

**RESEARCH TRANSLATION SYMPOSIUM 2017
CO-HOSTED BY THE NHMRC AND THE LOWITJA INSTITUTE**

CLOSING REMARKS

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[Thank you for that beautiful waiata; we started our meeting with Maroochy, with song, so it's beautiful to bring it together with your gift this afternoon.]

My thanks to the Turrbul and Yuggera peoples for their welcome, their blessings and their permission to gather on their sacred lands.

My thanks to Anne Kelso, my co-Host for this Symposium.

I think Ken Wyatt said that that this was 'a first' and [certainly] an important meeting. I firmly believe that we have created a solid space for deep and lasting impact.

However, this did not start with this meeting over the last two days.

Indeed, the *Butterfly Effect*, as Minister Wyatt said yesterday, is what brought us here. When we think back to that meeting in Alice Springs 30 years ago where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders left the room because of the dominance of researchers: we are now firmly in the room and on the stage.

Carrie Bourassa said 'we, as Indigenous peoples, are original scientists... what we do is science... if it wasn't we wouldn't be here'.

Sir Mason Durie mapped a history of health research capability going back to Sir Maui Pōmare in the early 20th century and those who came after.

He reminded us of the intrinsic power of our languages.

Whaikaha — and this resonates with us at the moment as we have a very clear view at the Lowitja Institute that we want to really interrogate disability —[unlike] the English word '**disabled**', the Māori word '**whaikaha**' means '**to have strength, to enable**'.

We need research that focus on solutions, Sir Mason told us, not just problems.

John Paterson and Donna Ah Chee highlighted the central role of Aboriginal community control health leadership both having had and continuing to have in the reforming research agenda space.

We had great panels — amazing panels, all Indigenous panels — and these panels had difficult conversations, these were the hard yarns: about racism, about leadership and about our future.

But what I loved about the panels — and this is very much an Indigenous space, whether we're in Turtle Island or Aotearoa — is that there was laughter and cheekiness and that contrasted with the fatigue and frustration that people felt.

Carrie Bourassa made the strong point that ethical research is self-determination.

If you do not have Indigenous ethical research, you do not have Indigenous knowledge translation. So we need to carry this business forward in partnership, as we change the paradigm in the future.

My thanks to my co-Chair of the Governance Committee — Sandy Eades. Not only that, Sandy, but [thank you for] your immaculate timekeeping and MC'ing, very difficult to do in Indigenous spaces!

My thanks to Yvette Roe and Tamara Mackean — co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee and all Committee members; amazing, beautiful talented people who gave more than we asked for.

My thanks to the team — and by that I mean both the NHMRC team as much as the Lowitja Institute team. Lots of learnings along the way; some challenging moments when we both needed to understand each other better, but lots of learnings that we'll carry forward.

Sir Mason made the point about the importance of partnership opening up these spaces.

My thanks to the session Chairs and all others involved in making this conference run so smoothly.

My thanks to you all, for being involved in this gathering, but, more importantly, for the focused work that you will do beyond this gathering that will benefit our peoples, Indigenous peoples.

As CEO of the Lowitja Institute, Anne, I commit to working with you and your team, to carry forward what has come from this gathering.

I thank you the delegates of this symposium for the trust, the confidence and the belief in the Lowitja Institute through your call out for a guarantee of funding going forward.

I am lifted up, like the incoming Kimberley tide — we've got the biggest tides in the world in the Kimberley — I am elevated by this conference.

And, as I've said, Maroochy's welcome song resonates. Like the *Butterfly Effect*, the resonance will continue well beyond this shared space as we journey home to our family, our whanau, our community.

Keep your spirit strong and travel well.

Thank you.