



the
Lowitja
Institute
Aboriginal and Torres Strait
Islander Health CRC

Research Advisory Committee

Communique No. 2

The Lowitja Institute CRC Research Advisory Committee (the Committee) met on 23 October to provide as needed expert advice and support to the Lowitja Institute on:

- internally implemented quality assurance projects such as the Lowitja Institute Alumni project
- translation of Lowitja CRC and former CRC knowledge products such as publications
- drafting and development of the Scientific Program for the Lowitja Institute Conference in 2019
- continuous quality improvement of Lowitja Institute Research and Knowledge Translation systems and processes
- Lowitja Institute CRC exit requirements, and
- Other issues and concerns as advised by the Lowitja Institute Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The key discussion topics were:

- Quality Management for the Successful Commissioning of Research Projects
 - Evidence suggest that project quality management including risk management is not widely practised in research projects (Baccarini, David and Melville, Todd, 'Risk management of research projects in a University context – An exploratory study' (2011), Conference Papers, Paper 17, http://epublications.bond.edu.au/aubea_2011/17)
 - The Lowitja Institute CRC funded over 40 projects from 2014. In 2018, 7 projects were completed successfully. The Research and Knowledge Translation Program is currently overseeing the quality management of the remaining 34 research projects – all projects must be completed by 30 June 2019 or earlier
 - To support the successful completion of these projects the Lowitja Institute has developed a Quality Management Policy for the Commissioning of Research Projects (Draft version completed 9/11/2018)
 - The Quality Management Policy for the Commissioning of Research Projects has identified several quality measures to monitor the progress of research projects. The policy also aligns to the Lowitja Institute principles and CRC requirements and describes the steps that will be undertaken to support project leads and project teams complete funded projects on time.
- Lowitja Institute Scholarships and Awards Policy and Support
 - The Lowitja Institute offers the following scholarships and awards:
 - Scholarships:
 - Training scholarships for Master and PhD candidates, and
 - Co-funded scholarships such as Starlight Children's Foundation Scholarship
 - Awards
 - Research award for emerging researchers

- Student award for candidates that have completed a Master or PhD postgraduate degree
 - Lifetime achievement award
 - Lowitja Institute Research Leadership Award, in partnership with the Cranlana Programme, and
 - Tarrn doon nonin award for projects doing research the right way.
- The Lowitja Institute has invested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce for over 20 years.
 - The RAC discussed opportunities for continued health workforce investment such as co-funded financial support, professional development, scholar engagement and support with Lowitja Institute Alumni and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in academic institutes such as universities.
- Effective translation of outcomes from former CRCs and the Lowitja Institute CRC to achieve outcomes and impact for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing
 - In addition to the upcoming Conference in Darwin in June 2019 (see www.conference2019.lowitja.org.au), the Research and KT program have started *Coffee and KT* webinars. The webinars provide an opportunity for project leads and teams involved in Lowitja Institute funded projects to present their work to national and international audiences. If you are interested in presenting at this event please contact Alex Zurawski on e: alex.zurawski@lowitja.org.au
 - Work is also in progress to create a digital pipeline to mobilise the research outcomes from the Lowitja Institute CRC and former CRCs into support tertiary training and development, professional workforce development and policy.

For more information about the Research Advisory Committee please contact Dr Shayne Bellingham, e: shayne.bellingham@lowitja.org.au or visit the website on <https://www.lowitja.org.au/research-advisory-committee>.
