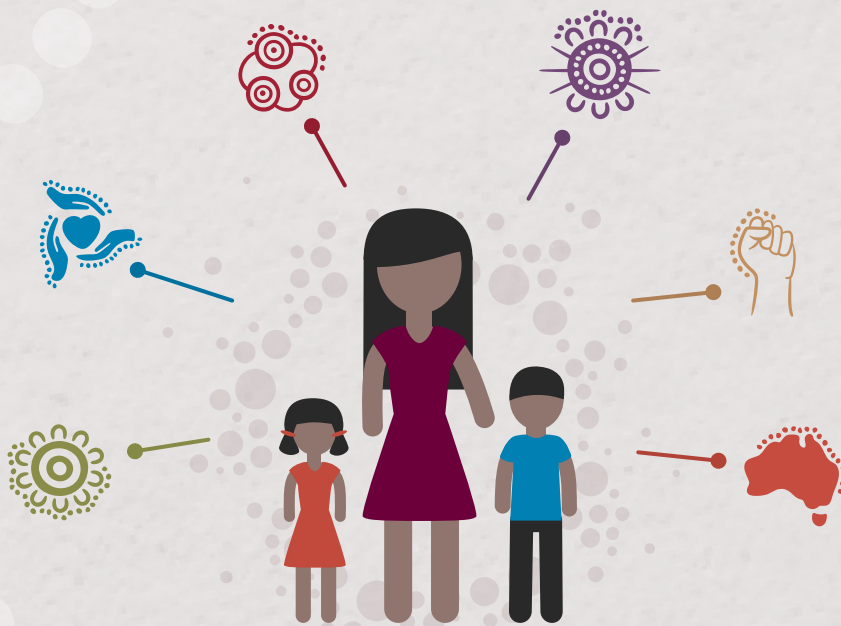
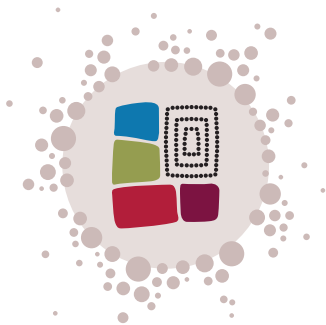


# What is the significance of Lowitja Institute research?



# What is the significance of Lowitja Institute research?

At the heart of the Lowitja Institute's work is our dedication to the strength and agency of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and researchers.



**Culturally, ethically**  
and **intellectually**  
**rigorous** knowledge

In **2020** we became an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled **national health research institute**

**Priority 1:** Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community driven best practice health research

**Priority 2:** Mobilise research knowledge for effective translation

**Priority 3:** Enhance the capability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce

**Priority 4:** Promote our role and impact

**Priority 5:** Create a strong and sustainable future

A commissioned review by Deloitte, revealed the economic and social impacts of nearly 10 years of research funded through our former co-operative research centre model.

**10 Years**  
of Co-Operative  
Research Centre (CRC)  
funded research

# How are we making an impact?

## Investment in Research

Between 2010 and 2019, Lowitja Institute provided \$26.5 million to 148 health research projects.

All of these projects featured Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and almost 70 per cent were led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.

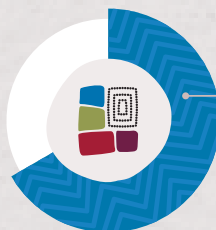
By comparison, less than 10 per cent of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health grants were led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers.



**\$26.5 million**



**148** health research projects



**68%**

were led by **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** researchers.

**less than 10% of 'other' Indigenous health grants**



## Capability Building

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and staff participated in

**100%** of projects between 2014 and 2019



Our research commissioning focuses on priorities identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and on research led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers.

During this time, we also awarded 39 scholarships, including 28 Masters and Doctoral scholarships.

This saw a \$1.52 return on every dollar we invested in scholarships.

**68%** of those scholars identified as

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.**



**Creating a \$1.52: \$1 return on investment**







## New ways of thinking

The review found that our projects have “generated new ways of thinking and addressed knowledge gaps through genuine inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ perspectives, inquiry and agency”.

## Informing decision-making

The Lowitja Institute’s work shapes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy decision-making by contributing to the public discourse on health issues, while making sure community engagement is at the heart of the process.

Our projects resulted in the creation of new representative and community healthcare bodies, including the first known Torres Strait Islander Researchers’ Community of Practice and Knowledge Mobilisation Network.

## Shaping and Contributing

With community engagement at the heart of the process.

**New representative and community healthcare bodies**

# Advancing knowledge

There were 70 peer-reviewed articles and over 130 reports, factsheets, and videos produced, privileging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives.

In addition, 25 per cent of project investigators we supported between 2014 to 2019, went on to receive further grants from NHMRC and ARC.

70 + 130 =  
**200**  
Resources



**25%**

project investigators/  
researchers went on  
to **receive further grants**.



## Better health outcomes

**\$49.9**  
million

The proposed estimate of the total value of our impact on **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health**.



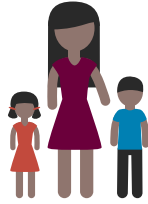
- ✓ Data sovereignty
- ✓ Cultural safety
- ✓ Health conditions
- ✓ Lung cancer and renal disease

The review also proposed an estimated \$49.9 million as the total value of our impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health with major research areas including data sovereignty, cultural safety and health conditions such as lung cancer and renal disease.

Additional research areas include family and community health, including women’s and early childhood health.

# What do these findings mean?

Better **economic**, **social** and **environmental** outcomes



The impact of reviewed projects goes beyond healthcare, influencing approaches to service provision in education, housing, and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**Education** Bringing together the social and cultural determinants of health.  
**Housing**  
**Justice**

The projects we commissioned also contribute to building long-standing relationships between the communities and government services such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Building **relationships**, with **communities** and **government** services.



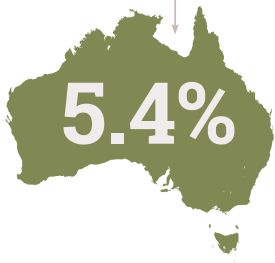
**National Disability Insurance Scheme**

## Funding

We achieved all this, despite only receiving a small share of available funding. Our work received approximately 0.1 per cent of the total spending on health research in Australia, and 5.4 per cent of the total spending on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific health research in the country.



**0.1%** of the total spending on **health research** in Australia, and...



**5.4%** of the total spending on **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-specific health research** in the country.

We bring unique connections, relationships and ancient ways of knowing, being and doing that no other research organisation in Australia can.



We have a **strong track record** of delivering outcomes and we are ready and **willing to grow.**



Moving forward as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation,

we will continue to **produce and advocate**

for **high impact health research.**

led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



To find out more, visit our website

[lowitja.org.au](http://lowitja.org.au)



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