



2023 Annual Report



Australian Government
**Department of Health
 and Aged Care**

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

WHO WE ARE

Lowitja Institute is Australia's only national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute, named in honour of its patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG.

We work for the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by facilitating high-impact quality research, tools, resources and knowledge exchange, and supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Our patrons



Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, a Yankunytjatjara woman, is arguably our nation's most recognised Aboriginal woman.

Dr O'Donoghue has forged a distinguished career of advocacy and achievement for the rights of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Among her many awards, she was the first Aboriginal woman to be awarded an Order of Australia (AO) in 1976, was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 1999, a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1983, and Australian of the Year in 1984.

In March 1990, Dr O'Donoghue was appointed the inaugural Chairperson of ATSIC – the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission – and won universal admiration for her leadership, tenacity, and integrity. In 1992, Dr O'Donoghue was the first Aboriginal person to address the United Nations General Assembly, during the launch of the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Peoples.

In 2010, she gifted her name and patronage to Lowitja Institute, having been the inaugural Chair of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health (1996–2003), which preceded it.



Pat Anderson AO

Pat Anderson AO is an Alyawarre woman who grew up on a camp outside Darwin in the 1950s and has, since, led national efforts to achieve justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as key health organisations including the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

With an extensive career spanning community development, service delivery, policy formation, and research ethics, Pat was instrumental in the founding and development of Lowitja Institute. She was its chair for almost two decades, and is now co-patron, alongside its namesake Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue.

Pat was Co-Chair of the Prime Minister's Referendum Council and an architect of the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart, and its calls for Voice, Treaty and Truth.



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Selwyn Button
Chairperson,
Lowitja Institute

Chairperson's message

It has certainly been a momentous year for Lowitja Institute, and with Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed at the helm, I am immensely proud of what has been achieved.

As a Board, we experienced some changes over the past year. I would like to acknowledge the support and contributions of Tanya Kearsley who retired as our company secretary, having served the Board for many years. This position will now be undertaken internally. It has been an honour to have Professor Peter Buckskin on our Board and sadly understand he has needed to step down. We are in the process of seeking a replacement.

One of the outstanding highlights of this year for me was to attend the 3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference. It was a joy and privilege to meet up with so many Indigenous health researchers from across Australia and the globe and to share innovative ideas and transformational community-led research that is grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing. I was honoured at the conference gala dinner to present the 2023 Lowitja Institute Awards, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research excellence across so many fields and underscoring the depth and breadth of the work showcased across three days. On behalf of the Lowitja Institute Board, I congratulate our co-patron Pat Anderson AO for her Lifetime Achievement Award – Pat is a giant in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and policy making. I congratulate all winners for their efforts and achievements, and the contributions they make to their communities.

The awards are an example of how we, as an organisation, continue to strive for excellence by supporting Aboriginal-led research through community controlled organisations and researchers, strengthening our position to influence policies at a national and international level, and enhancing our position as a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak body for the health and wellbeing of our peoples. I was also deeply proud, as Lowitja Institute Chair, to be a member of the First Nations Referendum Engagement Group and able to play an active role in supporting Pat's leadership on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the proposal to constitutionally embed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

Our own voice has continued to become louder through the growth of our Membership and the sustainability of our organisation over the next five years. We look forward as a Board to reviewing and resetting our strategic direction for 2024 onwards.

Finally, I would like to thank all Board members for their commitment over the past year and of course, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and all staff at Lowitja Institute for their strategic vision and hard work. Thank you also to all of our members and supporters for your commitment to improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes.

We will continue to strive for effective policy, research and resources, a growing membership, and making a genuine impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Selwyn Button
Chairperson, Lowitja Institute

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Selwyn Button
Chairperson, Lowitja Institute



Chief Executive Officer's message



Dr Janine Mohamed
Adjunct Professor
Chief Executive Officer
Lowitja Institute

We commenced this financial year by securing Lowitja Institute's future with a new five-year core funding agreement with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.

Soon after, we moved into a new permanent office space at 71 Oxford Street, Collingwood, near the infamous Charcoal Lane and the heart and history of many Aboriginal human rights activities in Naarm, Victoria. Our office is graced by the commissioned portrait of our two patrons – Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG and Pat Anderson AO – who remind us daily about our purpose and commitment as an organisation.

As a collective, we took the time to reset and plan with our executive and re-establish teams after the fragmentation caused through the COVID-19 pandemic. We emerged with a reshaped organisational restructure that supported us to tackle the challenges, opportunities and joys of the year, which has certainly been both full and varied.

We have continued our work in research commissioning, awarding nine seeding and 15 major grants that will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are driving our research agenda and benefiting from it. Our seeding grants play a critical role in building capability and capacity of local communities to lead the research they need.

This is complemented by our work to grow and enhance the capacity of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research workforce through workforce development opportunities, resources, tools, targeted Membership support, and collaborations. For example, we are partners in the OCHRe (Our Collaborations in Health Research), a national network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers that was launched in September 2022.

A proud and unique moment this year was the August 2022 launch of the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation, in honour of our patron Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, which we hope will grow over years to come.

Leading into October 2022, we took on the role of preparing for, facilitating, and reporting on the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Ministers' Roundtable, both a rewarding and intensive activity. This led to a joint invitation from the SA Department of Health and AHCSA to do the South Australian Aboriginal Health Roundtable.

The intersection of climate change and health has been a strong and consistent area of activity for us, which will be evident throughout this report. This included participating on the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Group Meeting on Climate and Health, advocacy and meetings with Australian Government parliamentarians, including the Honourable Ged Kearney, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care. In April 2023, I was fortunate to speak on climate change and health at the 22nd session of the UN Permanent Forum in New York, USA.

Other opportunities highlighted in this annual report include our work to influence national health and health research agendas, including through submissions, policy advice and presentations, and speaking to the wider health and health research sector through a range of media, professional and journal publications. This included playing a key role in *The Lancet* special issue on 'Advancing racial and ethnic equity in science, health and medicine'.

Consistent with our ongoing focus on the social, cultural and political determinants of health, we have also contributed to critical jurisdictional and national initiatives. For example, in Victoria, we have been involved in supporting the Yoorrook Justice Commission as the first formal truth-

telling process into injustices experienced by Aboriginal Victorians. Nationally, Lowitja Institute has been active in supporting a positive result in the upcoming referendum on constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through enshrining a Voice.

Without doubt, the 3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in June 2023, held in Cairns, was the pinnacle of the last year. Not only did it provide opportunities to explore the critical importance of Indigenous Data Sovereignty as a lead-in workshop to the conference and launch *First Nations Health and Wellbeing: The Lowitja Journal*. It provided an overdue formal occasion to engage, listen to and learn from Indigenous peoples from across Australia and internationally on pathways forward for achieving optimal health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

In closing, we continue to seek opportunities for refocusing research funders and securing new funding sources that can expand the reach and activity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in health research. Two significant achievements over the past year are our work in shaping the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Program, a Medical Research Future Fund, and securing research commissioning funds with the Gilead Sciences. We hope the impact of this work will become apparent over the next year.

Ngaityalya

Dr Janine Mohamed
Adjunct Professor
Chief Executive Officer, Lowitja Institute



A proud and unique moment this year was the August 2022 launch of the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation, in honour of our patron Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, which we hope will grow over years to come.

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed
CEO, Lowitja Institute

2022-23

This year's highlights



8 scholarships awarded



15 major project grants and **9** seeding grants awarded

100% with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lead researchers



60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people engaged as **researchers** across our funded major grants

Lowitja Institute participated in the **22nd session of the UN Permanent Forum** on Indigenous Issues in New York, USA

Lowitja Institute is a partner or chief investigator on

6 research projects

Lowitja Institute staff

- participate on **four** national or state research project reference groups
- are members of **six** Boards in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Lowitja Institute is a member of **five** National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coalitions:

- **Coalition of Peaks**
- **National Health Leadership Forum**
- **Partnership for Justice in Health**
- **OWL Network**
- **OCHRe National Network**



1200+

delegates and speakers and presenters from across Australia and globally attended the **3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2023**



19

national committees, reference or advisory groups focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and/or health research **Lowitja Institute** worked on

Nearly **\$3 million** was awarded to **Lowitja Institute**, in partnership with the **University of Newcastle**, to establish a **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Medical Research Ethics Committee (NAHREC)**

2022-23

This year's highlights

4 research reports and **discussion papers** published

Lowitja Institute Membership base more than doubled to over individuals and organisations

436

Supported the **First Nations Referendum Engagement Group** on communications and policy work in the lead up to the **referendum** on an **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice**

 **15** **submissions**

to national and state level government inquiries and consultation processes

41  **formal presentations,** including keynote speeches and conference presentations

4,186

mentions in regional, national and international media



Founded an international journal called: **First Nations Health and Wellbeing – The Lowitja Journal** that showcases the best in **health research by Indigenous researchers** across the globe

 **16** media releases



19 editions of **The Doris eBulletin** distributed fortnightly



7 peer-reviewed published articles

Twitter outreach



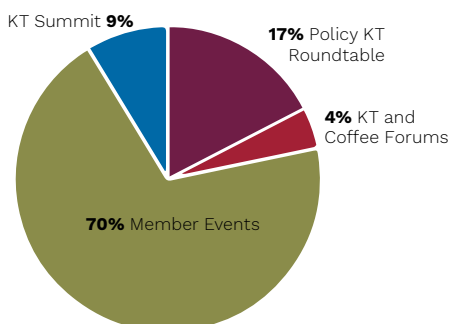
10,594 interactions
397 posts,
1,300 clicks,
698,200 impressions

Lowitja Institute policy and **advocacy work** influence on national level policy

38% had **DIRECT** and **49%** had **POTENTIAL**



Lowitja Institute types of events 2022-23



23 **Lowitja Institute events**

member events, Knowledge Translation (KT) roundtables, KT and Coffee forums, and KT summits, with **770 people** reached

11 **Lowitja Institute workforce development opportunities**



webinars, community of practice sessions and online courses – with **100 people** participating

3 new **cultural safety KT resources** publicly launched and available

Priority 1

Invest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community driven best practice health research

Lowitja Institute's research is built on key priorities identified by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We aim to produce high-impact research, tools and resources that will have positive health outcomes for our peoples.

We facilitate engagement between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, tertiary education, research institutions, government, and partner organisations to maximise the impact of our research, knowledge and innovation.

We also engage with Indigenous peoples around the world, facilitating networks and collaborations that improve First Nations health and wellbeing globally.

RESEARCH AGENDA SETTING

Our 2019–23 research agenda focused on achieving positive health and wellbeing benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through four key themes: empowerment, sovereignty, connectedness and cultural safety and respectful systems. These themes have characterised all research commissioned over the last four years.

We commenced the process of resetting our research agenda for the next four years at the Lowitja Institute 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in June 2023. This occurred through a collective process of bringing together a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders from the research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled and health sectors, as they are grounded in current and priority needs.



We revere Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing; and we commission research led by communities and community organisations, supporting their priorities.

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed, CEO

COMMISSION AND SUPPORT RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

Our Research & Knowledge Translation team conducted two grant rounds during 2022–23 – a seeding and a major grant round – for a total \$3.6 million investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led research. We engaged with community at multiple forums, including hosting 135 participants at our major grant question and answer webinars.

The aim of our grants scheme is that funded research will influence policy and practice through the rapid translation of community priorities for improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, as well as supporting the capability and capacity strengthening of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to do their own research, their way.

We worked to develop a suite of new commissioning tools and templates tailored to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations, including a new research commission portal and guidelines as well as other tools to support organisations in developing and submitting their proposals. All tools and templates are aligned with our research commissioning evaluation and impact measures supporting ongoing continuous quality improvement processes and reporting.

Seeding Grants 2022–23

Our Seeding Grants support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to transform their ideas and aspirations into concepts that can be researched, to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to result in improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes.

This year we awarded nine projects, each related to one or more of Lowitja Institute’s research agenda themes. Four of the seeding grant projects submitted for a major grant and all were successful.

Seeding Grants by Location



Successful seeding grant recipients

Organisation	Project Title
National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC)	NIYEC Youth Research
We Al-Li: Pathways to healing	Examining long-term outcomes of First Nations culturally informed and trauma-integrated practice approaches in health and community services
Jawoyn Association	Scoping and evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on the BSWG Cultural Healing activities
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)	Victorian Aboriginal Ethics Committee: Determining resourcing requirements
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Keeping our Gurrutu Strong: Improving northeast Arnhem wellbeing when there is COVID
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS)	Creation of Kimberley program to build emotional intelligence and improve social and emotional wellbeing
Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)	Co-designing an Impact Evaluation Framework for Indigenous Student Engagement Initiatives
Thirilli Limited	Boorai Dreaming Community Yarns
Akeyulerre Aboriginal Corporation	Case study for a model of care for customary healers

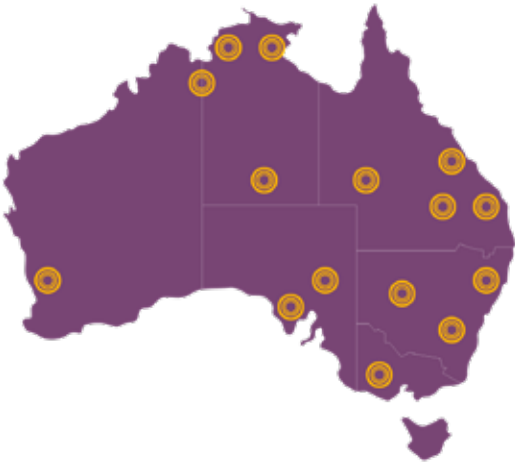


Major Grants 2022–23

Our Major Grants support innovative and responsive community research led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations.

This year we were proud to award 15 grants for up to \$200,000 plus an additional \$20,000 each for knowledge translation activities.

Major Grants by Location



ADRIA seeding grants and major grants

Lowitja Institute administers grants to fund Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations to undertake research about alcohol and other drugs (AOD).

As the commissioning agency for the Alcohol and Drug Research Innovation Agenda (ADRIA), we ensure research outcomes can inform program design, service excellence and policy development. The intention is to drive improvement in social and health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Victoria. In 2023, we funded one seeding grant and one major grant to the Aborigines Advancement League to address the impact and recovery of COVID-19 on young Aboriginal people.



Health workers from VACCHO with Shai-Lee Fairman (Lowitja Institute), Lowitja Conference 2023.



Our CEO Janine Mohamed with CEO Robert Skeen, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research of NSW (AH&MRC).

Successful major grant recipients

ORGANISATION	PROJECT TITLE
Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AH&MRC)	Setting the research agenda for the Aboriginal community controlled health sector in New South Wales
Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)	Culturally Responsive Trauma Informed Practice (CRTIP) through the lens of local Aboriginal communities: developing approaches to healthcare assessments and workforce development that make cultural sense
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS)	Innovating contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship care through genuine community engagement and cultural connection
Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)	Ume Project: Telling the story of the Torres Model of Care
Danila Dilba Health Service	Optimising the integration of best evidence screening for childhood neurodevelopmental disability into routine clinical care
First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing	Co-Designing a Birthing on Country model for First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing in Naarm
Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA)	Examining the scope and value of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce in Australia from a cultural and economic lens
Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH)	Supporting agency and connectivity to drive primary healthcare innovation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in southeast Queensland
The Kaiela Institute Limited	Developing Yorta Yorta measures for shared prosperity, repositioning value and a thriving community with strong foundations
Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation	Using Yolŋu Marrparanj (wellbeing) resources to improve social and emotional wellbeing: a community-initiated developmental evaluation
Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC): Research Our Way	Closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health human research
Riverina Aboriginal Medical & Dental Aboriginal Corporation (RivMed)	Yabilinya miya (learn together): First Nations-led program to support Koori women's breastfeeding journey
Thirrili Limited	Boorai Dreaming Project
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)	Victorian Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee: Steps to Establishment
Wungening Aboriginal Corporation	A developmental evaluation of Ngalla Wirrin Wungening (our spirit healing) alcohol and other drug (AOD) program

TRACKING OUR RESEARCH IMPACT

This year, our Research & Knowledge Translation team undertook a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) review of our research commissioning process, which led to successful improvements and outcomes in understanding the impact of our research and knowledge translation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and organisations.

Among its findings for our latest grant round were:

100% funding awarded to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations

Of the 15 grants approved for funding, **100%** had an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chief investigator, and **73%** had an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project lead

Across the projects, **56%** of the research teams are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and **16%** are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student researchers

64% of funding has been invested directly into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research employment

Of the **15** projects **3** have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early career researcher as the chief investigator (20 per cent) while the remaining **12** organisations have a non-academic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander chief investigator leading their research

60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been engaged as researchers across all grant projects

\$70,000 in funding was contributed to expert guidance from community Elders

|| *Lowitja Institute is committed to tracking the impact of our research commissioning for each grant round and identifying the combined impact over time.*

Paul Stewart, Deputy CEO, Lowitja Institute

LOWITJA INSTITUTE DISTINGUISHED FELLOW

Lowitja Institute undertook a nationwide identification of potential candidates for the annual Distinguished Fellowship role. After a rigorous process, Lowitja Institute is proud to announce Professor Ian Anderson was selected as the inaugural Lowitja Distinguished Fellow for 2023, which he has accepted and will soon commence.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Our Research Committee has continued its role as a sub-committee of the Board. In a conference year, they played an important role in contributing to the conference design and selecting the conference Scientific Committee, as well as beginning the process for reshaping our next research agenda.

Our Research Committee includes:

Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy

Mr Paul Stewart

Dr Scott Avery (2022)

Mr John Paterson (2022)

Associate Professor Felecia Watkin Lui

Professor Roianne West

Dr Ali Drummond

Ms Deborah Butler

Robert Skeen

Lowitja Institute has been working for many years to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are at the centre when it comes to national health research processes – so that research is led by, for and with our peoples.

Paul Stewart, Deputy CEO Lowitja Institute

We cannot close the gap in life expectancy and health outcomes, unless we consult First Nations people about the policies – and research projects – that affect them.

Federal Health Minister Mark Butler



National ethics committee

Lowitja Institute, in partnership with the University of Newcastle, was awarded just under \$3 million in federal funding to establish a National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Medical Research Ethics Committee (NAHREC), which will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and governed.

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant was part of the Australian Government's National Critical Research Infrastructure initiative. The NAHREC initiative was led by Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy (pictured), Wiradjuri woman, and Lowitja Institute Executive Manager, Research and Knowledge Translation.

While there are ethics bodies existing at a state level, the core business of the NAHREC will be to assess applications from researchers undertaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research with a national or multi-jurisdictional reach to ensure research has a community-first approach.



Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy, University of Newcastle and Lowitja Institute.

Lowitja Institute has also been working on a discussion paper on research ethics as a roadmap to this important work.

To progress this work, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Executive Manager of Research and Knowledge Translation, Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy, co-authored a journal article: 'Upholding our rights in research: calling for urgent investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research ethics', for the *Medical Journal of Australia*, 5 June 2023.

Almost \$3m grant secured for sector-first in Indigenous health research.

Media release: The University of Newcastle, 30 June 2023

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH

Lowitja Institute's CEO Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Executive Manager, Research and Knowledge Translation, Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy, connected with our funded project organisations: Nyamba Buru Yawuru (pictured right), Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (telehealth service provision model) and the Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre (Bigiswun Kid Project).

We also produced a research video Lowitja Institute: Transforming Research to showcase the importance of Aboriginal-led research. It featured our funded projects from the Kimberley, Western Australia: Vicki O'Donnell, CEO Kimberley Medical Service interview; Emily Carter and Carol Anne Bernard, Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre and Eunice Yew, Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Nagula Jarndu Aboriginal Women's Arts Centre.



Carol Anne Bernard and Aunty Eunice Yew of Nyamba Buru Yawuru with the Lowitja Institute team, Broome, WA.



Firepit at The Liyan-ngan Nyirrwa Cultural Wellbeing Centre, Nyamba Buru Yawuru.



Emily Carter
CEO Marninwarntikura
Women's Resource Centre
Garninwarnti Kid



We've got to be walking alongside our people, with non-Indigenous people there to support us, not to take over ... When it comes to research, it has to benefit the people on the ground.

Emily Carter, CEO for Marninwarntikura Women's Resource Centre

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

Lowitja Institute was a partner or chief investigator on six research projects during 2022–23, usually partnering with universities. The topics being explored are consistent with our policy and research priorities, as illustrated below:



INTERNATIONAL RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Deputy CEO Paul Stewart participated in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegation to the 22nd session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2023.

This forum brought together Indigenous people from across the globe to discuss how to achieve a rights-based approach to human health, planetary and territorial health, and climate change on a global level. That work influenced the landmark resolution in June 2023 from the World Health Organization, committing to develop a global action plan for the health of Indigenous peoples by 2026.



Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed with Chief Wilton Littlechild, Canada at United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND WELLBEING JOURNAL

In partnership with Elsevier, *First Nations Health and Wellbeing: The Lowitja Journal* was formally launched at a 'Meet the Editors' event at our 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in June 2023.

We celebrated the appointments of Professor Catherine Chamberlain as editor-in-chief, and our senior editors: Professors Pat Dudgeon, Alex Brown and Martin Nakata, Dr Mark Wenitong and Associate Professor Dr Kalinda Griffiths,

The journal aims to uphold Indigenous rights to sovereignty and self-determination within research practice. It will focus on primary research papers, systematic reviews, and informed short reports and community contributions on all aspects of the science, culture, philosophy and practice regarding health and wellbeing for First Nations communities.



The Lowitja Journal team at the Lowitja Institute Conference 2023.



Priority 2

Mobilise research knowledge for effective translation

RESEARCH AND POLICY PUBLICATIONS

Our Executive, Research and Knowledge Translation, and Policy teams worked on multiple discussion papers, reports, submissions and peer-reviewed articles through the year, including in partnership with other organisations.



Now is the time for us to harness and centre nation building within communities to influence national health policy and strengthen healthy futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Jessica Szwarcbord, Croakey

Indigenous Nation Building and the Political Determinants of Health and Wellbeing Discussion Paper

This discussion paper was published in August 2022 by Lowitja Institute in partnership with Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Led by Professor Daryle Rigney, a citizen of the Ngarrindjeri Nation, the paper demonstrates that self-governance and self-determination through nation building results in improved health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

The capable exercise of political authority by First Nations is needed for self-governance that enables self-determination, thereby securing the social and cultural conditions that underpin healthy lives and thriving communities.





A Victorian Aboriginal Authority: An Initial Feasibility Study for Discussion

The existing machinery of government and the electoral system is not serving Aboriginal people in Victoria as well as it should and the social, emotional, economic, political and cultural outcomes of Aboriginal people are suffering as a result.

(Report key finding)

This paper was prepared by Lowitja Institute in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO). It outlines the findings from an initial feasibility study for a new, Aboriginal-led, independent statutory accountability entity to strengthen oversight of Victorian Government programs for Aboriginal people – a Victorian Aboriginal Authority. It will be published in late 2023.



The Lancet: Advancing Racial and Ethnic Equity in Science, Health and Medicine

Lowitja Institute partnered with Australian National University and *The Lancet* to launch a special issue of the international health journal titled: Advancing Racial and Ethnic Equity in Science, Health and Medicine.

The edition outlines new research that makes the case for significant action to address interpersonal discrimination and structural racism for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Led by Dr Katherine A Thurber from the Australian National University (ANU), the study builds on the Mayi Kuwayu Study led by Professor Ray Lovett.

Lowitja Institute CEO Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed was a co-author on the following paper:

Thurber, KA, Brinckley, MM, Jones, R, Evans, O, Nichols, K, Priest, N, Guo, S, Williams, DR, Gee, GC, Joshy, G, Banks, E, 2022 'Population-level contribution of interpersonal discrimination to psychological distress among Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults, and to Indigenous–non-Indigenous inequities: cross-sectional analysis of a community controlled First Nations cohort study', *The Lancet*, vol.400: 10368: 2084–2094.

Ethics in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research: Discussion paper

This paper, prepared by Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy and Dr Jamie Bryant, will be published by Lowitja Institute in 2023. It was developed through 2022–23 in the context of ongoing conversations about the need to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research in Australia is conducted to the highest ethical and governance standards. The paper will provide an overview of current ethics approval and governance processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research in Australia, aiming to identify key gaps in ethical processes and practices, and areas of reform needed.



The potential harms from discrimination and racism must be recognised if we are to leverage policy reform that impacts the health of our peoples.

**Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed,
Lowitja Institute CEO**

Media release: 14 December 2022

PUBLISHED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Graham, S, Kamitsis, I, Kennedy, M, Heris, C, Bright, T, Bennetts, SK, Jones, KA, Fiolet, R, Mohamed, J, Atkinson, C 2022 'A Culturally Responsive Trauma-Informed Public Health Emergency Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in Australia, Developed during COVID-19', *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* vol.19, issue 23: 15626 doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192315626.
- Heris CL, Kennedy M, Graham S, Bennetts SK, Atkinson C, Mohamed J, Woods C, Chennall R and Chamberlain C 2022 'Key features of a trauma-informed public health emergency approach: A rapid review', *Frontiers in Public Health* vol.10: 1006513 doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2022.1006513.
- Kennedy, M and Mohamed, J, 2023 'Upholding our rights in research: calling for urgent investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research ethics' *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol.219, issue 1: doi.org/10.5694/mja2.51951.
- Finlay, SM, Doyle, M and Kennedy, M, 2023 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) are essential in promoting our health and wellbeing' *Public health research & practice*, vol.33, no.2: 3322312–3322312.
- Kennedy, M, Bright, T, Graham, S, Heris, C, Bennetts, SK, Fiolet, R, Davis, E, Jones, KA, Mohamed, J, Atkinson, C, 2022 'You Can't Replace That Feeling of Connection to Culture and Country: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Parents' Experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic' *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol.19: 16724. doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192416724.

LOWITJA INSTITUTE EVENTS

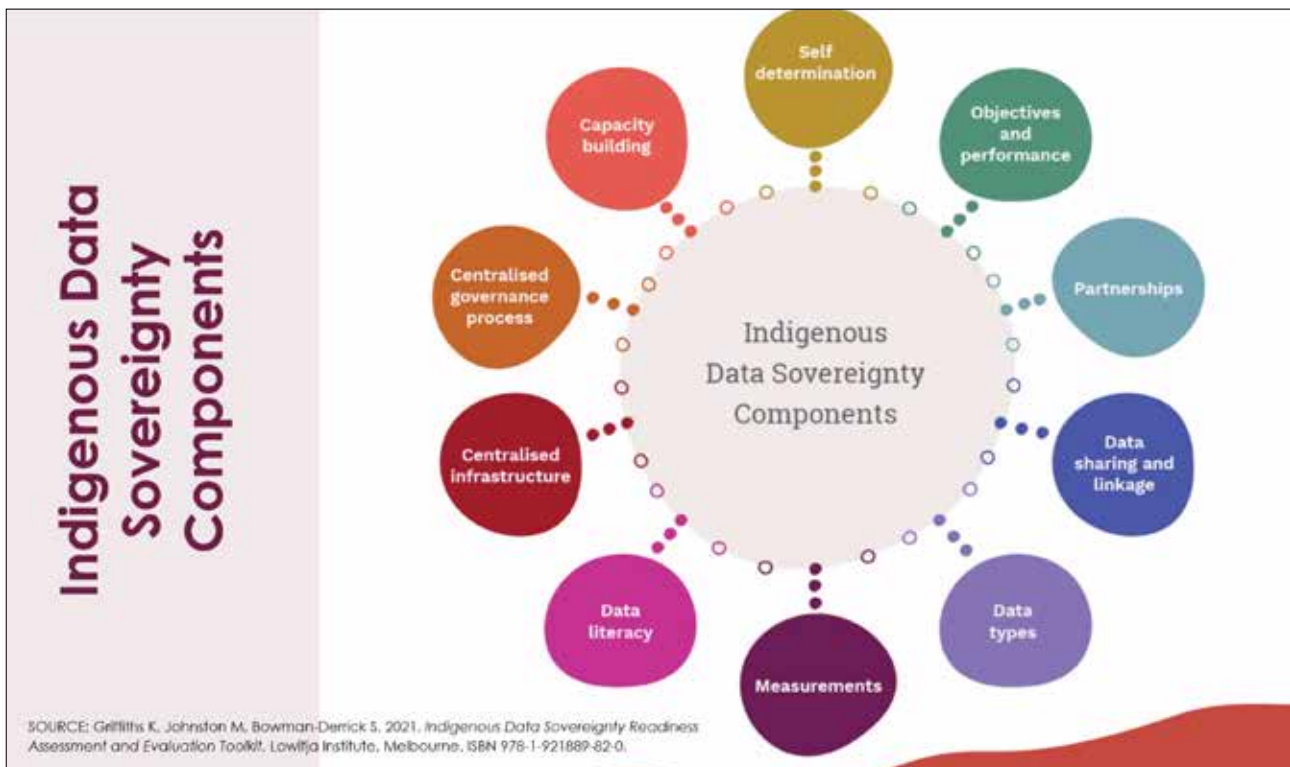
Lowitja Institute holds a broad range of events, including summits, co-design roundtables and members events. Two high-profile events were the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit and the Knowledge Translation Summit.

Knowledge Translation Summit

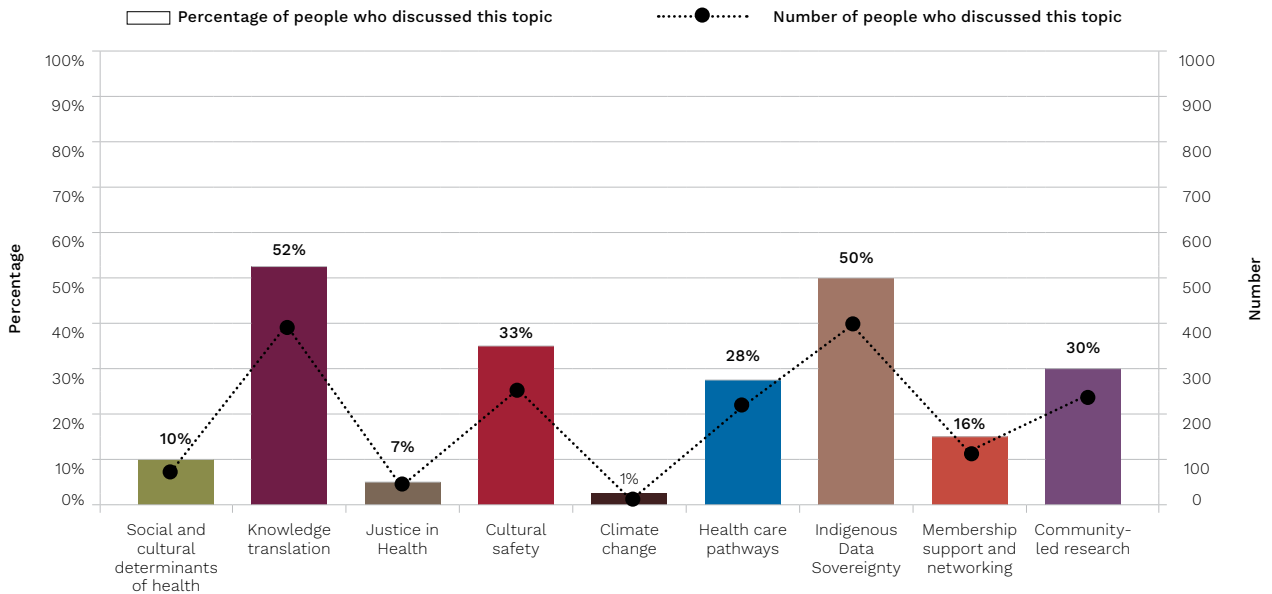
Held in May 2023, our online Knowledge Translation Summit was attended by more than 200 representatives from across the Australian Government to hear about Lowitja Institute's tools and resources. It included presentations on Health Journey Mapping, Indigenous Data Sovereignty Readiness Assessment and Evaluation, Tools to Support Culturally Safe Evaluation, and Cultural Safety Audit Tools.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit

We partnered with Maïam nayri Wingara and the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute to deliver the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Summit in Cairns in June 2023. The summit agenda and objectives included reviewing and updating the Indigenous Data Sovereignty Principles, as well as understanding what information and practical resources are needed to action Indigenous Data Governance in different workplaces. Maïam nayri Wingara has also been engaged to develop a discussion paper for Lowitja Institute, which will incorporate feedback from the summit.



Number of people attending Lowitja Institute events and topics explored



CLIMATE AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Following on from our release of *Climate Change and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health – Climate in health* discussion paper, we continued to build our international advocacy around climate and health. In November 2022, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Lowitja Institute partnered with Croakey Health Media to support a series of #HealthyCOP27 articles with funding support from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation. The partnership supported Gumbaynggirr nyami Amba-Rose Atkinson to join Indigenous peoples from around the world in Egypt for the COP27 meeting. Amba-Rose is undergoing a PhD at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health Research and School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, the University of Queensland Country on climate, health and First Nations peoples' health.

Lowitja Institute has also been exploring the feasibility of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Coalition for Climate and Health, including work with Equity Economics to develop cost modelling for the establishment and operation of a Coalition. We have commenced work on a rights-based approach to climate action discussion paper which would look at the intersection between Indigenous rights, human rights, environmental rights, and climate action.

Three climate and health knowledge translation roundtables were conducted in New South Wales, Tasmania, and Western Australia in June 2023 and attended by representatives from community controlled organisations in each state to inform our ongoing work in climate and health.



Dr Summer May Finlay with Janine Mohamed at a Healthy Conversations webinar. Amba-Rose Atkinson at COP27 in Egypt.

*Lowitja Institute CEO
Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed
was featured in the Healthy Conversations
webinar series hosted by the Climate and Health
Alliance (CAHA) in September 2022, where impacts
of climate change on health outcomes and caring for Country
practices for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were discussed.*

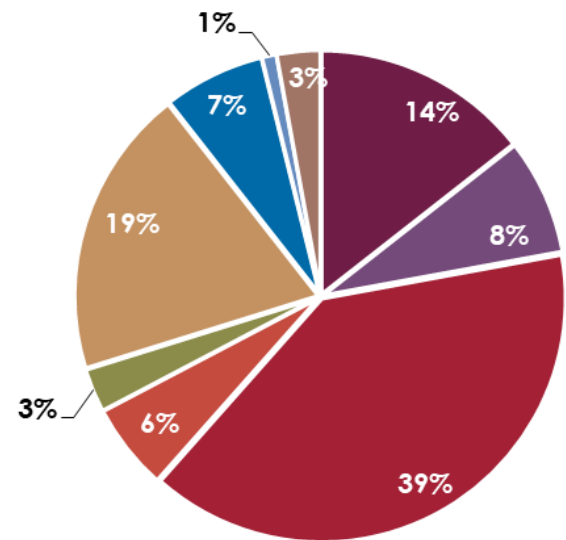
INFLUENCING THE NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA

During this period Lowitja Institute completed 15 submissions to national and state level inquiries and consultation processes, as well as engaging broadly in the health and research policy environment.

Lowitja Institute’s submission to the Productivity Commission’s ‘Housing and Homelessness Agreement Review’ in September 2022 was referenced seven times in the final report. Our submission to the Treasury’s consultation process on the ‘Working Future: The Australian Government’s White Paper on Jobs and Opportunities’ was also referenced in the final paper.

In April 2023, Lowitja Institute CEO Janine Mohamed delivered an intervention at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 22nd Session in New York City calling on the United Nations and member nation states to take full responsibility for decolonisation and anti-racism.

External stakeholders engaging with Lowitja Institute



- Australian Government
- State/Territory Government
- Aboriginal health peak bodies and professional associations
- Health peak bodies and professional associations
- Research centres
- Higher education
- Non-government organisations
- Philanthropic organisations
- International organisations

Constitutional recognition for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

Lowitja Institute has actively supported the referendum campaign efforts throughout 2022–23 to enshrine an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice into the Australian Constitution.

Our co-patron Pat Anderson AO is a co-architect of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and an active member of the Referendum Working Group working alongside the Australian Government in the lead up to the referendum. Lowitja Institute has also been an active member of the Referendum Engagement Group providing a leadership role through communications and policy support materials.



TTRA Needs Assessment and Prioritisation Project

This year saw the culmination of our work with MTPConnect, working in partnership to complete the Needs Assessment and Prioritisation process for Round 3 of the Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Program, a Medical Research Future Fund initiative delivered by MTPConnect. We developed a Prioritisation Framework to identify, assess and prioritise related areas of unmet health and medical needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living with diabetes and cardiovascular disease in rural, remote, regional, and urban Australia.

We engaged the College of Health and Medicine at the ANU to assist in conducting a literature review to identify areas of unmet need.



INNOVATIVE RESEARCH PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

We published and launched two innovative research resources this year.

Tools for supporting culturally safe evaluation

Cultural safety is about creating an environment that is safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This means the voices, cultures, identities, knowledges, skills, and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are respected, centred and valued.

We launched the Tools for Supporting Culturally Safe Evaluation at the Australian Evaluation Society's International Evaluation Conference, held on Karna County in Adelaide at the end of August 2022 on the theme 'Weaving evaluation into the whole'.



Lowitja Institute staff Belinda Griffiths and Rosemary Smith at the AES International Evaluation Conference.

We promoted the tools both as part of an exhibitor booth, as well as a dedicated, interactive workshop in the conference program. The workshop was attended by approximately 50 people who are working as evaluators, are commissioning evaluation, or who have an interest in evaluation.

The tools cover four areas of supporting culturally safe evaluation, so it is planned and implemented in a way that is safe, respectful, and valuable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are involved and impacted by the stories that evaluations tell.

Evaluation is a powerful tool for understanding and translating the successes of different programs, policies and funding models and their contribution to improved outcomes and benefits. However, evaluation has not always led to positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be involved in evaluation in a variety of roles – from leading an evaluation team through to participating in an evaluation. Evaluation must be a culturally safe experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in whatever roles they hold.

Each tool has a guidebook that describes why the tool is important, what is in it, when to use, and practical advice on how to use it.

Users can adapt the tools to different evaluation contexts and participants and combine them with their existing knowledge and experience to develop different ways of applying them.

In May 2023, the Workforce team facilitated a one-hour online Community of Practice session, on Lowitja Institute's Tools to Support Culturally Safe Evaluation. Eighteen people attended the event, with around one-third of attendees having purchased the tools, and others interested to purchase. Additionally, the Workforce team has promoted the tools at many external networking events and conducted short follow-up meetings for knowledge exchange and peer learning.

Addressing cultural safety across evaluation stages

PLANNING

Commissioning body

To commission evaluation as a way that is consistent with the Elements of Culturally Safe Evaluation, decision-making power should sit with the community members and organisations involved in the evaluation or for whom the evaluation might be useful. The suggested way of ensuring this happens is to reach out to the community prior to commissioning and provide them with an opportunity to run the evaluation themselves with the support of the commissioning funding body. If an external evaluator is engaged, ask them to use this Tool to inform their work across all evaluation stages.

Evaluation team

In situations where the community has not been involved in the commissioning of the evaluation, the goal of this tool will guide you to be led by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the evaluation. It helps you with understanding and articulating the evaluation for the evaluation, the organisations that will be used in setting up the program, the participants that will be used in delivering the program.

By providing this information clearly everyone involved will be better informed about the evaluation, and can effectively direct their input into the aspects that they would like to see change, at the elements in which they would like to be further involved. As the evaluation you use the Tool alongside you to you learn through all evaluation stages.

DESIGNING

CONDUCTING

REPORTING

TRANSLATING

Use this with

Use the Contributors to racism cards in the *Addressing Racism Within Evaluation* tool, paying particular attention to the stages of evaluation that are marked on each card.

Apply the *Elements of culturally safe evaluation* throughout each task in each stage.



Tools for Supporting Culturally Safe Evaluation

- Tool A:** Addressing cultural safety throughout evaluation
- Tool B:** Addressing racism within evaluation
- Tool C:** Community-led co-design of evaluation
- Tool D:** Critical reflection on evaluation

“

When the tools arrived at our office ... we couldn't wait to open them up – Lowitja has done such a beautiful job at these!! We are so excited to start using the tools, and the accompanying PDFs and videos.

Non-Indigenous university educator



Rosemary Smith, Executive Manager Policy and Consulting, delivered a workshop at the evaluation conference.

Cultural Safety Audit Tools

The Cultural Safety Audit Tools for Individuals and Organisations were launched at Lowitja Institute's Knowledge Translation Summit in May 2023. Aunty Sharon Gollan and Kathleen Stacey, co-developers of the Cultural Safety Audit Tools, spoke with an audience of over 200 Australian Government delegates about the importance of cultural safety across health, higher education, research and evaluation, human services, and policy contexts.

Cultural safety is a significant factor in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples having safe and respectful experiences and outcomes. Currently, there is an ongoing need and increasing interest at a national and jurisdictional level to improve cultural safety within organisations.

Lowitja Institute's Cultural Safety Audit Tools enable both individuals and organisations to assess and track their progress in creating cultural safety, whether they are non-Indigenous or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals or organisations.

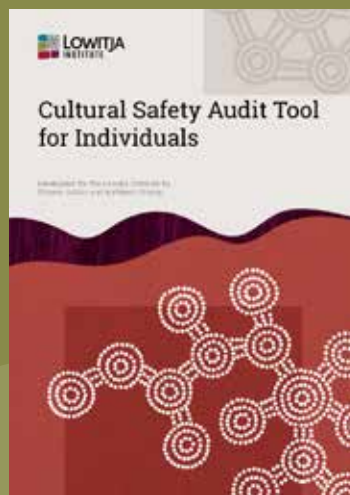
Both of the Cultural Safety Audit Tools can be used as a one-off assessment or on a regular repeated basis, such as every 12 months. They're designed as a rubric with between one and four elements for each focus area.

Individual and organisations are required to honestly assess their knowledge and actions in relation to the rubric ratings. Each rating position is allocated a value on the five-point scale to generate a score for each focus area. This generates a total score by averaging the responses. This score could be used over time to compare the progress of an individual's or organisation's commitment to cultural safety.

The Cultural Safety Audit Tools provide a consistent mechanism for assessing and tracking both an individual's capabilities in creating culturally safe and the cultural safety status of an organisation.



Alice Melmeth, Programs Officer, presenting on the Cultural Safety Audit Tools at the Lowitja Institute Conference 2023.



Cultural safety is crucial, for us as Aboriginal peoples. There is a sense of urgency for organisations to have a deep understanding of the importance of what cultural safety is, for us.

Sharon Gollan, co-author of the Tools for Culturally Safe Evaluation

Priority 3

Enhance the capability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce

MEMBERS COMMUNITY

As a community controlled, member-based organisation, our Members Community is at the heart of all we do. Through the year we saw an outstanding 105 per cent increase in membership overall, far exceeding our goal of 20 per cent annual member growth. The Board endorsed 224 new members, to take our total membership to 436 individuals and organisations.

New members receive a personalised welcome and access to member resources, discounts, and individualised support. In August 2022 we launched our new online Members Community portal with more than 176 members joining.

Lowitja Institute members had the chance to network during our conference in Cairns, Queensland.





Lowitja Institute members enjoyed a members-only breakfast at the Lowitja Institute Conference 2023, Cairns, Queensland.

To keep our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members connected, we delivered culturally safe, monthly, online Yarning Circles, led by esteemed guests including Professor Ray Lovett, Professors Jaqui Hughes, and Dr Karla Canuto.

We also shared latest news and Members Community highlights through our monthly e-newsletter, the Members Community Grapevine.

Members deeply valued the opportunity to come together in-person after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions at meetups we hosted on Kurna Country, Gadigal Country, Wurundjeri Country, and at the 3rd Lowitja Institute conference on the lands of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji peoples, Cairns, Queensland.



I am really enjoying the yarning circle. I'm new to research and I feel you mob have created a safe space for me to ask any questions and feel safe to do so. Just thank you very much.

Yarning Circle participant

LOWITJA INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIPS

Lowitja Institute Scholarships play an important role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership of health research by providing opportunities for our people to develop skills in areas relevant to meaningful health research.

In 2022–23, our scholarship application process was re-commissioned to be a top-up scheme to support impactful and meaningful assistance to those Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are currently mid to late in their candidature. This year seven Higher Degree by Research Top-Up scholarships were awarded, and one Graduate Certificate Scholarship.

Scholarships Grants by Location



Yolgnu elder Djapirri Mununggirritj with Janine Mohamed. Djapirri was a Lowitja Institute scholarship holder to attend the Gathering the Seeds Symposium in Whadjuk Boodjar (Perth), WA.



Lowitja Institute scholarships aim to support the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy, Executive Manager, Research and Knowledge Translation

LOWITJA O'DONOGHUE FOUNDATION

Lowitja Institute was proud and honoured to establish the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation on 1 August 2022, in honour of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG on her 90th birthday. The Foundation acknowledges, recognises, and preserves the extraordinary legacy of Dr O'Donoghue, our namesake and co-patron and proud Yankunytjatjara woman.

With support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Foundation will create and promote a suite of educational resources, annual events, and an archive of historic resources. Through support from our philanthropy partners, the Foundation is building a scholarships program dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people interested in study, internship, and a career in nursing and the public service sector.



Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Pat Anderson AO met with the Honourable Linda Burney at Parliament House to launch the Australian Government's support for the Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation.



Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG with the late Dr Yunupingu AC, former leader of Yothu Yindi.



The young Lowitja O'Donoghue with her siblings, featured in the Lowitja O'Donoghue tribute video.

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue has been a powerful and unrelenting advocate for her people and an inspiration to many.

First-year achievements included:

- A commitment of support from the federal government, announced by the Honourable Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians, who thanked Dr O'Donoghue 'for all that she has done to improve the health and advance the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples'.
- Appointment of Deb Edwards, a Yankunytjatjara woman, as Senior Project Officer to support the Foundation.
- Awarding the inaugural Lowitja O'Donoghue Foundation Nursing Scholarship to Emma Scarce, a Kurna, Ngarrindjeri, Mirning woman studying at the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Education Centre on Kurna Country in Adelaide.
- Premiere of a video tribute to Dr O'Donoghue, created from many never-before-seen historical images, which drew an overwhelming response from delegates at the Lowitja Institute 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference.
- Establishment of a presenting partnership for the 2023 Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration, hosted by the Don Dunstan Foundation. In May 2023, the oration was delivered by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese – the first sitting Prime Minister to do so. The oration was sold out to capacity of 900 attendees and a large online audience within 24 hours and received extensive headline national, state, and regional news coverage, as well as being streamed live on ABC TV.
- Development of a dedicated satellite website and culturally strong branding.



Scholarship winner Emma Scarce with Janine Mohamed and Deb Edwards.

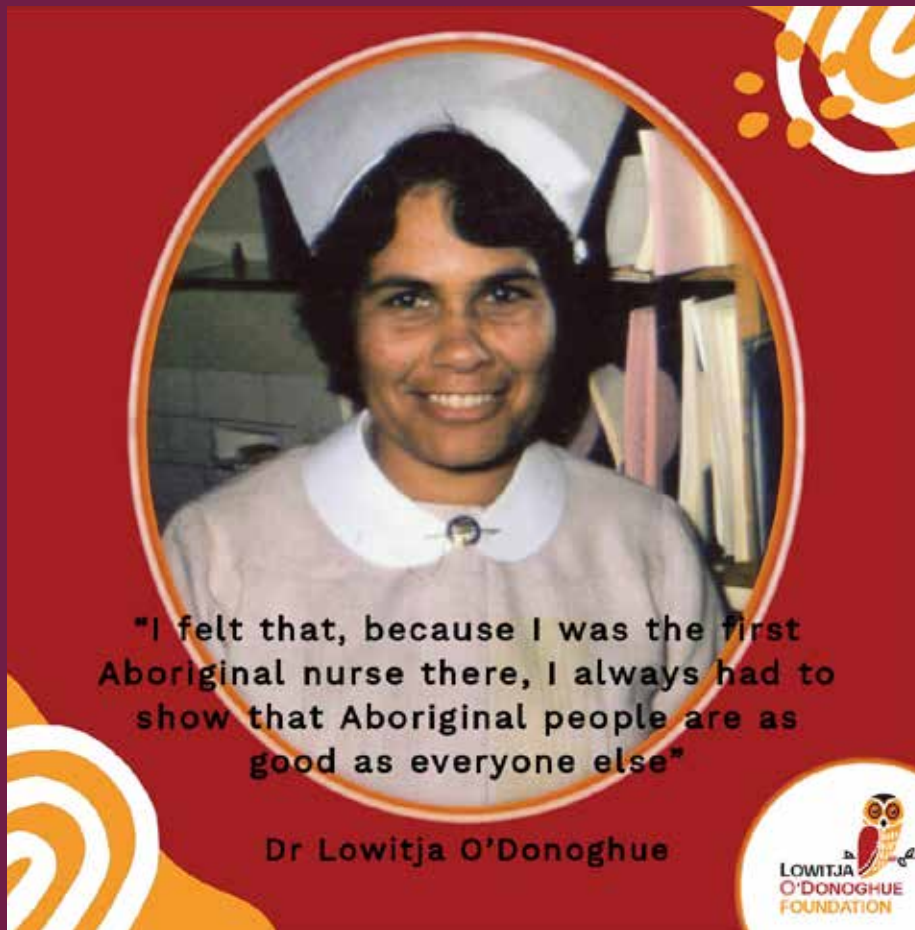


Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue has dedicated a lifetime to upholding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to improve outcomes in health, education, political representation, land rights and reconciliation.

Selwyn Button, Lowitja Institute Chairperson

The Foundation will hold an archive of resources detailing the life and times of Dr O'Donoghue and her work, including through partnerships with institutions that hold her personal collections, to ensure they are recognised for their significant historic value and that her legacy continues to inspire all Australians and benefit the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Through the sharing of many facets of Dr O'Donoghue's inspiring life, including the obstacles and injustices that threatened to discriminate and disable her, the Foundation works to promote a broader understanding and acceptance of the unique place of Indigenous cultures in Australian society.



Aunty Lowitja has given the establishment of the Foundation her full blessing and encourages us to support the next generation of aspiring leaders.

Deb Edwards, niece of Lowitja O'Donoghue and Foundation spokesperson

CAPABILITY SEMINARS

One of Lowitja Institute's core commitments is building on the skills, knowledge, and experiences of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce. This year's activities included the delivery of two capability seminars:

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

In November 2022, Anika Valent and Neane Carter from Terri Janke and Co delivered a three-hour, interactive, online Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) workshop for Lowitja Institute members, with 18 members in attendance. Participants at the workshop explored an overview of ICIP, the differences between intellectual property and ICIP, international principles, misuse of ICIP and strategies for protection of ICIP in community research projects. The recording was available for all members to access for one month via the Lowitja Institute Members Community Portal.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Ethics

In May 2023, Associate Professor Alwin Chong delivered a three-hour, interactive webinar to Lowitja Institute members, with 21 members in attendance. Resources from the presentation are available to our Members Community for ongoing access, in the Lowitja Institute Members Community Portal.

Feedback from the seminars was positive, with 100 per cent of survey respondents advising they would recommend the seminars to others, that they found the seminars useful and informative, and would welcome further learning and development opportunities.



Ethics Capability Building Seminar 3 May 2023

Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Health
Research Ethics

Facilitated by Associate Professor Alwin Chong

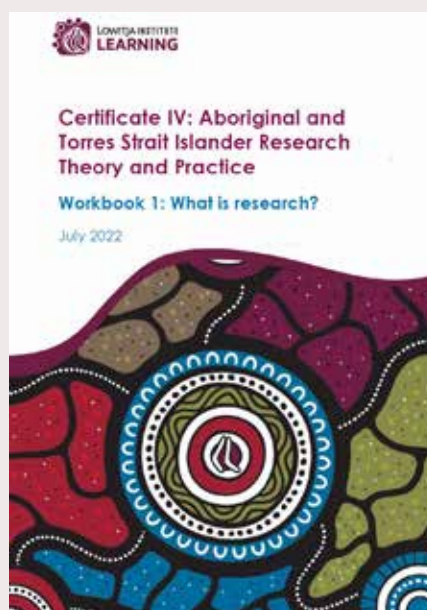
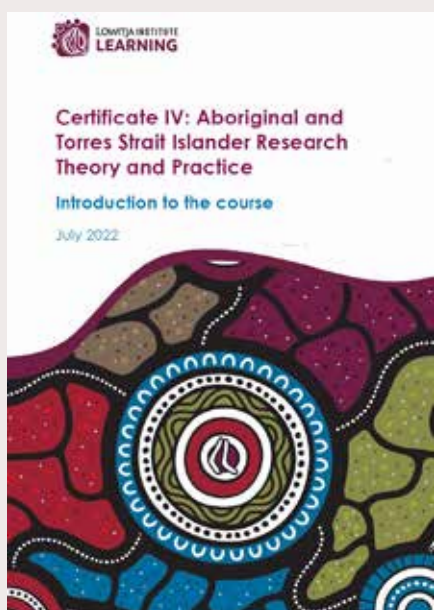
CERTIFICATE IV IN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER RESEARCH THEORY AND PRACTICE

In 2022–23, as course owners and with the support of our national Course Advisory Group, we completed all requirements for the re-accreditation by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) of the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Theory and Practice. In reinvigorating the course, we revised and updated the teaching and learning materials, so they reflect the contemporary context and recent learnings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AHMRC) now has the course on scope and worked closely with us to develop a delivery model and identify a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research and evaluation experts to support delivery.

On releasing expressions of interest for the course in February 2023, we had an overwhelming response with 70 EOIs. Ultimately, 30 people attended the online information session prior to submitting applications for the 15 places available for the first delivery of the new course.

This demonstrated the critical need for this course in facilitating pathways into research and ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gain meaningful and respected qualifications to underpin their future research work, and potentially, their ongoing education in the research field through further higher education study.





OCHRE NETWORK

The new national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research network funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) was launched as OCHRe (Our Collaborations in Health Research) at the IRNet Conference on 29 September 2022.

It has been established as a critical part of the NHMRC's framework for improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health vision, seeking to create a culturally safe and inclusive network of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers across Australia that delivers positive health impacts for our communities.

Our participation aligns with our commitment to support the growth of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research workforce.

Lowitja Institute leads one of the four Hubs in the OCHRe Network: the OWL (Our Wisdom in Leadership) Hub, which honours the owl as the totem of Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, our Co-Patron.

Our Hub responsibilities include:

- designing the OCHRe brand and logo
- establishing a digital networking platform
- creating a communications and engagement strategy
- developing cultural safety and Indigenous knowledges frameworks to support the work of the OCHRe Network.



We commissioned Ngarrindjeri artist Jordan Lovegrove to design an artwork that reflects the values and purpose of the OCHRe Network. In this unique piece, the four Hubs are represented by large meeting places in the corners of the artwork. They come together in a central meeting place, representing the shared vision of the OCHRe Network.

In June 2023, we launched an online networking forum for OCHRe that creates a dedicated online space for members to share and collaborate.

With responsibility for leading the development of a communications strategy and implementation plan, we commissioned 33 Creative to facilitate conversations with OCHRe Executive members and representatives from the four Hubs and have developed a draft communications and engagement strategy.

Finally, we commissioned Professor Pat Dudgeon and her team of researchers from University of Western Australia to develop an Indigenous Knowledges discussion paper that will inform an Indigenous Knowledges Framework for OCHRe.



IRNet Showcase, 2022 OCHRe Network, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney, NSW. Left to right: Adj Prof Janine Mohamed, Prof Sandra Eades, Dr Yvette Roe, Professor Alex Brown, Prof Gail Garvey.

INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND WELLBEING CONFERENCE: OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference was held from 14–16 June 2023 in Cairns on the lands of the Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji and Yirrganydji peoples, under the theme: Truth, Rights, Response. With more than 1,200 participants, the sold-out event showcased Indigenous excellence in health research from across Australia, as well as from Aotearoa New Zealand, Canada, and the United States including Hawaii.

The conference provided the opportunity for Indigenous health research leaders from across the globe to come together and share innovative ideas and transformational community-led research that is grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, disrupting Western research narratives.



The conference took place at a watershed moment in Australia's history, with the upcoming Referendum on an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice shaping many of the discussions on the program.

Research agenda setting is a major focus of Lowitja Institute's conferences, and as mentioned in Priority 1, we started a collective process of surveying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders from the research, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled and health sectors, to understand current and priority needs during and after the conference.



International keynote speakers included: Karen Diver (USA), Dr Lisa Borque-Bearskin (Canada), Dr Janet Smylie (Canada), Miriam Jorgensen (USA), Mark Patterson (Hawaii), and Professor Papaarangi Reid, Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, and Professor Carwyn Jones (Aotearoa New Zealand).

Australian keynote speakers and panellists included: Professor Tom Calma AO, Distinguished Professor Marcia Langdon, Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, Professor Maggie Walter and Professor Chelsea Watego, as well as Paul Briggs OAM, First Nations Ambassador Justin Mohamed, Adam Goodes, Yoorrook Justice Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter and Dale Agius, South Australia's Commissioner for First Nations Voice.

ABC broadcaster Dan Bouchier was Master of Ceremonies, and the first day started with Truth: our truth as Indigenous peoples and knowledge holders. As our Co-Patron Pat Anderson AO welcomed delegates, she said, 'We have over 120,000 years of knowledges, it is absurd not to be acknowledged and respected.'



Keynote speaker Karen Diver, USA.



Panellist Mark Patterson, Hawaii USA.



Adam Goodes also joined Dan Bouchier for a conversation on the couch about family, community, and the pursuit of truth.



Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton AO gave a keynote speech that was authentic and honest, sharing her learnings and insights regarding the Voice process and the Australian Constitution, and speaking from the heart.

Karen Diver reminded us that social change is a process of slow and steady growth, and to have a voice at as many tables as possible. 'It makes you wonder why being in a conversation about our own future is scary for some people,' she said.

The second day explored rights, sovereignty and economic participation with a panel including Yolgnu elder Djapirri Mununggirritj, Karen Diver, Ambassador Justin Mohamed, and Paul Briggs OAM. Mr Briggs said in practical terms 'we have rights to an economy, we need resources at our disposal to allocate to our own priorities.'

The final day included international keynote speakers, Dr Lisa Bearskin and Distinguished Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, with a focus on community response and Indigenous-led healthcare practice. Distinguished Professor Smith said, 'We know the answer but have to bring our stories together as evidence to convince the powerful – here is the evidence.'

Conference in numbers

Total attendees	1,232
Overseas attendees	120 (10%)
Sponsors	25
Exhibitors	20
No of orgs participated	432
Conference grants	26
Presentations	208
Presenters	340
Abstracts submitted	431
Posters	16
Workshops	14
Panels	8
Lightning talks	25



We hope all our participants have left with hope, confidence and a commitment to the reignition of activism.

Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed

Sponsorship

The conference was very well supported by the sector with a substantial increase in sponsorships from six in 2019 to 25 sponsorships for 2023. We also attracted 20 exhibitors to the conference.



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Award Sponsor



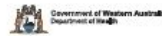
Award Sponsor



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Conference Program Sponsor



Coffee Barista Station



Coffee Barista Station



Conference App Sponsor



Health and Wellbeing Sponsor



Delegate Drink Bottle Sponsor



Destination Sponsor



Philomena Yeatman shared her weaving skills throughout the conference.



Below: Professor Chelsea Watego signed her new book, *Another Day In The Colony*.



Social and cultural program

The conference also had a rich cultural program with dance ceremonies by local traditional owner groups. A local weaver provided a workshop for delegates, and delegates connected with local artists who participated in a pop-up market coordinated in conjunction with Umi Arts, a local First Nations arts organisation.

The conference hosted three social events that included a pre-conference Welcome Ceremony in the lush surroundings of Tanks Arts Centre, Opening Reception in the evening of day one and the Conference Gala Dinner and Awards on the evening of day two. Indigenous artists and cultural groups performed at the events including Rochelle Pitt, Thelma Plum, Dan Sultan, Electric Fields and Baarka.



Wonderful to hear First Nations leaders from New Zealand, Canada and US as well as Australia, particularly in relation to Voice.

The conference was a game changer for me. I was so impressed how the gathering managed to meet every goal of mine.

Feedback from conference participants



International delegates.



Professor Tom Calma yarns with ABC Cairns.



International guests Miriam Jorgensen, Karen Diver and Mark Patterson, USA.



All keynote speakers were absolutely fantastic and challenging. I love the MC for the conference. He was absolutely deadly and his yarns were fantastic and engaging.

Conference participant feedback

Media

The conference attracted a good variety of media and achieved 32 media items of coverage which included the following outlets:

SBS; NITV News and NITV Radio; ABC The Drum; *The National Tribune*; *Weekend Post – Cairns*; Seven Cairns; BBM – National Talkblack; Croakey Health; *The Guardian*; *The Australian*; Northern Territory News; *Geelong Advertiser*; *The Daily Telegraph*; *The Courier Mail*; *Cairns Post*; ABC Far North, Cairns; Medical Journal of Australia – *InSight*.

Media spokespeople included: Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed; Daniel Billy; Selwyn Button; Dr Mark Wenitong; Pat Anderson AO; Professor Papaarangi Reid (pictured); Dr Janet Smylie; Distinguished Professor Marcia Langton; Professor Tom Calma; Adam Goodes and Commissioner Sue-Anne Hunter.

Scholarships and grant recipients

Four 2023 PhD scholarship recipients presented at the conference: Stephen Harfield, Samantha Ludwig, Tileah Drahm-Butler, and Amba-Rose Atkinson.

Conference grant recipients: Joella Ashwin, Catherine Carton, and Ray Thomas, Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (WA).



Bursary grant recipients from Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service Community (NAHS).



Professor Papaarangi Reid with 7 News Cairns.

A screenshot of a news broadcast. The top part shows a woman with blonde hair (Professor Papaarangi Reid) speaking. To her right is a graphic with a hand holding a stethoscope and the text "KNOWING & DOING". Below the video player, the text reads: "Seven Local News at 06:04 p.m." followed by "Seven Cairns, 15 Jun 2023 18:04, R00099854128" and a "Download" button. The main text of the article reads: "Health experts from across the world have come together in Queensland to brainstorm ways to improve care in Indigenous communities. Researchers SA Health inequity won't stop until governments listen to those on the ground." Below this, it says: "Thousands of health experts filled the Cairns Convention Centre today with one common goal to close the gap in Indigenous care. Then we have to reorganise what do we mean and what do we need to be healthy and to thrive? The current average life expectancy of an Indigenous person in Queensland is 74. That's nearly eight years less than non-Indigenous people."

Conference 2023 social media summary: 1–30 June 2023



16,109

X (Twitter)
profile visits
(1.5% increase)

7,806

impressions
from 12–16 June
(388% increase)

857

reactions
from 12–16 June
(increase of 256% on
average engagement)

1,374

impressions
from 12–16 June
(104% increase)

231,000

impressions
(average is usually
30–40,000 per month)

562

mentions



37

reports
(increase of 1750% of
average engagement)

2,472

impressions
(12% increase)



It was the first time that we, as Wiluna Martu health workers based at the Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (NAHS), have ever presented at a conference. The strong positive response from the audience to our presentation felt amazing and still feels good!

The Wiluna community, including the older ladies, watched our presentation via Facebook, which was really special. Since the presentation, a number of federal and state government departments have been in contact expressing an interest in finding out more about their successful vaccination initiative. The group have also received invitations to participate in other Indigenous conferences...

Conference participant



Top Tweet earned 18K impressions

"When Indigenous people become the researchers and not just the researched, the activity of research is transformed.

[#Lowitja2023 pic.twitter.com/8EIoLstJ1L](https://pic.twitter.com/8EIoLstJ1L)

2 72 273

Lowitja Institute
6,770 followers
4mo • Edited •

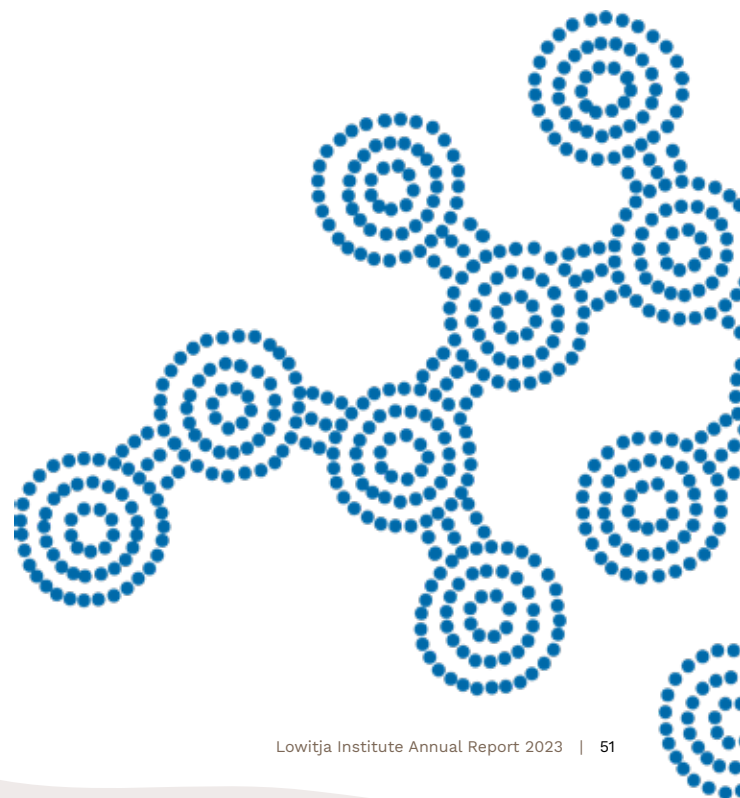
Conference delegates were back at the Cairns Convention Centre bright and early yesterday morning to begin day 2 of our Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference. ...see more

with Raglan Maddox and 2 others

Lowitja Institute @LowitjaInstitut

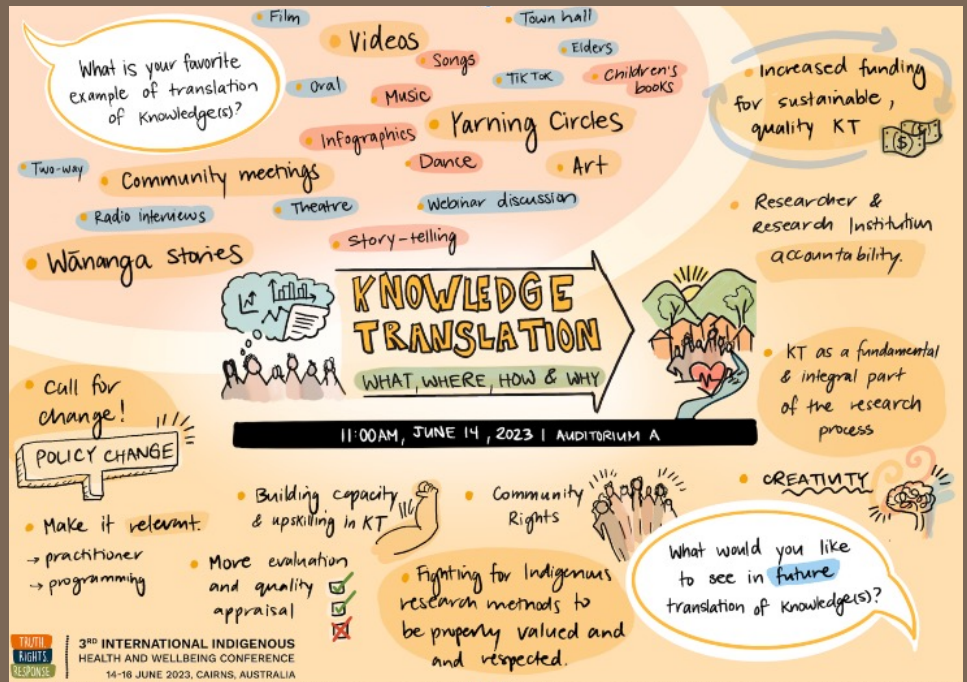
Tune into [@ABCthedrum](https://www.abc.net.au/show/drum) at 6pm tonight to hear Commissioner [@SueAnneHunter](https://www.abc.net.au/show/drum) of [@yoorrookjc](https://www.abc.net.au/show/drum) - who spoke to #Truth at our conference [#Lowitja2023](https://www.abc.net.au/show/drum)

<https://twitter.com/ABCthedrum/status/1669581798626697216> ... pic.twitter.com/2PlqUj5vqz



Knowledge translation

Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy partnered with leading academics from Canada, New Zealand, and Australia to deliver an Indigenous Knowledge Translation Principles and Practices workshop at the conference. It was attended by over 80 delegates and has generated new knowledge on meaningful and respectful knowledge translation practices that will feature in an upcoming peer-reviewed article.



Norman Frank and Jimmy Jupurrurla in the climate and health panel.



Conference 2025

The conference also endorsed the 4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2025 to be held in Adelaide on Kaurna Country, in the week of 16–19 June 2025.



4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing CONFERENCE 2025

Adelaide | Kaurna Country | 16–19 June 2025

LOWITJA INSTITUTE RESEARCH AWARDS

Lowitja Institute honoured outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research achievement at our conference.

Winners of the 2023 Lowitja Institute awards



Professor Jaquelyne Hughes and Professor James Ward.

Cranlana Awards for Outstanding Research Leadership

Professor James Ward, Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Queensland.

Professor Jaquelyne Hughes, nephrologist and inaugural Clinical Research Professor in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advancement at Flinders University.



Amy McQuire.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student Award

Amy McQuire, award-winning journalist whose PhD thesis is titled 'Speaking to Silences: Media representations of violence against Aboriginal women'.



Mrs Betty Sagigi and Associate Professor Odette Pearson and Associate Professor Odette Pearson.

Pat Anderson Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researcher Awards

Associate Professor Odette Pearson, Co-Theme leader and Population Health Platform lead in the Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity Theme, at SAHMRI and adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide.

Mrs Betty Sagigi, Aged Care Assessment Team Coordinator and Assessor for the Torres Strait, working as part of Thursday Island's Primary Health Post-Acute Rehab and Aged Care Program.



Wungenging Aboriginal Corporation.

Tarrn-doon-nonin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Ethics Award

Wungenging Aboriginal Corporation for its Birdiya Maya project, a partnership between Wungenging Aboriginal Corporation and the National Drug Research Institute to conduct community-led research, focused on elevating the voices of Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness. The project is guided by a Community Ownership Group (COG) of 15 Elders as co-researchers.



Pat Anderson AO and Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney.

Lowitja Institute Lifetime Achievement Awards

Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, Professor of Education and Co-Chair of the Pedagogies for Justice Research group in the Centre for Research in Educational and Social Inclusion, based in the Education Futures, Academic Unit at the University of South Australia.

Pat Anderson AO, long-standing former Chairperson of Lowitja Institute and now its co-patron.



Award sponsor Donna Murray CEO of IAHA presents Betty Sagigi with Pat Anderson Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Award 2023, with Selwyn Button (far left) and former award winner Assoc. Prof. Kalinda Griffiths (far right).

Lowitja Institute thanks partner sponsors for the awards: the Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Foundation, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, and the Walter Eliza Hall Institute.

Priority 4

Partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sectors and government

SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ROLES

Our leadership roles extend across the health and health research sectors and are inclusive of the social and cultural determinants of health.

- Lowitja Institute is a member of five National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coalitions: Coalition of Peaks, National Health Leadership Forum, the Partnership for Justice in Health, the OWL Network, and the OCHRe National Network.

- Lowitja Institute regularly worked on 19 national committees, reference or advisory groups focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and/or health research.
- Lowitja Institute staff participate in four national or state research project reference groups.
- Lowitja Institute staff are members of six Boards in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Leadership in health

- **Member**, National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF), comprised of leaders from Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector
- **Member**, Coalition of Peaks, comprised of a range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisations who work on collective advocacy
- **Co-Chair**, Partnership for Justice in Health, which seeks to redress the ongoing inequity and racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the nexus between the health and justice systems
- **Board Member**, Global Health Alliance
- **Member**, Health Infonet Advisory Board
- **Member**, Chief Medical Officer Advisory Group on National Health Climate Strategy
- **Member**, National Mental Health Commission Advisory Committee

Leadership in health research

- **Member**, OCHRe National Network for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research
- **Member**, Medical Research Future Fund: Indigenous Health Expert Advisory Committee
- **Member**, Vision 2040 (Health & Medical Research) Strategic Advisory Committee
- **Board Member**, National Centre for Indigenous Genomics
- **Member**, Targeted Translation Research Accelerator Needs Assessment, Indigenous Advisory Group
- **Member**, Genomics Advisory Group, Commonwealth Department of Health
- **Member**, Murdoch Children's Research Institute Aboriginal Reference Group
- **Member**, QIMR Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Steering Committee, Australian Pharmacogenomics Diversity Project



Left to right: Father Les Bair, Janine Mohamed, Sue Andrews, Donnella Mills, David Baird and Michelle Kennedy at the NACCHO Conference 2022, Canberra, ACT.

OUR PRESENCE IN THE ACCH SECTOR

Across the year, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed attended and presented at multiple ACCH sector affiliate conferences or gatherings. They include AMSANT, AHCWA, QAIHC, VACCHO and AH&MRC. We also took a team to the 2022 NACCHO conference and promoted our work with many people across the ACCH sector through our exhibitor booth (pictured left).



Health Ministers Roundtable, Kurna (Adelaide), SA.

ACCH SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT EVENTS

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Ministers Roundtable

We were commissioned by Queensland Health and the Health Collaboration Group to deliver and facilitate the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Ministers Roundtable in October 2022 in Adelaide on Kurna Country. This event brought together federal, state and territory health ministers, government representatives, affiliates of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), National Health Leadership Forum members, and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts to discuss current and future health policies, strategies, and reforms.



Honourable Brad Hazzard, Minister for Health NSW (Oct 2023) and Robert Skeen, CEO for AH&MRC.

The Health Roundtable discussed challenges and solutions to overcome the inequities in the health systems and improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

SA Aboriginal Health Roundtable

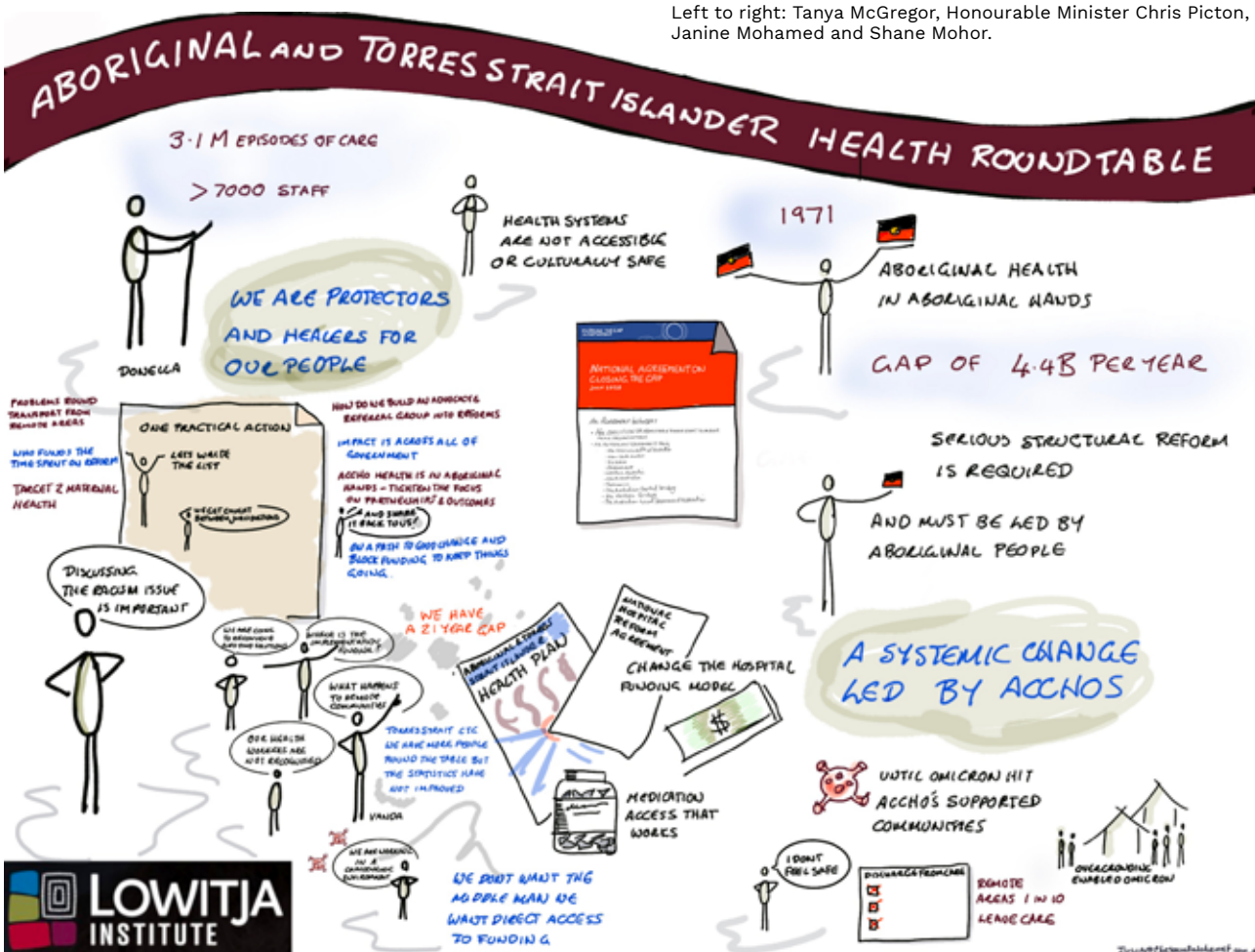
Lowitja Institute successfully delivered the South Australia Aboriginal Health Roundtable in Adelaide on Kurna Country in May 2023. The first of its kind in South Australia, it brought together leaders from across the South Australian Government (particularly SA Health), Local Health Networks (LHNs), Primary Health Networks (PHNs), Aboriginal community controlled health organisations (ACCHOs), the Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia (AHCSA) and its members, along with the South Australian Minister for Health, South Australian Premier and South Australian Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, to discuss current and future health policies, strategies, and reforms within South Australia.

The vision for the day was one of transformation, innovation and partnership, of listening to Aboriginal voices and leaders to help shape the way that government can do things differently and to develop new partnerships and ways of working together.

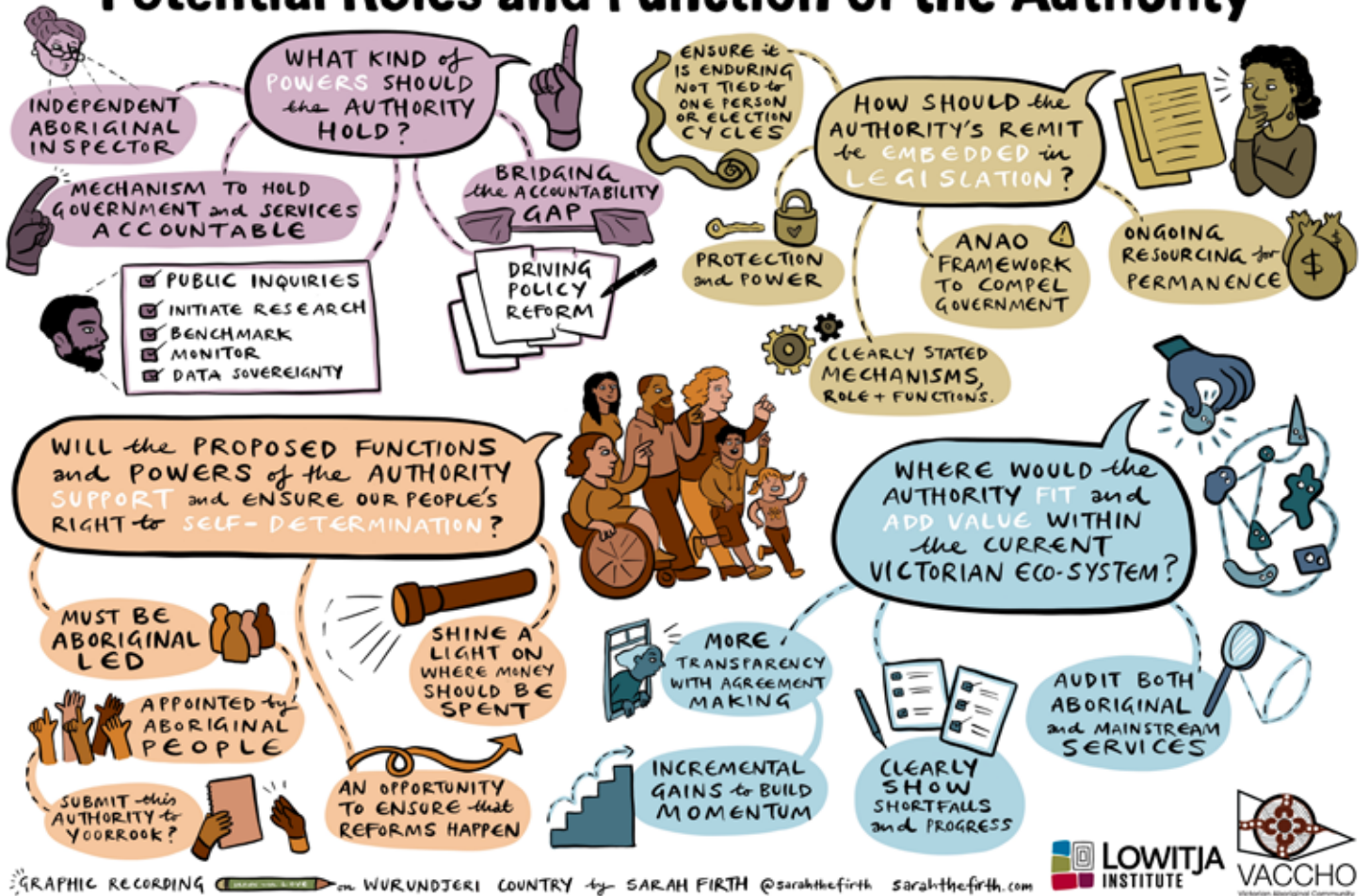
Following the event, Lowitja Institute prepared a draft outcomes report and submitted it to SA Health for review and feedback.



Left to right: Tanya McGregor, Honourable Minister Chris Picton, Janine Mohamed and Shane Mohor.



Potential Roles and Function of the Authority



A Victorian Aboriginal Authority

In May 2023, we conducted a co-design roundtable in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), which included representatives from the Commonwealth and Victorian governments and the Victorian community controlled sector. The roundtable introduced the discussion paper: *A Victorian Aboriginal Authority: An Initial Feasibility Study*. Feedback is being incorporated into the final paper.

KAHRA

Lowitja Institute's CEO Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed and Executive Manager, Research and Knowledge Translation, Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy, spoke at the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (KAHRA) forum in Broome, Western Australia, about the importance of data sovereignty and community-led and -owned research. KAHRA is an amazing initiative and model in the Kimberley that we hope to knowledge translate to other locations and communities as a true approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control in research.



Vicki O'Donnell (KAMS), Kelli McIntosh and Janine Mohamed.



Associate Professor Michelle Kennedy at KAHRA.



On a cultural tour with Mabu Buru.



PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year, Lowitja Institute undertook a range of Ministerial engagement at the state and Australian Government level, led by Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed as our CEO, along with their government and political staff.

These engagements included:

- Hon Kyam Maher MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs SA
- Hon Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing SA
- Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians
- Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MP, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Indigenous Health
- Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health
- Hon Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care

At the request of the Aged Care section of the Department of Health and Aged Care, Lowitja Institute developed a suite of online training materials on cultural safety as an entry-level introduction for the MyAged Care workforce. This also included a bespoke set of online modules for the dementia workforce.

Other meetings involved the Department of Health and Aged, including the Indigenous Health Division and Health and Medical Research Office, as well as the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA).

RESEARCH AWARDS SPONSORSHIP IN THE ACCH SECTOR

For some time, Lowitja Institute has sponsored the IAHA Research Award, which Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed personally presented at the 2022 IAHA Conference.

A new initiative this year was sponsoring a research award for QAIHC, awarded at their Member's Conference in Brisbane.



Paul Stewart, Deputy CEO Lowitja Institute, presents Innovation Excellence Award to Renee Blackman of the Dental Services team, Gympie Aboriginal Medical Service.

Communications overview

MEDIA SUPPORT

We supported the First Nations Referendum Engagement Group in the lead up to the referendum on enshrining an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice in the Australian Constitution. We provided the group with key messages, media engagement guides and updates, and offered media training with experts from the ABC to hone engagement skills.

During our conference in June 2023, we supported media engagement on the Voice. We also interviewed delegates on their views on the Voice, and produced a video highlighting the impact the Voice would have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's health and wellbeing.



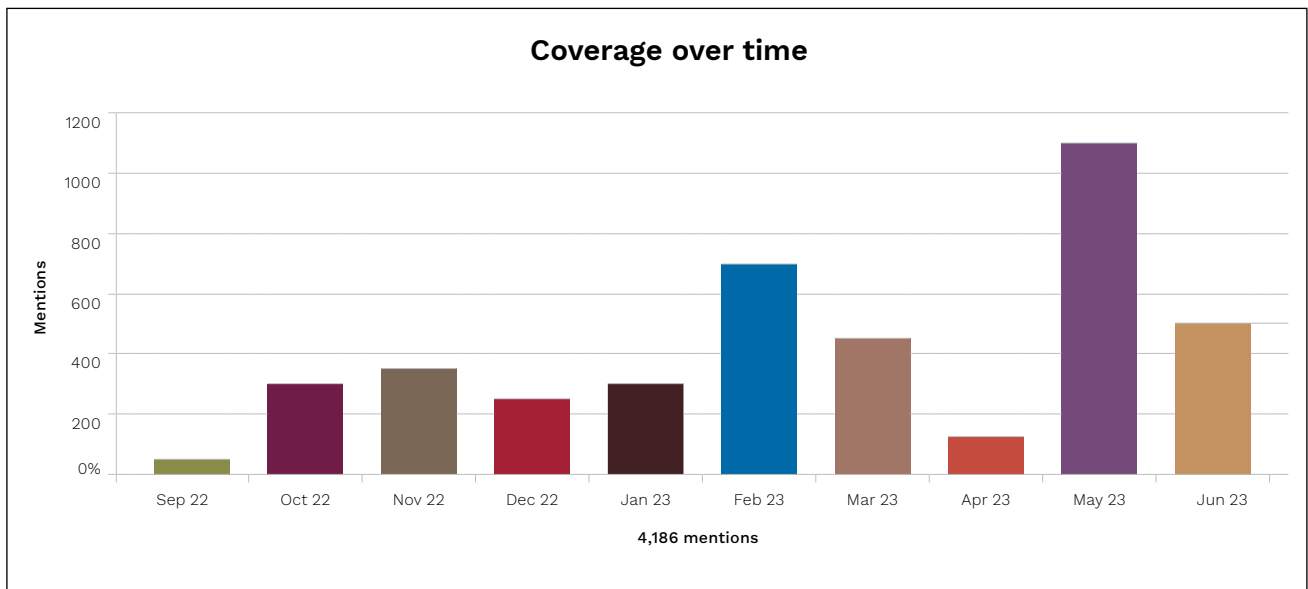
Selwyn Button, Lowitja Institute Chairperson spoke to Network 10 about the referendum on enshrining an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice into the Australian Constitution.

MEDIA RELEASES

We engage with the media through media releases that can shape the narrative about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health research, inviting the media into deeper engagement with us.

Here is a selection of this work and the media coverage achieved over 2022–23:

- Lowitja O’Donoghue Foundation launched today in honour of Dr O’Donoghue’s 90th birthday, 1 August 2022.
- The power of nation building to improve Indigenous peoples’ health and wellbeing, 30 August 2022 (promotional video).
- Tackling everyday racism major key to closing the gap on psychological distress, December 2022.
- Lowitja Institute welcomes action, funding on Closing the Gap implementation, 17 February 2023.
- Enshrining a Voice to Parliament: towards improving health and wellbeing outcomes for our peoples, 21 February 2023.
- Lowitja Institute CEO calls for an international commitment to climate action through decolonisation, 20 April 2023.
- *Prime Minister to Deliver Lowitja O’Donoghue Oration in Adelaide*, Don Dunstan Foundation in partnership with Lowitja Institute and other partners, 27 April 2023.
- New Paper Promotes First Nations Science and Health Research Impact, MTPConnect and the Lowitja Institute, 30 May 2023.
- Lowitja Institute’s international Indigenous conference focus on Truth, Rights, Response, 17 June 2023.

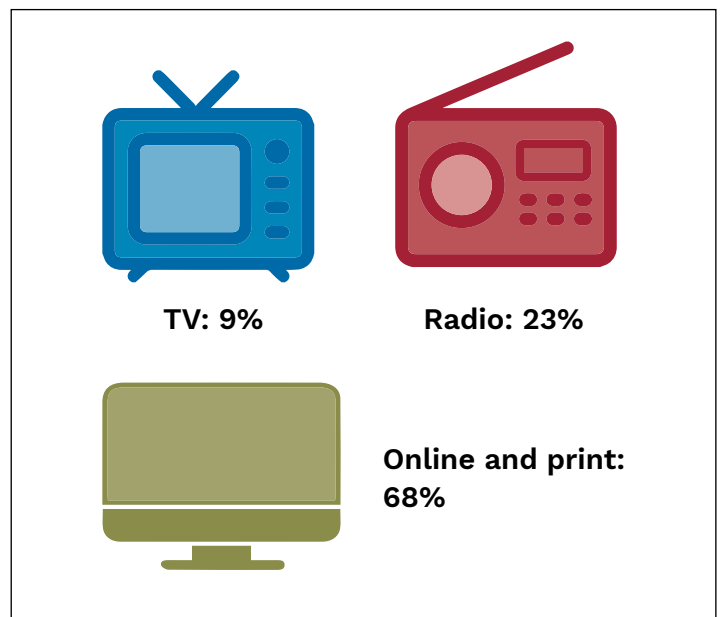
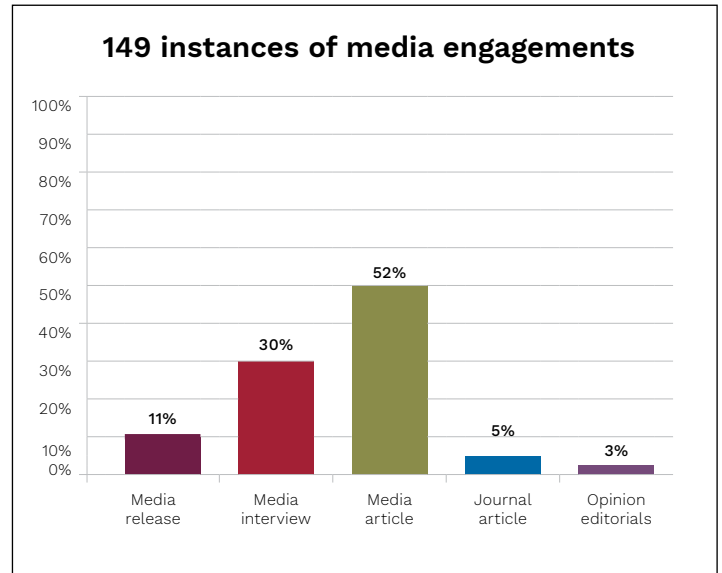


MEDIA ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS

Our **149** instances of media engagement, which extend across different mediums, translates into articles that we initiate, are invited to write, or we are quoted within, as well as media interviews. Lowitja Institute also received **4,189** mentions across all national and regional media outlets. We have written five opinion editorials, been quoted or cited in **77** media articles, and undertaken **44** interviews over the last year.

Examples include:

- Nina Lansbury, Veronica Matthews, Amba-Rose Atkinson, Janine Mohamed and colleagues, 'CoP27 On Country health and Indigenous Knowledges', *Croakey*, www.croakey.org/cop27-on-country-health-and-indigenous-knowledges
- 'Harnessing the power of nation building to strengthen Indigenous health and wellbeing', Op Ed, Janine Mohamed and Jessica Szwarcbord: *Croakey*, 31 August 2023.
- 'Putting Indigenous peoples' rights centre stage in global climate responses', Op Ed, Janine Mohamed: *Croakey*, 26 April 2023.
- 'How Indigenous knowledge can help fight climate change', *National Indigenous Times*, quotes Janine Mohamed, 1 May 2023.
- 'Multi-pronged strategy to reduce smoking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people', Op Ed, Michelle Kennedy and Raglan Maddox, *Croakey*, 10 May 2023.
- 'How will The Voice – and the budget – impact Indigenous people's health?', ABC Radio National Late Night Live, Selwyn Button, 17 May 2023.
- 'Leaders gathered at Uluru for anniversary of Uluru Statement from the Heart', ABC News, quotes Selwyn Button, 26 May 2023.
- 'University of Newcastle receives \$3 million to help close the gap in health outcomes for First Nations people', Michelle Kennedy, *Newcastle Herald*, 23 June 2023.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media presence across the past year has increased extensively, particularly during the conference (see Priority 3). Our engaged online community has increased across all social platforms with **16,109 Twitter** followers, a 5 per cent increase on last year, in addition to **2,595 Facebook** followers (15 per cent increase), **2,472 Instagram** followers (39 per cent increase) and **5,699 LinkedIn** followers (50 per cent increase).

Our vision is to promote and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health research such as our major grants and scholarship programs and reports. As well as our conference #Lowitja2023 trending across our platforms, our social media presence was particularly high during the Lowitja O'Donoghue Oration #LODO23 and the referendum supporting the #Voice and the #UluruStatement. We also supported significant days across social media platforms such as NAIDOC Week, Anniversary of the Apology, Close the Gap Day, Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day, International Women's Day and more.



“Once I found out that the Lowitja Institute had chosen to fund my PhD, I felt really proud that my research was recognised as contributing to something meaningful.”

Res Pamela McCalman





Lowitja staff Jessica Bennett, Felicity Collis and Shai-Lee Fairman at NACCHO Conference 2022, Canberra, ACT.



Pat Anderson AO speaking at CATSINaM Conference 2022, Sydney, NSW.

SPONSORED EVENTS

In addition to sponsoring awards, Lowitja Institute has sponsored a range of both national and international events. We are often directly involved at these events as keynote speakers, session presenters and/or having stalls in the ‘marketplace’ to share and promote our work and resources.

- AH&MRC NSW CQI Forum
- AIATSIS Summit
- National Indigenous Data Governance Summit
- World Indigenous People’s Education Conference
- AIDA
- NAATSIHWP
- CATSINaM
- NACCHO
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani National Gathering
- Replanting the Birthing Trees
- Gladys Elphick Awards



A delegate at the WIPCE Conference 2023 with our sponsored backpack.



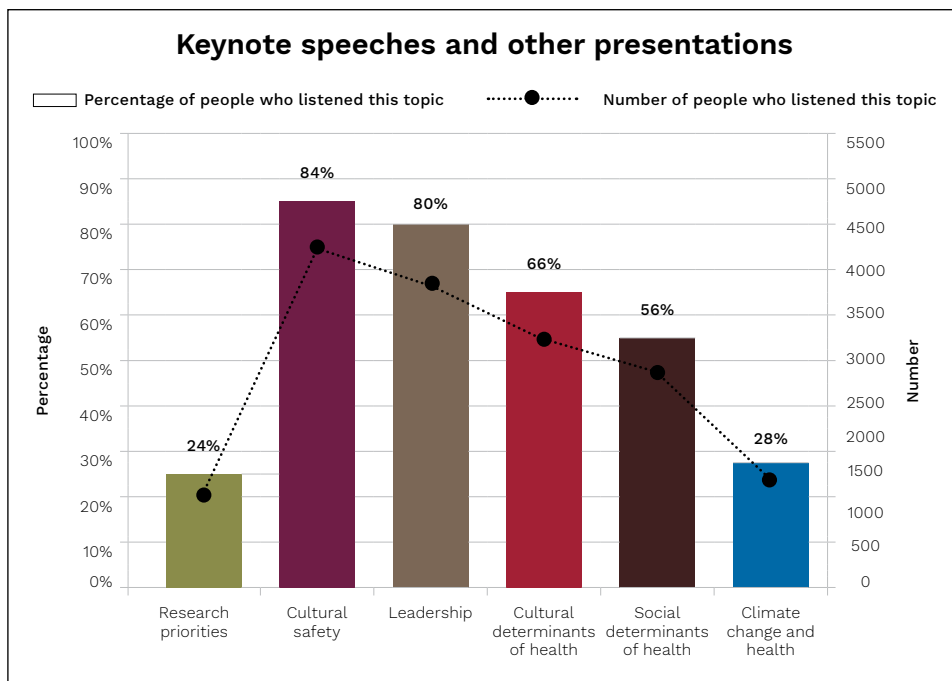
The Hon Frances Adamson AC, Governor of SA with Janine Mohamed at Gladys Elphick Awards.



Shai-lee Fairman, Karrina Nolan, Polly Cutmore, Emily Thomson and Jessica Szwarcbord at Better Futures Forum, Canberra, ACT.

SPEECHES AND PRESENTATIONS

Regularly delivering keynote speeches and other presentations has continued as a consistent feature of the public-facing work of our CEO, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed, along with presentations from other key staff and Board members. Over the past year, this resulted in **41** presentations. The broad topics feature in the graph which illustrates the percentage as well as numbers of people who listened to them.



Janine Mohamed presenting Contribution to Indigenous Research Award to Assoc. Prof. Karla Canuto at IAHA Awards 2022.



Left to right: Kat Henaway, Senator Dorrinda Cox, Donna Murray and Janine Mohamed at Wiyi Yani U Thangani, Canberra, ACT.

Some highlights included:

- Better Futures Forum – climate agenda
- Cricket Australia – 26 January
- AHMRC IHC Summit
- HEAL Conference
- Knowledge Translation Approaches and Practices in Indigenous Health Research NCCIH Webinar (Canada)
- Wiyi Yani U Thangani First Nations Women and Girls National Summit, Janine Mohamed (panel discussion chair), May 2023
- UQ Poche Yarning for Success Retreat, Janine Mohamed, June 2023

Governance and financial overview

LOWITJA INSTITUTE BOARD

As an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation, Lowitja Institute has an all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Board.

Chairperson



Mr Selwyn Button, is an experienced senior executive who has led large health, education and governance organisations across the government, private, and not-for-profit sectors.

Currently Selwyn is a partner at PwC Indigenous Consulting (PIC), Chairperson of Lowitja Institute, and a committed member of numerous boards including the Australia Children's Education and Care Quality Authority, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, and Queensland Rugby.

A Gunggari man from south-west Queensland, Selwyn was raised in Cherbourg and for many years has led policy, service delivery and legislative reforms to support improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Prior to his

PwC role, Selwyn was the first ever Indigenous person to hold the role of national Registrar, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations, in which he regulated and supported more than 3,000 organisations, the top 500 of which generate around \$2 billion annually.

He has also served as Assistant Director-General for Indigenous Education in Queensland and chief executive officer of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council. Selwyn is a former primary school teacher and Queensland police officer who holds a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Education.

Selwyn was a Wolfensohn Scholar at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and is an active member of the Harvard Club of Australia.

Directors



Professor Peter Buckskin PSM, a Narungga man from the Yorke Peninsula and the Dean: Aboriginal Engagement and Strategic Projects at the University of South Australia.



Ms June Oscar AO, a Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.



Mr Ali Drummond, a Meriam and Wuthathi man and Lecturer and Director of Indigenous Health at the Queensland University of Technology.



Mr Robert Skeen, who has traditional ties to the Gubbi Gubbi of the Queensland Sunshine Coast, Mununjarli of South East Queensland, and Waanyi of North West Queensland, and is the General Manager of Health Reforms at Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC).



Ms Deb Butler, is a Jawoyn woman, born and raised in Katherine Northern Territory (NT), and is the Acting Executive Director Strategic Services at the Northern Territory Department of Families, Housing and Communities.



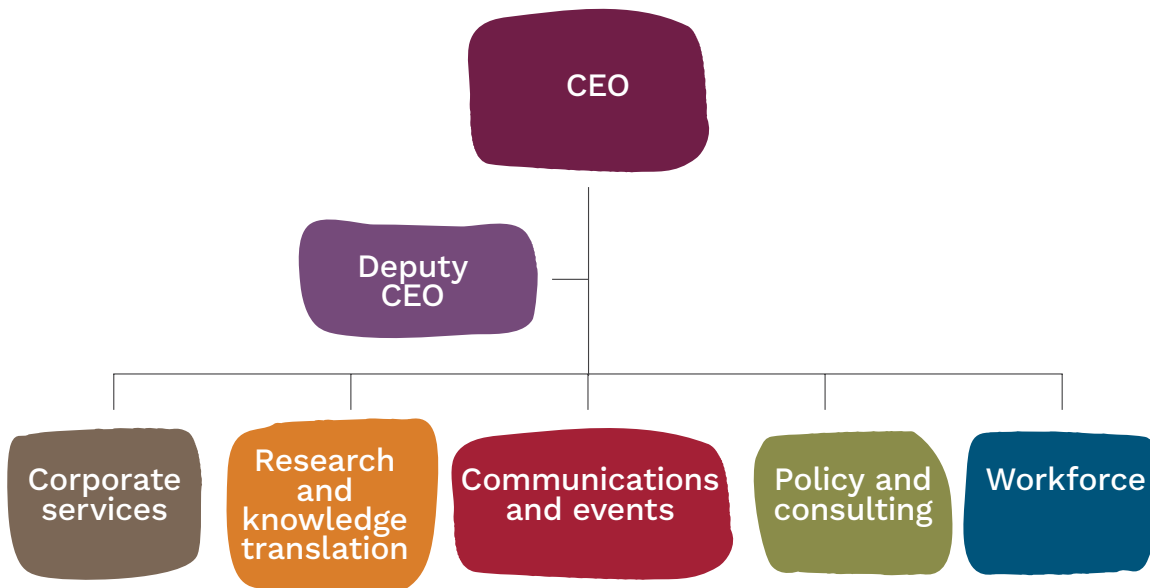
Mr Craig Ritchie, a Dhunghutti/ Biripi man, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.



Dr Suzanne Andrews, an Aboriginal woman from the Jaru, Bunuba people of Western Australia's North Kimberley region, is Chief Executive of Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service.

LOWITJA INSTITUTE ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Our organisational structure has continued to work well in supporting the broad range of work we undertake across our five priorities.



SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

We have a multi-pronged approach to our sustainability strategy, which includes grants, sponsorships and partnerships, consulting, commercial products and donations. Several aspects of this work have been covered already in the report.

This year has seen further growth in our consulting activity, with Lowitja Consulting undertaking or commencing work that ranges from small and time-limited through to larger multi-year projects, such as the following examples.



Growing Deadly Families Monitoring and Evaluation Project

We worked in partnership with PwC Indigenous Consulting (PIC) to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Queensland Health's Growing Deadly Families Strategy. This work included a desktop review of other relevant Queensland strategies and a literature review to identify best practices.

IYCC Evaluation Support Project

Lowitja Consulting completed work under Stage 2 for the Indigenous Youth Connection to Culture (IYCC) Program evaluation support project, including researching and writing a Lessons Learnt report on the Stage 1 IYCC co-design process conducted by NIAA.

NSW Aboriginal Health Plan refresh

The Centre for Aboriginal Health (CfAH) within the NSW Ministry of Health engaged Lowitja Consulting to undertake the development and design of a refreshed NSW Aboriginal Health Plan (AHP), which will be undertaken under the guidance of the Aboriginal Health Plan Refresh Advisory Committee. Feedback was gathered by 33Creative through a combination of Yarn'up sessions with NSW Health staff (including Aboriginal health workers, Aboriginal community-controlled health services' staff and Aboriginal young people), and online surveys with a broader reach across the state.

Lowitja Consulting will now develop iterative drafts of the plan with the Advisory Committee, undertaking this work with the support of beyond... Kathleen Stacey & Associates and Sheryl Boniface/SB & Associates Consultancy.

SA Health Child and Maternity Continuity of Care Protocols Program

We worked with SA Health to contribute to the co-design of the implementation strategy for the Child and Maternity Continuity of Care Protocols Program. The aim of this project is to improve the quality of life of Aboriginal children aged 0–4 years and of mothers of Aboriginal babies, by improving the performance of the South Australian health system and focusing on continuity of care.

Lowitja Consulting's main contributions to this project include representation and leadership within relevant working groups, as well as providing expert advice in relation to Indigenous Data Sovereignty and the approach to testing.



Annual report for financial year ended 30 June 2023

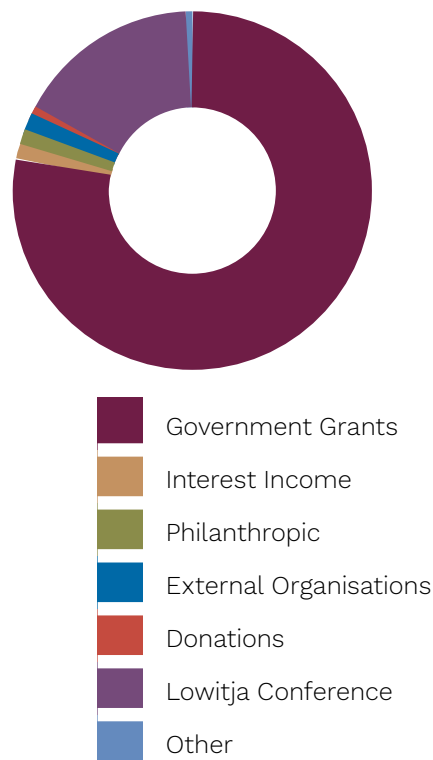
Lowitja Institute completed the 2022–23 financial year with a \$474,419 surplus compared to \$32,511 for the previous year. With 41 per cent of the result in connection with the 2023 Lowitja Conference, the balance related to untied income earned on donations, interest on investments, and consulting fees. All other income reported was contracted and matched against expenditure in line with applicable revenue recognition standards.

INCOME

Totalled \$9.23m

\$6.87m funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to support the health and wellbeing of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through high-impact, quality research and knowledge translation. \$2.03m in connection with the 2023 Lowitja Conference; \$0.33m funded by other Commonwealth and state government grants; \$0.07m to fund Scholarships, with the balance from philanthropic, external organisations, consulting, donations, and interest income.

Lowitja Institute 2022-23 Income

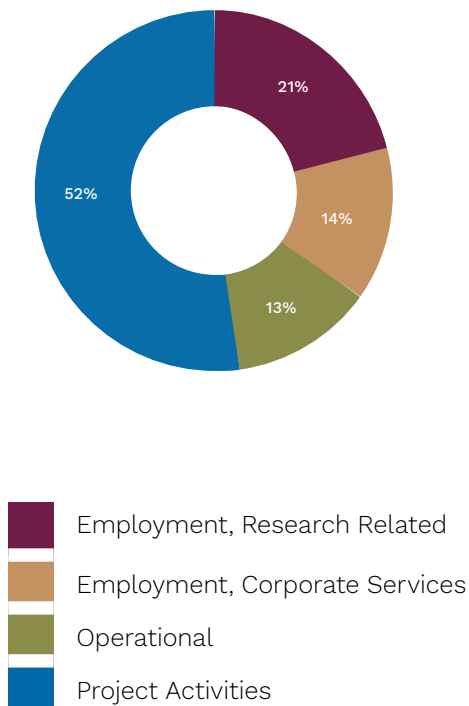


EXPENDITURE

Totaled \$8.76m

Research related activities represented 74 per cent of expenditure and Corporate Services 26 per cent. Project activity expenditure totalled \$4.58m, which included \$1.86m in connection with the Lowitja Conference, \$1.54m directly related to Research Project Grants, Seeding Grants and Scholarships, with the remaining across projects to progress the Institute's research agenda. \$3.08m was spent on human capital and operational expenditure was \$1.10m.

Lowitja Institute 2022-23 Expenditure



ASSETS

Totaled \$6.02m

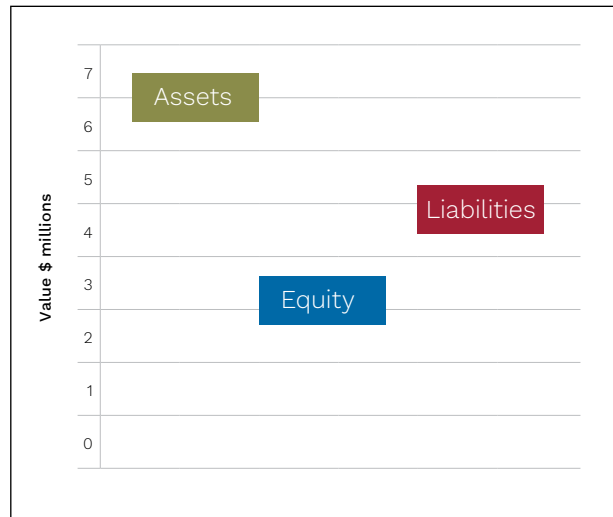
Cash and cash equivalents of \$5.22m, trade and other receivables \$0.44m, \$0.19m net written down fixed assets and \$0.16m right-of-use asset in connection with Oxford Street lease.

LIABILITIES

Totaled \$4.53m

Income held in advance \$3.50m, trade and other current liabilities \$0.56m, employee entitlement provisions \$0.26m and lease liability of \$0.18m in connection with Oxford Street lease.

Financial Position at 30 June 2023





Financial statements for year ended 30 June 2023

National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Health Research Limited

A Company Limited by Guarantee

ACN 138 780 695



RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES' REPORT

The Responsible Entities of the National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Limited (NIATSIHR) trading as The Lowitja Institute present their report on the company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The Board is chaired by **Mr Selwyn Button**. Mr Button is a Gungarri man from south-west Queensland raised in Cherbourg with extensive experience working towards the achievement of an empowered and sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health sector in Queensland. Mr Button is currently a Partner for Price Waterhouse Cooper's Indigenous Consulting (PIC), and previously held the position of Registrar of the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations and the Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane Limited.

The name of each other person who has been a Responsible Entity is as follows. Responsible Entities have been in office since the start of the financial period to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

- **Professor Peter Buckskin PSM**, a Narungga man from the Yorke Peninsula and before retirement was the Dean - Aboriginal Engagement and Strategic Projects at the University of South Australia.
Key Skills: Education/capacity development, corporate governance, research and development, sectoral experience.
- **Mr Ali Drummond**, a Dauareb, Meriam and Wuthathi man and is the National Director (Education & Practice) at CATSINaM.
Key Skills: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, research and development
Resigned September 2022
- **Ms June Oscar AO**, a Bunuba woman from Fitzroy Crossing and is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner.
Key Skills: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health, community sector, capacity development
Leave of absence granted for the period
- **Mr Craig Ritchie**, an Aboriginal man of the Dhunghutti and Biripi nations. He is an independent advisor and researcher and until August 2023 was the Chief Executive Officer at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).
Key Skills: Organisational development, education, policy reform, and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health.
- **Ms Deborah Butler** is a Jawoyn woman born and raised in Katherine, NT and is currently the Acting Executive Director Strategic Services at the Northern Territory Department of Families, Housing and Communities.
Key Skills: Aboriginal Health, housing, advocacy for social change, community sector.
- **Ms Suzanne Andrews** a Jaru, Bunuba woman from Western Australia's North Kimberley region and the Chief Executive of Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service.
Key Skills: Aboriginal Health and advocacy for social change, community sector.
- **Mr Robert Skeen** has traditional ties to the Gubbi Gubbi of the Queensland Sunshine Coast, Mununjarli of South East Queensland, and Waanyi of North West Queensland and is the General Manager of Health Reforms at Queensland Aboriginal & Islander Health Council (QAIHC).
Key Skills: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, community sector.
- **Ms Jahna Cedar (OAM)** is a Nyiyaparli woman from the Pilbara region of Western Australia, and the Executive Director at IPS Management Consultants.
Key Skills: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights, advocacy, business and HR management, governance.
Appointed: 19 October 2023

- **Mr Dallas Leon** is a Kalkadoon and Waanyi man that has worked in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander field for over 20 years. Dallas is currently the Director of Commercial Operations at the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH).
Key Skills: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, corporate governance, research
Appointed: 19 October 2023

Name	Appointed	No. of Board Meetings Attended	No. of Board Meetings eligible to attend
Prof. Peter Buckskin PSM	11 October 2010	0	5
Mr Selwyn Button	20 July 2013	5	5
Mr Ali Drummond [Resigned September 2022]	21 November 2012	0	0
Ms June Oscar AO [leave of absence granted]	3 May 2016	0	5
Mr Craig Ritchie	14 December 2018	3	5
Ms Deborah Butler	3 December 2020	3	5
Ms Suzanne Andrews	2 March 2021	5	5
Mr Robert Skeen	2 March 2021	4	5

Company Secretary

The company secretary is Ms Tania Kearsley. Tania will be retiring from this role in October 2023 and will be replaced by Emma Donegan.

Chief Executive Officer

The chief executive officer is Dr. Janine Mohamed.

Events after the reporting period

There were no significant events occurring after the end of the reporting period.

Membership contribution on windup

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. On the event that the Institute is wound up:

- Each Member; and
- Each person who has ceased to be a Member in the preceding year, undertakes to contribute to the property of the Institute for the:
- Payment of debts and liabilities of the Institute (in relation to (b), contracted before the person ceased to be a Member) and payment of costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- Adjustment of the rights of the contributories amongst themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding \$10.

The Lowitja Institute had 436 members at the 30th June, 2023.

Principal Activities

The Lowitja Institute is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation working for the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge translation, and by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

This Responsible Entities' report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board. On behalf of the Directors

DocuSigned by:

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Selwyn Button
Chair
20 October 2023

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER SECTION 60-40 OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012
TO THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER HEALTH RESEARCH LIMITED**

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of the financial report of National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Limited for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a) No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.


DFK BKM Audit Services

DocuSigned by:

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Kevin P Adams
Director

20 October 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH RESEARCH LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Responsible Entities' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- o giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- o complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standards) (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

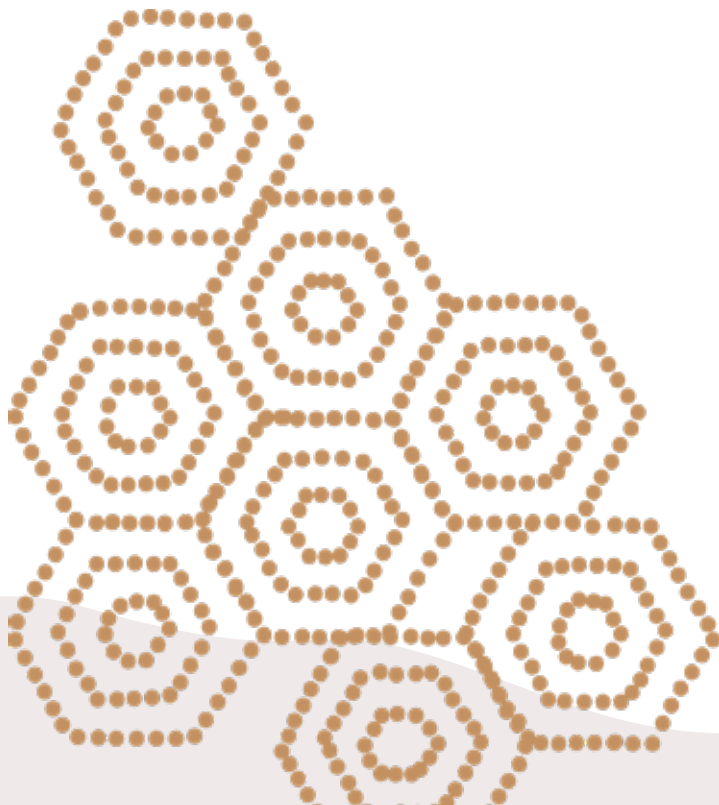

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Kevin P Adams
Director

20 October 2023



Responsible Entities' Declaration

The Responsible Entities' declare that:

- (a) in the Responsible Entities' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) in the Responsible Entities' opinion, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including compliance with Australian Accounting Standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the company.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Responsible Entities' made pursuant to s.60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

On behalf of the Responsible Entities

DocuSigned by:

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Selwyn Button
Chair

20 October 2023



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**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	For the year ended 30 June 2023 \$	For the year ended 30 June 2022 \$
Income			
Grants	4	7,488,363	5,435,288
Donations		29,299	16,742
Fundraising		1,383,663	-
Earned Revenue		232,710	40,446
Other Income	5	104,757	14,513
Total Income		9,238,792	5,506,989
Direct Expenses			
Direct Expenses		(4,275,182)	(1,799,397)
Administration & Labour Allocation		(314,265)	(90,721)
Total Direct Expenses		(4,589,447)	(1,890,118)
Gross Profit		4,649,345	3,616,871
Expenses			
Operations			
Finance		(21,741)	(59,429)
Organisational Development Support		(91,640)	(111,420)
Governance		(137,014)	(181,998)
Office Expenses		(394,313)	(282,937)
Travel & Marketing		(457,915)	(249,135)
Loss on Disposal of asset		-	(41,004)
Total Operations		(1,102,623)	(925,923)
Employment			
Wages & Other Employment Expenses		(3,386,570)	(2,749,154)
Employment Allocation		314,265	90,721
Total Employment		(3,072,305)	(2,658,433)
Total Expenses		(4,174,928)	(3,584,356)
Net Surplus		474,417	32,515
Income tax expense	2.7	-	-
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		474,417	32,515
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		474,417	32,515

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

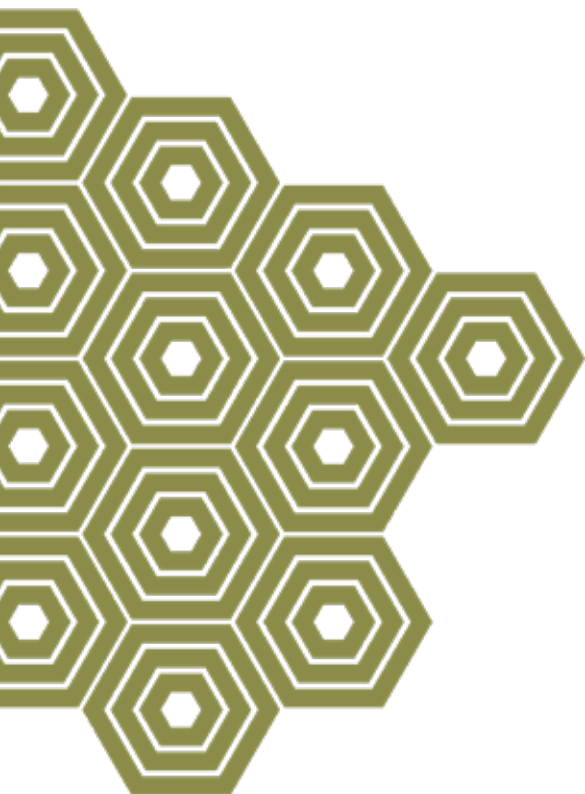
**Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2023**

	Notes	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	15	5,222,584	6,207,080
Trade and other Receivables	7	447,434	99,171
Total Current assets		<u>5,670,018</u>	<u>6,306,251</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	185,925	48,352
Right of use assets	6.1	157,907	1,452
Intangible assets		5,385	6,401
Total non-current assets		<u>349,217</u>	<u>56,205</u>
Total assets		<u>6,019,235</u>	<u>6,362,456</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	589,067	665,623
Provision for Annual Leave	9	241,876	183,825
Income in advance	11	3,504,643	4,469,354
Lease liabilities	10	86,217	1,562
Total current liabilities		<u>4,421,803</u>	<u>5,320,364</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provision for Long Service Leave	9	18,087	32,103
Lease liabilities	10.2	94,939	-
Total non-current liabilities		<u>113,026</u>	<u>32,103</u>
Total liabilities		<u>4,534,829</u>	<u>5,352,467</u>
Net assets		<u>1,484,406</u>	<u>1,009,989</u>
Equity			
Retained earnings		<u>1,484,406</u>	<u>1,009,989</u>
Total equity		<u>1,484,406</u>	<u>1,009,989</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Changes in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	Retained earnings \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021		977,474
Total comprehensive income for the 30 June 2022 year		32,515
Balance as at 30 June 2022		<u>1,009,989</u>
Total comprehensive income for the 30 June 2023 year		474,417
Balance as at 30 June 2023		<u>1,484,406</u>



The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2023**

	Notes	Year ended 30 June 2023	Year ended 30 June 2022
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating activities			
Receipts from customers		9,019,194	5,428,477
Payments to suppliers and employees		(9,731,607)	(4,897,633)
Cash payments from other operating activities		(11,830)	(112)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		<u>(724,243)</u>	<u>530,732</u>
Cash Flows from Investing activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(202,987)	(7,166)
Investment in/(redemption of) term deposit		-	2,805,323
Net Cash Flows from investing activities		<u>(202,987)</u>	<u>2,798,157</u>
Cash Flows from Financing activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities (principal)		(57,266)	(1,486)
Net Cash Flows from Financing activities		<u>(57,266)</u>	<u>(1,486)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(984,496)</u>	<u>3,327,403</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	15		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period		<u>6,207,080</u>	2,879,677
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period		<u>5,222,584</u>	<u>6,207,080</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. General information

The National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Limited (“the Institute”) is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Australia. The Institute is also registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission.

2. Significant accounting policies

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements.

2.1 Statement of compliance

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements and comply with other requirements of the law. The Institute is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under the Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 19 October 2023.

2.2 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except for certain financial instruments that are measured at fair values or amortised cost, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of the consideration given in exchange for assets. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique. In estimating the fair value of an asset or a liability, the Institute takes into account the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date. Fair value for measurement and/or disclosure purposes in these consolidated financial statements is determined on such a basis, except for share-based payment transactions that are within the scope of AASB 2, leasing transactions that are within the scope of AASB 16, and measurements that have some similarities to fair value but are not fair value, such as net realisable value in AASB 102 ‘Inventories’ or value in use in AASB 136 ‘Impairment of Assets’.

In addition, for financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety, which are described as follows:

- Level 1 inputs are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date;
- Level 2 inputs are inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

2.3 Revenue recognition

When the entity receives operating grant revenue, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance to AASB 15.

When both these conditions are satisfied, the Entity:

- identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant;
- recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement; and
- recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations, the Entity:

- recognises the asset received in accordance with the recognition requirements of other applicable accounting standards (for example AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138);
- recognises related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer); and
- recognises income immediately in profit or loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the Entity recognises income in profit or loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Revenue is recognised relating to rendering of services as the performance obligations are satisfied over time. The Company identifies each performance obligation relating to the service rendered, recognises a contract liability for its obligations under the agreement, and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and service tax (GST).



2.4 Leasing

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A contract is, or contains a lease if the contract conveys a right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. The Company assesses whether:

- (a) The contract involves the use of an identified asset – The asset may be explicitly or implicitly specified in the contract. A capacity portion of larger assets is considered an identified asset if the portion is physically distinct or if the portion represents substantially all of the capacity of the asset. The asset is not considered an identified asset, if the supplier has the substantive right to substitute the asset throughout the period of use.
- (b) The customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- (c) The customer has the right to direct the use of the asset throughout the period of use only if either:
 - (i) The customer has the right to direct how and for what purpose the identified asset is used throughout the period of use; or
 - (ii) The relevant decisions about how and for what purposes the asset is used is predetermined and the customer has the right to operate the asset, or the customer designed the asset in a way that predetermines how and for what purpose the asset will be used throughout the period of use.

Right-of-use asset

A right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost comprising the initial measurement of the lease liability adjusted for any lease payments made before the commencement date (reduced by lease incentives received), plus initial direct costs incurred in obtaining the lease and an estimate of costs to be incurred in dismantling and removing the underlying asset, restoring the site on which it is located or restoring the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease, unless those costs are incurred to produce inventories.

Lease Liability

A lease liability is initially measured at the present value of unpaid lease payments at the commencement date of the lease. To calculate the present value, the unpaid lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if the rate is readily determinable. If the interest rate implicit in the lease cannot be readily determined, the incremental borrowing rate at the commencement date of the lease is used. Lease payments included in the measurement of lease liabilities comprise:

- (a) Fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments;
- (b) Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date (e.g. payments varying on account of changes in CPI);
- (c) Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- (d) The exercise price of a purchase option if the Company is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and
- (e) Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising an option to terminate the lease.

Subsequently, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method resulting in interest expense being recognised as a borrowing cost in the income statement. The lease liability is remeasured when there are changes in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate with a corresponding adjustment to the right-of-use asset. Other situations will lead to a remeasurement including a change in a lease term. The adjustment amount is factored into depreciation of the right-of-use asset prospectively.

2.5 Financial instruments

2.5.1 Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is the date that the entity commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset (i.e. trade date accounting is adopted).

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price if the trade receivables do not contain significant financing component or if the practical expedient was applied as specified in AASB 15.63.

2.5.2 Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or liability. That is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

Financial assets

A financial asset is subsequently measured at amortised cost when it meets the following conditions:

- the financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

2.5.3 Derecognition

Derecognition refers to the removal of a previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from the statement of financial position.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A liability is derecognised when it is extinguished (i.e. when the obligation in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires). An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantially modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All of the following criteria need to be satisfied for derecognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- all risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- the entity no longer controls the asset (i.e. it has no practical ability to make unilateral decisions to sell the asset to a third party).

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in profit or loss.

2.5.4 Impairment

The entity recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on:

- financial assets that are measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income;
- lease receivables;
- contract assets (e.g. amount due from customers under construction contracts);
- loan commitments that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss; and
- financial guarantee contracts that are not measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument.

The entity used the simplified approaches to impairment, as applicable under AASB 9.

Simplified approach

The simplified approach does not require tracking of changes in credit risk in every reporting period, but instead requires the recognition of lifetime expected credit loss at all times.

This approach is applicable to:

- trade receivables or contract assets that result from transactions that are within the scope of AASB 15, that contain a significant financing component; and
- lease receivables.

In measuring the expected credit loss, a provision matrix for trade receivables was used taking into consideration various data to get to an expected credit loss (i.e. diversity of its customer base, appropriate groupings of its historical loss experience, etc).

2.5.5 Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements

At each reporting date, the entity recognised the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income. The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

2.6 Employee benefits

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Liabilities recognised in respect of short-term employee benefits, are measured at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Liabilities recognised in respect of long-term employee benefits are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Institute in respect of services provided by employees up to reporting date.

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit plans are recognised as an expense when employees have rendered service entitling them to the contributions.

Under the Lowitja Institute Collective Agreement, approved in August 2018, the Institute will make an employer superannuation contribution of 14% for all full, part time and casual employees. All other Executive employees will receive an employer superannuation contribution in line with the legislated Superannuation Guarantee Charge as outlined in their Employment Contracts.

2.7 Taxation

The income of the Institute is exempt from income tax pursuant to the provisions of Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The Institute is also endorsed by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission as a public benevolent institution.

2.8 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets (other than freehold land) less their residual values over their useful lives, using the straight-line method. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at each year end, with the effect of any changes in estimate accounted for on a prospective basis.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. The gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in profit or loss.

2.9 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that the entity will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. When a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows (where the effect of the time value of money is material).

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be recovered from a third party, a receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

2.10 Inventories/Consumables

Stocks of consumable and administrative items purchased in the normal operations are not taken into account at close of balance date as assets but are written off at the time of purchase.

2.11 Goods and services tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except:

- i. where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of an expense; or
- ii. for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the cash flow statement on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified within operating cash flows.

3. Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Institute's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experiences and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

4. Grants

The following is an analysis of the Institute's revenue for the year from continuing operations (excluding investment revenue – see note 5).

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Federal Government Funding	7,192,714	5,282,288
Philanthropic Income	82,680	120,000
External Organisations	212,969	33,000
	<u>7,488,363</u>	<u>5,435,288</u>

5. Other Income

	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Interest revenue	104,757	14,513
	<u>104,757</u>	<u>14,513</u>

6. Property, plant and equipment

	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Cost	346,105	213,562
Accumulated depreciation	(160,180)	(165,210)
	<u>185,925</u>	<u>48,352</u>

	Plant and equipment	Office Refurb.	Artwork	Total
At Cost	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2022	184,506	-	29,056	213,562
Additions	87,898	115,089	-	202,987
Disposals	(70,444)	-	-	(70,444)
Balance at 30 June 2023	201,960	115,089	29,056	346,105

	Plant and equipment	Office Refurb.	Artwork	Total
Accumulated depreciation	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 30 June 2022	164,147	-	1,063	165,210
Depreciation expense	31,599	33,524	291	65,414
Disposals	(70,444)	-	-	(70,444)
Balance at 30 June 2023	125,302	33,524	1,354	160,180

Impairment losses recognised in the year

During the year, the Institute carried out a review of the recoverable amount of its plant, equipment and motor vehicles. No impairment losses have been included as a line item in administrative expenses in the statement of comprehensive income.

The following useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation.

Plant and equipment	3 – 5 years
Office refurbishments	10 years
Artwork	100 years

6.1. Right of Use Assets

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Right of Use Asset – Photocopier	5,806	5,806
Less Acc. Amortisation – Photocopier	(5,806)	(4,354)
Right of Use Asset – Building Lease	236,861	-
Less Acc. Amortisation – Building Lease	(78,954)	-
	<u>157,907</u>	<u>1,452</u>
Opening Balance	1,452	
Additions	236,861	
Amortisation	<u>(80,406)</u>	
Closing Balance	<u>157,907</u>	

6.2. Intangible Assets

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Patents & Trademarks	10,160	10,160
Less Acc. Amortisation	(4,775)	(3,759)
	<u>5,385</u>	<u>6,401</u>
Opening Balance	6,401	
Additions	-	
Amortisation Expenses	<u>(1,016)</u>	
Closing Balance	<u>5,385</u>	

7. Trade and other receivables

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Accounts Receivable	230,527	-
Accrued Interest Receivable	-	1,316
Prepaid Expenses	88,242	97,855
Other Receivables	128,665	-
	<u>447,434</u>	<u>99,171</u>

8. Trade and other payables

Accounts Payable	589,003	668,217
Corporate cards	64	(2,594)
	<u>589,067</u>	<u>665,623</u>

The average credit period on purchases of certain goods is one month. No interest is charged on trade payables. The Institute has financial risk management policies in place to ensure that all payables are paid within the pre-agreed credit terms.

9. Provisions

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Provision for Annual Leave (Current Liabilities)	241,876	183,825
Provision for Long Service Leave (Non-Current Liabilities)	18,087	32,103

Provision for employee benefits

Provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave and long service leave. The current portion for this provision includes the total amount accrued for annual leave entitlements and the amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have vested due to employees having completed the required period of service. Based on past experience, the company does not expect the full amount of annual leave or long service leave balances classified as current liabilities to be settled within the next 12 months. However, these amounts must be classified as current liabilities since the company does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these amounts in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlement.

The non-current portion for this provision includes amounts accrued for long service leave entitlements that have not yet vested in relation to those employees who have not yet completed the required period of service.

In calculating the present value of future cash flows in respect of long service leave, the probability of long service leave being taken is based upon historical data. The measurement and recognition criteria for employee benefits have been discussed in Note 2.6.

10. Lease Liability

Lease Liability (Current) - Photocopier Lease	-	1,562
Lease Liability (Current) - Rental Lease	86,217	-
	<u>86,217</u>	<u>1,562</u>

10.1 Current Liabilities

Lease liability (Current) – Rental Lease	86,217	-
Total Current liabilities	<u>86,217</u>	<u>-</u>

10.2 Non-Current liabilities

Lease Liability (Non-Current) - Rental Lease	94,939	-
Total Non-Current liabilities	<u>94,939</u>	<u>-</u>

11. Income in Advance

Federal Government Funding	3,215,013	4,444,674
External Organisations	289,630	-
Philanthropic Income	-	24,680
Total Income in Advance	<u>3,504,643</u>	<u>4,469,354</u>

12. Financial Risk Management

The Institute's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, local money market instruments, short-term investments, accounts receivable and payable, and leases.

The carrying amounts for each category of financial instruments are as follows:

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Financial Assets at Amortised Cost		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,222,584	6,207,080
Bond	22,500	22,500
Trade and other receivables	296,269	76,671
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost		
Trade & Other Payables	589,003	665,623
Lease and Other Liabilities - Current	86,217	1,562
Lease and Other Liabilities – Non-Current	94,939	-

13. Key management personnel compensation

The Responsible Entities, (other than the Chairperson) do not receive any compensation.

The aggregate compensation made to key management personnel of the Institute is set out below:

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Total employee benefits	\$666,614	644,392

Key management personnel consist of Ms Janine Mohamed (Chief Executive Officer), Mr Paul Stewart (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and Mr. Selwyn Button (Chairperson)

14. Related party transactions

1. During the 2020-21 year the Institute awarded the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives LTD (CATSINaM) a Research Commissioning Grant of \$220,000 that has been fully spent to June 2023. Mr Ali Drummond who was a board member of the Institute was the chief investigator for this project. Mr Ali Drummond had no influence in the awarding of this funding from the Institute.
2. During the 2020-21 year the Institute awarded the Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation a Research Commissioning Grant of \$220,000 that has been fully spent to June 2023. Ms Suzanne Andrews who is a board member of the Institute is also the CEO of the Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation. Ms Suzanne Andrews had no influence in the awarding of this funding from the Institute.
3. During the 2022-23 year the Institute awarded The Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) a Research Commissioning Grant of \$220,000 to be spent between 2022-23 - 2024-25. A total of \$40,000 was paid in connection with the grant in the 2022-23 financial year. Mr Robert Skeen who is a board member of the Institute and was the CEO of the AH&MRC at the time had no influence in the awarding of the funding from the Institute.
4. During the 2022-23 year the Institute awarded The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Research (IUIH) Commissioning Grant of \$196,000 to be spent between 2022-23 - 2024-25. A total of \$39,200 was paid in connection with the grant in the 2022-23 financial year. Mr Selwyn Button who is a board member of the Institute is also on the board of IUIH however had no influence in the awarding of the funding from the Institute.
5. During the 2022-23 year the Institute awarded Danila Dilba Health Service a Commissioning Grant of \$220,000 to be spent between 2022-23 - 2024-25. A total of \$40,000 was paid in connection with the grant in the 2022-23 financial year. Ms Deborah Butler who is a board member of the Institute is also on the board of Danila Dilba however had no influence in the awarding of the funding from the Institute.

6. During the 2022-23 year the Institute engaged Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) on the commercialisation of its products. Mr. Selwyn Button who is the Chair of the Institute and who is also employed at PWC had no involvement in the decision making or the work carried out by PWC in connection with this engagement. The amount paid was \$26,408 and was on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties.

There were no other related party transactions during the year ended 30 June 2023.

15. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in banks accounts and short-term deposits with banks with original maturities of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
Cash and cash equivalents	5,222,584	6,207,080

16. Economic dependency

In June 2018, the Department of Health granted the Institute funding of \$8m over a four year period from July 2019 to June 2023 for the Indigenous Australians' Health Program. This program will be wound up in October 2023.

In April 2019, the Department of Health granted the Institute funding of \$10m over a three year period from June 2019 to June 2022 for the Investment in Health Medical Research. \$279k of this will be carried forward to June 2024.

In June 2021, the Victorian Department of Health granted the Institute funding of \$770k over a three year period from June 2021 to June 2023 for the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ADRIA Grants Program. This program has been extended to 2024.

In June 2022, the Department of Health granted the Institute funding of \$30.5m over a 5 year period from July 2022 to June 2027 to continue funding work for the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples through high impact quality research, knowledge translation, and by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

17. Events after the reporting period

There were no significant events occurring after the end of the reporting period.

