

Participant Information Sheet

Workshops

PROJECT TITLE: Looking back to look forward: Aspirations for Community Controlled Research

RESEARCHERS: Paul Stewart, Michael Newman, Rosemary Smith, Jaki Adams, Sonia Waters, Jo Cackett, Leanne Coombe, Deb Knoche, Aaliyah Davey, and Kathleen Stacey.

ORGANISATION: Lowitja Institute

What is the project about?

An Aboriginal led research team at the Lowitja Institute is conducting this research. We are Australia's only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled health research institute, named in honour of our namesake and co-patron, the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. We deliver high-impact quality research, knowledge exchange, and by supporting a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers. We were established to centre our peoples within research, to ensure that research is no longer done on and about us; and instead advocate for and facilitate research **done by us and for us**.

Lowitja Institute's *2024-2027 Strategic Plan* highlights our commitment to pursuing a new generation of solutions, which make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and are sustainable into the future. This project will support the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research priorities and ways of working to progress this agenda. However, we also need to look at, and learn from, the past.

The aim of the project is to understand the aspirations of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled sector in relation to research. We understand that Lowitja Institute grant rounds are currently oversubscribed and there is a need to increase the availability of funding for health research that reflects the priority needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



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The project objectives therefore include:

1. To assess how the Lowitja Institute's activities produce benefits for external stakeholders and how this can be further strengthened.
2. To develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research agenda for health and wellbeing that reflects community needs.
3. To explore Aboriginal community controlled organisations' aspirations, scope the sector's level of readiness for research, and explore what the enablers and barriers are to achieving those aspirations.

Overall, this project will include a survey, descriptive case studies and workshops.

Who is involved in the project?

This research project is being conducted by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led team at the Lowitja Institute. The researchers involved in the project are Paul Stewart, Michael Newman, Rosemary Smith, Jaki Adams, Sonia Waters, Jo Cackett, Leanne Coombe, Deb Knoche, Aaliyah Davey and Kathleen Stacey, who work for Lowitja Institute. This project is funded by Lowitja Institute.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You are being invited to participate in one of a series of **workshops** to help us gain a deeper understanding of the status of the Aboriginal community controlled sector's relationship to research and future aspirations.

You are eligible to participate if you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher, currently working for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation.

Participation in this project is entirely your choice, it is voluntary, and you can pull out at any time. Withdrawing won't change your relationship with the researchers, Lowitja Institute or anyone else. Participants will not be paid for attending the workshop.

What will the researchers do and when?

You are invited to participate in one of a series of workshops. The workshops will be offered in a range of formats (including online, hybrid, and/or face-to-face). These will be coordinated through our Lowitja Institute membership and networks and will

www.lowitja.org.au

ABN: 70 138 780 695

71 Oxford St,
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia

PO Box 1524
Collingwood VIC 3066
Australia

t: +61 3 8421 5555
f: +61 3 8341 5599
e: admin@lowitja.org.au



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engage stakeholders nationwide. If you agree to participate a calendar invitation will be sent to you to participate in the workshop. Acceptance of this invitation will be taken as consent to participate in this project. The workshop will run for 2-3 hours.

You will be provided with a summary paper that brings together the key themes that explored the barriers, challenges, enablers and opportunities for Aboriginal community controlled organisations to lead their own research.

At the workshop, you will be asked to share your views on a range of themes that will include relationship to research; barriers and enablers to engaging in research; future improvements for research commissioning; and meaning attributed to selected research agenda priorities.

If everyone gives permission, the discussion will be recorded. Lowitja Institute staff will take notes. Participant and research team notes and scribes will be used for thematic analysis.

What will happen to my information?

This project is delivered by the Lowitja Institute, a community controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research peak body. The project has been developed in line with principles of Indigenous data sovereignty, acknowledging the rights of Indigenous people to control the development and dissemination of data for and about them.

The research team will take handwritten and visual scribe notes from the conversations. Notes taken during the workshop may include specific quotes. Written consent for use of those specific quotes will be sought on an individual basis via email prior to publication. Otherwise, any information collected throughout the workshop will be published in an aggregated form so that it reduces the risk of future identification of individuals. Any individual responses will not be linked to their organisations unless consent to do so has been received.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this research project and that can be used to identify you will remain confidential unless otherwise permitted by you, or as required by law.

Your information will contribute to the development of a rigorous, community-led Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research agenda for health and wellbeing that will inform governments, research funding bodies and the Lowitja Institute's own research commissioning processes as well as our policy and advocacy agenda into the future.



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The findings derived in this project will be communicated back to participants and a broader audience in a range of ways, which may include publications in an open access, peer-reviewed national journal and various reports by the Lowitja Institute as part of its knowledge translation and policy advocacy materials.

Updates on this research project will be published in The Doris and reports outlining results will be made available on Lowitja Institute's website. Copyright will be owned by the Lowitja Institute.

What are the potential risks?

Participation in this project is entirely your choice. It is voluntary, this means you can say NO. Whether you choose to participate will not impact you in any way. You may stop your involvement in the workshops at any time without giving a reason. You can easily withdraw by emailing the project manager A/Prof Leanne Coombe at leanne.coombe@lowitja.org.au.

We don't anticipate any risks being involved in this project. The questions are not expected to cause discomfort or distress. However, should you experience distress or need to seek support, please reach out to one of the following services:

- [13YARN | 13 92 76 - 24/7 yarning support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples](#)
- [Brother to Brother | 1800 435 799 - support line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and youth](#)
- [WellMob - resources for social, emotional and cultural wellbeing](#)
- [Gayaa Dhuwi \(Proud Spirit\) Australia - peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing](#)
- [Lifeline Australia | 13 11 14 – crisis support and suicide prevention services](#)
- [Beyond Blue | 1300 224 636 – support for anxiety, depression and suicide prevention](#)

Data storage

During the project, data will be stored on password protected computers as electronic files on the Lowitja Institute secure network. Identifying data (i.e. email addresses) will be stored separately. Only the key research personnel will have access to this data. The information will be kept for a minimum of 5 years.

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Culturally restricted information

This project is focused on health and well-being research priorities and does not intend to be collecting any culturally restricted information. If culturally sensitive/restricted data is unexpectedly collected during the research activities, we will seek expertise and advice from the communities to whom it belongs.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

You are eligible to participate if you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher, currently working for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled organisation or have interacted with the Lowitja Institute via the members community or as an external stakeholder who has accessed or utilised tools and resources, conferences, or policy and advocacy activities of the Lowitja Institute and are over 18 years of age.

Contact

If you have queries about the research, you can contact project manager A/Prof Leanne Coombe at leanne.coombe@lowitja.org.au.

Complaints

If you have a complaint about this research, you can contact:

- Deputy CEO, Lowitja Institute, 71 Oxford Street, Collingwood Victoria 3066 (e) Michael.Newman@lowitja.org.au
- The Executive Director of Research, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) ethics@aiatsis.gov.au
- The Chair of the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) ethics@aiatsis.gov.au
- If I think there has been a breach of my privacy I can write to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001 or call 1300 363 992.



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Ethics Committee Clearance

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee #REC-0579.

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