

2022 Federal Election Priorities

In the lead-up to the 2022 Federal Election, the Lowitja Institute is calling on the incoming Australian Government and Federal Parliament to prioritise the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The full implementation of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and particularly for a Voice to Parliament, is foundational for change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. It must be core to the promises made by all parties in the lead up to the Federal Election. The Uluru Statement's call for Voice, Treaty and Truth is intrinsic to our sovereignty and self-determination, and therefore our health and wellbeing.

Lowitja Institute is calling government to commit to action in the following key priority areas for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing:



Priority 1

Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leaderships



Priority 2

Implementing social and cultural determinants of health



Priority 3

Investing in data governance and infrastructure



Priority 4

Commitment to workplace development



Priority 5

Action to address climate change

Lowitja Institute is calling on government to:

Invest in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research agenda, with a focus on the impacts of systemic racism in health systems.

Invest in a National Anti-Racism Framework, establishing ongoing mechanisms, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, for capturing and measuring experiences of racism and impacts of systemic racism in health systems.

Initiate and invest in a feasibility study for the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Ethics Committee.

Implement strategies and actions to support strength-based approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy.

Invest in initiatives that strengthen cultural authority, including traditional community governance and nation building.

Invest in cultural safety and cultural determinants training and related capability development.

Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led data development at the local level, with the principles of Data Governance and Sovereignty embedded.

Invest in national digital infrastructure, such as an Indigenous Wellbeing Index, which streamlines access to data computing and analysis needs for the research sector.

Invest in infrastructure to develop both technical expertise and a skilled workforce of Indigenous health researchers. This will include the provision of funding for additional research projects and scholarships.

Increase support and invest in workforce development to support the growth of the community controlled sector and community-led service delivery solutions.

Commit to ending energy poverty in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' mitigation, prevention and adaptation planning to ensure resilience to climate change and allow for pandemic planning.