responsible for many diseases, including rheumatic heart disease. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are among the highest sufferers of Streptococcus-related disease in the world. QIMR has developed a vaccine candidate and the Institute is contributing to the phase 1 human clinical trial to assess its safety and immunogenicity.

Implementing research into practice

The Lowitja Institute has always had a commitment to promote the uptake of research into practice. Many of our projects have and continue to produce knowledge and tools that are in strong demand from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. But often there is no straightforward pathway to widespread implementation of these tools and knowledge. We have funded a project to find out more about this critical phase of research uptake.

How we work



Cancer

In 2010 the Lowitja Institute and Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) hosted an industry roundtable to determine priorities for research about cancer and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A priority from the roundtable was improving the coordination and communication of research in this area – to increase the focus of the research effort nationally, avoid duplication and increase research translation into policy and practice.

The Lowitja Institute also has a large body of work on cancer including improving access to care.

Rheumatic heart disease

Rheumatic heart disease (RHD), while virtually eliminated in non-Indigenous Australians, remains a serious health threat for Aboriginal Australians. We are supporting research to improve the early detection of rheumatic fever, for use particularly in rural and remote settings.

Still to come...



FOR MORE INFORMATION
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