



# 2030: A Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

# 2030

## A Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Since our beginning in 1997 as the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health, the Lowitja Institute has been on a journey of research reform. With the support of our partners, we have developed an effective model of research and have grown to be much more than a funder of research.

**We are an enabler of solutions.**

We want a healthy, inclusive, vibrant Australia in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued and embraced as central to the nation's identity.

The health research sector can contribute to this vision for 2030.



2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019



*“We know a huge amount, what we don’t know is how to shift the juggernaut of implementation.”*

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health research sectors have played a pioneering role in the reform of research in Australia.

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In 2013 the Lowitja Institute embarked on a project to benefit and inform the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research sector and beyond.

**We travelled around the country**

**We talked to community and leaders in the field**

**We asked them some big questions...**

**How can we get ahead of the game and anticipate and prepare for the health research demands of the future?**

**What needs to happen to deliver the kind of research that will create a healthy future?**

2020

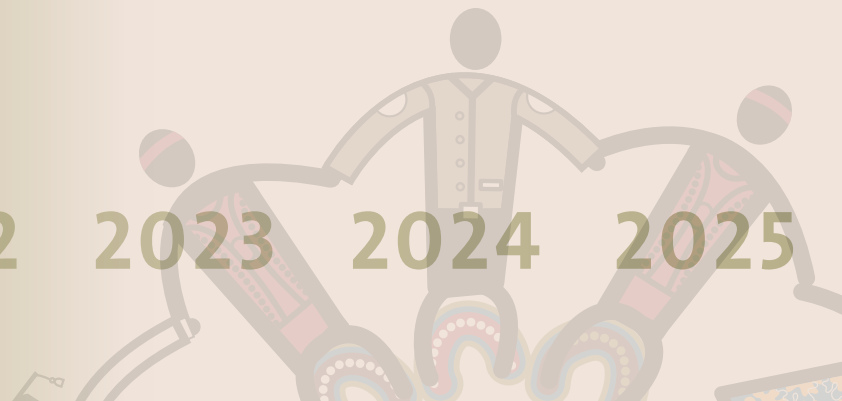
2021

2022

2023

2024

2025



*“We don’t just need a process of research, but systems that maximise the potential of research.”*

## They told us we need a better system of research

- 🎯 One that is holistic and actively integrates health services, policy and research
- 🎯 One that is adaptable to emerging issues
- 🎯 One that is actively aware of the social determinants of health and encourages collaboration with the sectors that influence them – education, justice, local government – to bring about solutions
- 🎯 One that focuses on the early years of childhood to bring long-term improvements
- 🎯 One that makes effective and efficient use of resources
- 🎯 One that creates and nurtures local partnerships and networks with researchers, service providers, policy makers and community
- 🎯 One that creates structures to bring together the best minds and innovation leaders

**As an enabler of solutions, the Lowitja Institute will respond to this vision in our current and future work. We will build on our own journey so far, to demonstrate and advocate for a better system of research. Together with our partners, we will work toward this **Vision for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health by 2030.****

*“Making big changes relies on trust and will. If trust is there we can achieve all this by 2030. If trust is broken, it can push it right out from 2030 to 2050 or longer.”*

*“We know a lot already, but it’s not being used. Instead, we are rapidly increasing the evidence of what doesn’t work.”*

2026 2027 2028 2029

**2030**



By 2030 we can have...

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- True reconciliation – treaty, constitutional recognition, resulting in an Australian society in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and cultures have pride of place
- Real community control in our community controlled sector
- Significant improvement in health outcomes and life expectancy
- Real cultural equity, no racism
- Aboriginal knowledge and values as part of the norm. *“Nunga streaming not mainstreaming”*
- Aboriginal models of health brought to the fore and privileged, e.g. spirituality
- Education, employment, informed choices, personal agency
- Celebration of diversity and difference, no ‘othering’
- Aboriginal representation at all levels of government and society
- Aboriginal people as influencers of decisions, across all dimensions of society
- A return to values and ethics (individual and community), less focus on consumerism and more on sustainable and ecological ways of living.



# The journey continues...

## Our Vision

To achieve equity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Our Dreaming

As the National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research with a sole focus on the health and wellbeing of Australia's First peoples, we will:

- Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a strong voice in all activities
- Bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, health services, researchers, governments and other policy makers to enable high-quality, collaborative health research that makes a difference
- Continue to develop world leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers
- Build on our record as national leaders in knowledge exchange and the translation of research findings into evidence-based practice and policy
- Work at the community, regional and national levels to improve health outcomes and set the research agenda
- Work with our extensive networks to be the pre-eminent source of evidence and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

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the  
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INSTITUTE

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

*Family*, 2013, acrylic on canvas, 60cm x 60cm by Ms Jaharlah Hart  
Jitta Art Aboriginal Islander Gallery Workshop ([www.jitta.com.au](http://www.jitta.com.au))

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

Roundtable image © Gilimbaa

*The Shape of Things to Come: Visions for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research report*  
is available at [www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-publishing](http://www.lowitja.org.au/lowitja-publishing)

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