



Core funding is provided by the Australian Government





Australian Indigenous Health InfoNet

Year in Review 2019

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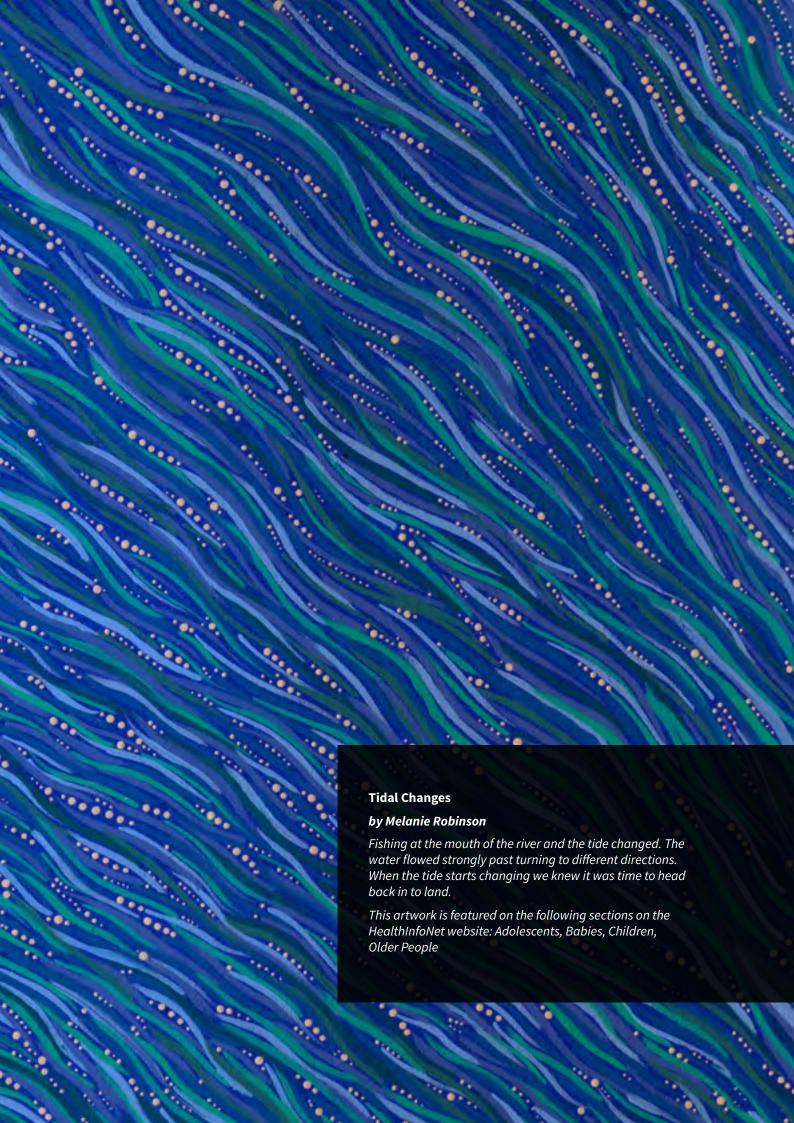
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Core funding is provided by the Australian Government Department of Health

The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters of Australia and the Torres Strait. We respect all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—their customs and their beliefs. We also pay our respects to Elders past and present, with particular acknowledgement to the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar nation, the traditional owners of the lands where our offices are located.





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Director's welcome

Welcome to our 2019 Year in Review. 2019 has been another year of considerable growth and evolution for us as an organisation and dare I say for all of us as individuals and as a team. It was a year of consolidation of our ongoing digital evolution strategy. It is over 5 years since we embarked on our ambitious program to ensure that we remain at the forefront of providing support that is *timely, accessible and relevant*, to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector workforce. We have been on a challenging journey to define what we mean by knowledge exchange research, the outputs of which are the tangible expressions of our support. I have had the pleasure of discussing this crucial topic with many colleagues and friends throughout the year and have benefitted enormously from their generosity, wisdom and thoughtfulness but it is, notwithstanding this support, a relatively underdeveloped area of scholarly enquiry and, importantly, practice.

Some key principles guide us in our work. One of the most important is embracing and articulating a strengths based narrative in our work. Another key challenge during this period has been the emerging national debate on data sovereignty and governance. As a data driven organisation we are implicated in this debate in a very real way and I have appreciated the guidance of the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, scholars and leaders in this important national debate. I am confident that you will see the fruits of this collaboration in the pages of this annual review of our activities. You will also notice important changes in the Health*InfoNet* workforce. We continue to implement our strategy to develop an agile and flexible workforce designed and tasked with creating knowledge products in a rapidly changing technological landscape. To this end, we employed for the first time a Knowledge Exchange Products Coordinator to oversee the delivery of our knowledge exchange materials and resources. This has significantly enhanced the consistency and focus of our work to provide a coherent body of work that is clearly identified as Health*InfoNet*.

Another significant development has been the implementation of a new project management



system. The increased complexity and scope of our work demanded a more sophisticated project management system to ensure even greater productivity and efficiency dividends that are always important in a climate of scarce resources. A dashboard of all current projects and activities in the one place has already significantly enhanced not only productivity and efficiency but also the equally important area of team communication and transparency. For the first time, all team members can follow all the project workflows, activities and task easily and at their own discretion and initiative.



Professor Braden Hill

2019 saw a generational change in Kurongkurl Katitjin, our host organisation within ECU. Professor Colleen Hayward retired, and we welcomed Professor Braden Hill as Deputy Vice Chancellor Equity and Indigenous and Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin... and my Line Manager. I want to offer my sincere thanks to Colleen for her outstanding leadership and support for me personally and the Health*InfoNet*. My thanks also to Braden for taking up the baton of staunch leadership and support so seamlessly.

To our funding partners, Advisory Board, sector partners, consultants, users; and to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities throughout Australia, we present this annual review as a tribute and acknowledgement with humble thanks and sincere gratitude for your ongoing support, now for over 22 years.

To my staff, as evidenced by this review... you are truly awesome... thank you.



Professor Neil Drew

Governance

The Health Info Net Advisory Board

The Advisory Board was formed in 2008 to provide strong cultural governance, advice and advocacy support to the Director and Management Team of the Health/InfoNet and to assist in optimising our contributions to closing the gap between the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. The Advisory Board comprises representatives of key stakeholder organisations and other members selected for their individual expertise. I welcomed two new organisations to the Board this year NATSIHWA the peak body for Health Workers and Health Practitioners and IAHA the peak body for Indigenous Allied Health Workers (https:// healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/governance/advisory-board/).

Honorary Consultants

The Health/InfoNet has developed over many years a network of Honorary Consultants. Health InfoNet Consultants are leading experts in a wide range of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health topic areas. Honorary Consultants provide expert advice, guidance and review of Health/InfoNet Knowledge Exchange products, as well as providing assistance to collect additional materials to be added to the HealthInfoNet database. They also act as an informal reference group. Each Consultant is allocated to a member of the Health/InfoNet research team who are responsible for maintaining regular contact with the Consultant (https://healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au/about/ engagement/consultants/).





Our projects

The Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet receives funding from a variety of organisations and works collaboratively on projects that aim to provide information to people who are working, studying or interested in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

By sharing expertise, the Health*InfoNet* makes relevant, up-to-date, high quality knowledge and information easily accessible to:

- support capacity building and knowledge-informed decision-making within the workforce
- promote evidence-informed practice across sectors
- encourage greater integration between policy, practice and research.

Our core funding is provided by the Australian Government Department of Health and we also receive funding from other funders for specific projects.



The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet

The Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet* receives core funding from the Australian Government Department of Health to enable website coverage and Knowledge Exchange products mainly about chronic disease, nutrition and physical activity.

The aim is to contribute to closing the gap in health between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians by making knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health readily available to the workforce.

Up-to-date, relevant information can then be used to inform practice, policy, research, teaching and general community understanding. The Health*InfoNet's* key functions in addressing this goal are to:

- collect relevant research and other information pertaining to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- collate, translate and synthesise the information gathered to create new and more accessible knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- disseminate this knowledge, primarily via the internet.



The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre is funded by the Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs Branch of the Australian Government Department of Health. The Knowledge Centre was established as a collaboration led by the HealthInfoNet in partnership with the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI), the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) and the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA). The Knowledge Centre is committed to building the capacity of the Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) workforce, promoting evidence-informed practice across sectors, and encouraging greater integration between policy, practice and research.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking website

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program is managed and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health's Indigenous Health Division. The National Best Practice Unit for Tackling Indigenous Smoking (Ninti One Ltd, the Health Research Centre at the University of Canberra and the Health/InfoNet) provides tailored support to organisations funded under the national TIS program. As a member of this consortium, the Health*InfoNet* manages the TIS Website which provides evidence-based, relevant and up to date research, information and resources on smoking prevention and cessation.





Palliative Care Portal

The Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Portal (funded by Palliative Care Australia) is an online collection of quality, up-to-date information and resources. The Palliative Care and End-of-Life Care Portal has been developed specifically for the health workforce who provide care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their families and communities. It is also designed to support both clinicians and policy makers in accessing resources, research and projects on palliative and end-of-life care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Healing Portal

The Health/InfoNet is funded by The Healing Foundation to maintain a portal for people working in healing, health, justice, education, employment, child protection and family violence. The Healing Portal supports users by providing information and resources about healing and related issues. The Portal combines all the functions of a clearinghouse with additional benefits such as information on key facts, organisations, programs and projects, conferences and events and a yarning place. In 2019, a Videos tab was added as a sub topic.



Environmental Health Portal

Environmental health focuses on the physical, chemical, biological and social factors which affect people within their surroundings. The Environmental Health Portal is devoted to providing Indigenous Environmental Health Practitioners (IEHPs) and others in the environmental health sector with access to the evidence base to assist them in their vital work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.





Eye Health Portal

Together, the Health/InfoNet and The Fred Hollows Foundation expanded information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health on the Eye Health Portal. This portal was funded to June 2019. New resources produced in 2019 included multimedia resources in multiple formats to meet the varied information needs and learning styles of different people working in the eye health sector.



WA State Portal

There is an increasing need for accurate and timely information on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in WA. Information specific to WA is needed by stakeholders and policy makers to ensure that policy and program decisions are evidence-based and in line with current trends. The WA State portal is much more comprehensive than the Health*InfoNet*'s coverage of other states and territories due to funding obtained from the WA Department of Health. Providing this information in the WA State Portal of the Health/InfoNet web resource assists in 'closing the gap' in Aboriginal health outcomes in WA.



Social and emotional wellbeing digital resources

This year we partnered with eMHPrac (e-mental health in practice) to commence designing and curating a new website dedicated to information about social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) digital resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The new website will be the first of its kind to bring together online SEWB resources all in the one place. It aims to support Aboriginal Health Workers who want to share useful online mental health resources with their clients. We are conducting a series of focus groups across the country to provide valuable feedback on the creation of the website and look forward to launching the new resource in May 2020.





The Australian Indigenous Health Bulletin

The purpose of the Australian Indigenous Health *Bulletin* (Health *Bulletin*) is to facilitate access to information of relevance to Australian Indigenous health. Reflecting the wide range of users – policy makers, service providers, researchers, students and the general community – the Health *Bulletin* attempts to keep people informed of current events of relevance, as well as information about recent research. Research information is provided in two ways – the publication of original research and the presentation of abstracts of research published or presented elsewhere. The Health *Bulletin* is published online as a Health *Bulletin* 'in progress', to allow readers to have access to information as it becomes available, rather than have material waiting 'behind the scenes' until the next publication. There are four editions published per year with each edition running continuously for three months.

Articles included:

- · Working towards a tobacco-free Aboriginal community through an arts-based intervention
- Selection of appropriate spirometry reference values in Aboriginal Australians
- The 'Good Quick Tukka' cooking program, 'Cook it, Plate it, and Eat it'
- Co-designing an antenatal physiotherapy education session with Aboriginal consumers: a pilot study
- Developing client information systems for SEWB workers
- Australian first-year and second-year medical students' perceptions of professionalism when (not) asking patients if they identify as Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander: A scenariobased experimental study
- A collaborative yarn on qualitative health research with Aboriginal communities.



Untitled by Donna Lei Rioli This artwork uses a positive framework to demonstrate social and emotional wellbeing in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. It highlights the primary importance of spirituality, culture, family, and community in promoting social and emotional wellbeing. The artwork also acknowledges that health professionals, such as doctors (including psychiatrists) and other health professionals, have a supporting role in helping to foster social and emotional wellbeing. The interconnection between each of these variables is recognised through the use of various coloured dots. This artwork is featured on the following section on the HealthInfoNet website: Social and Emotional Wellbeing





Multimedia Knowledge Exchange products

Our digital evolution strategy is a multifaceted approach to innovation and design. The Health *InfoNet* aims to remain at the forefront of innovation and development in the provision of high quality, evidence-based materials to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce. Our strength-based, culturally co-designed resources cut through enormous amounts of information delivering massive time savings for Health Workers, policymakers, GPs, nurses, allied health workers, academics and professional health associations, as well as supporting the training and development of future health professionals.

The Health/InfoNet remains at the forefront of Knowledge Exchange (KE), producing a variety of innovative products. Our multimedia products aim to increase the range of users who can engage with the content provided, moving beyond those interested in the scholarly material provided in our Overview and health topic narrative reviews.

We have employed a Digital and Multimedia Research Coordinator to oversee and coordinate the Knowledge Exchange Products Team (KEPT) and the delivery of our ever-expanding suite of KE research products and resources. This ensures that our products are maintained to a high standard, ensures brand consistency and continues to develop and meet stakeholder and staff needs and best practice standards.

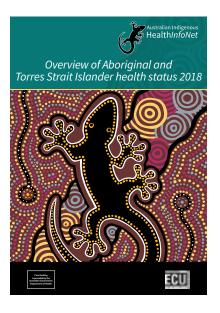
Our activities in this area are guided by a number of principles that ensure that the Health*InfoNet* works in authentic partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other stakeholders including:

- Engaging with users to co-design, co-construct and co-produce resources that meet the needs of users
- Ensuring that we engage in culturally responsive and safe ways with all people
- Striving to enact socially transformative, decolonising and socially just practice.

Resources produced as part of our digital evolution strategy include:

- animated Videos
- infographics
- podcasts
- reviews
- short films
- webinars.

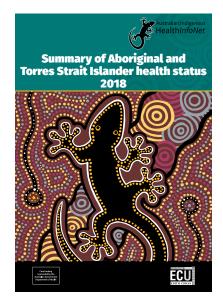
Overviews and Summary



Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status

The Overview provides a comprehensive summary of the most recent indicators of the health and current health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It provides information about the context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, population, and various measures of population health status as well as selected health conditions and risk and protective factors.

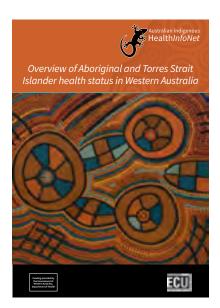




Summary of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

Health*InfoNet* produces the *Summary* as part of its effort to help 'close the gap' by providing the evidence base to inform practice and policy in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. The Summary aims to make this information available to all people, including those without a specialised knowledge of the health field. It uses a range of visual aids to assist readers to quickly and easily understand the data presented throughout.





Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status in Western Australia

This Overview aims to provide a comprehensive summary of the most recent indicators of the health and current health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Western Australia (WA). The Overview is a resource relevant for the health workforce, students and others requiring access to up-to-date information about the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in WA.





Reviews



Review of cardiovascular health among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This review provides a synthesis of key information about the cardiovascular health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It aims to inform the work of health practitioners and policy makers in Australia.



Review of kava use among Aboriginaland Torres Strait Islander people

This review provides an overview of kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, with a particular focus on Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. It provides general information on kava in Australia and information on its effects on health.



Review of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

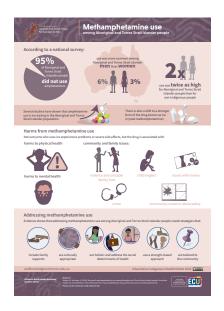
This review provides general information on the context of methamphetamine in Australia and the health and social impacts in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.



Summary of kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This is a summary of the Review of kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (2019). Information is provided in an easy-to-understand format, with technical terms explained, and some additional infographics and graphs to illustrate data.

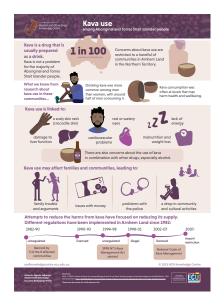
Fact sheets



Methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This factsheet highlights a number of key facts about methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is based on the *Review of methamphetamine* use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

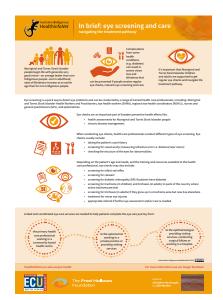




Kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This factsheet highlights a number of key facts about kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a particular focus on communities in the Arnhem Land region of the Northern Territory.





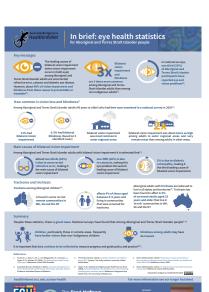
In brief: eye screening and care navigating the treatment pathway

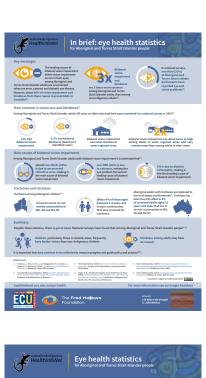
This one page factsheet provides a broad overview of the common screening services available for eye health. It has been tailored to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience and may be a useful tool for practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to aid in their understanding of how eye screening procedures fit into the eye care journey.

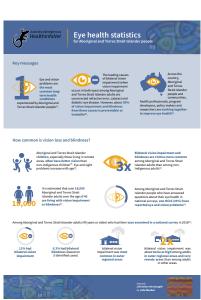












Eye screening and care navigating the treatment pathway

This four page factsheet provides a helpful summary of eye screening care services available in Australia. It has been tailored to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience and may be a useful tool for practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to aid in their understanding of the cycle of care, including the role of various professionals such as regional eye health coordinators, optometrists and ophthalmologists.



In brief: eye health statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This one page key fact sheet provides an overview of the leading causes of eye problems among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the prevalence of these conditions. It offers quick, easy-to-digest statistical graphics, designed to assist people in the workforce in keeping up to date with information.



Eye health statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This one page factsheet provides a broad overview of the common screening services available for eye health. It has been tailored to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience and may be a useful tool for practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to aid in their understanding of how eye screening procedures fit into the eye care journey.





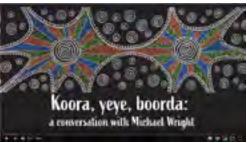
Short film



Koora, yeye, boorda: a conversation with Michael Wright

Associate Professor Dr Michael Wright is a Yuat Noongar man who holds an Early Career Research Fellowship with the Faculty of Health Sciences at Curtin University and is an Honorary Research Fellow with the Telethon Kids Institute.

In this short film, the Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet Alcohol and other Drugs Knowledge Centre asks Michael about his career journey; the milestones, the challenges and what has given him inspiration in his work. He talks about his research findings on kinship and caring for people with mental illness, which led him to promote an Indigenous framework for delivering mental health services. Michael describes the work he has done in partnership with Elders and community services through the Looking Forward project part 1 and 2 to change the way mental health and alcohol and other drug services interact with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.



Koora, yeye, boorda are Noongar words for past, present and future.

Community services involved in research for the Looking Forward project include:

- Ruah Community Services
- Hope Community Services
- MercyCare
- Palmerston Association
- Richmond Wellbeing
- St John of God Health Care, Midland
- WA Association for Mental Health Services
- WA Council of Community and Social Services
- WA Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies
- WA Mental Health Commission.





Videos



Eye screening and care: navigating the treatment pathway

This animated short video has been tailored to an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander audience and may be a useful tool for practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to aid in their understanding of how eye screening procedures fit into the eye care journey.





Eye health statistics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This animated video outlines the leading causes of eye problems among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the prevalence of these conditions. The video is part of a series of knowledge exchange tools developed about eye health statistics.





What do we know about kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

This video highlights a number of key facts about kava use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a particular focus on communities in the Arnhem Land region of the Northern Territory. It is based on the Review of kava among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





Methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

This short video highlights a number of key facts about methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It is based on the *Review of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*.





Webinars

In 2019, enhancements were made to the webinar recordings. On each recording, closed captions (subtitles) were added by research staff to improve user experience and accessibility for people with hearing impairment. Section chapters were added by the Social Media Coordinator to increase engagement by enabling users to jump to key sections within the recording. Facebook promotion was also conducted to promote the webinar recording resources. During the reporting period, a new promotion strategy was developed to provide short 2-3 minutes snippets of the webinar recordings that will be promoted via social media.



Eye screening and care: treatment pathways and professional roles





Respiratory illnesses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: contemporary challenges?





Kava in Australia





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Worker wellbeing resources and strategies for responding to methamphetamine





Find out more about the HealthInfoNet's **Overview and Summary 2018**





Research

Primary Research

The Health*InfoNet* Primary research program continues to develop. The main Health/nfoNet resource is devoted entirely to second and third generation knowledge production. From a very low base, and following the appointment of Dr Uncle Mick Adams, we have established a primary research capability in first generation



Senior Research Fellow Dr Mick Adams and Director Neil Drew

knowledge. There are only two primary research active staff currently within the HealthInfoNet; the Director Professor Neil Drew and Dr Uncle Mick Adams, Senior Aboriginal Research Fellow. They have nevertheless continued to make small but significant and important developmental steps in 2019. A key development has been the establishment of the Impact and Evaluation Team. Other Health/nfoNet staff have been seconded to this team to contribute to impact and evaluation studies of HealthInfoNet Knowledge Exchange materials and resources. Another key development in 2019 was the development of the Health/InfoNet Impact and Evaluation Strategy. The objective for the strategy is to provide a theoretically, conceptually, methodologically and culturally safe framework to guide impact and evaluation work in to the future. The draft strategy will be available in early 2020.

The following section provide a summary of primary research activities undertaken in 2019.

Health InfoNet Impact and Evaluation Studies

The Fred Hollows Foundation Evaluation of Diabetic Retinopathy Resources: Indigenous Health/InfoNet and The Fred Hollows Foundation produced a suite of relevant tools for the workforce. The Diabetic Retinopathy Resource Evaluation project involved a qualitative exploration of the experiences of the staff involved in the development of the resources as well as users of the resource. The evaluation project analysed qualitative interviews with people involved in the development of the resources. The purpose was to learn



about the collaborative process and identify ways to enhance future projects of this type. The second part of the evaluation project involved looking at the distribution, use, and impact of the resources in the workforce and in communities.



- The Health/InfoNet User Experience Survey: The user experience survey gathered data from over 800 respondents about the main HealthInfoNet resource regarding their experiences of using the Health/InfoNet. The survey was based on a detailed operationalisation and measurement of key concepts related to knowledge exchange theory, method and practice. Preliminary results are reported elsewhere in this review and a comprehensive report will be released by mid 2020.
- · Alcohol and other Drugs Knowledge Centre User Experience Survey: this survey mirrored the methods utilised in the Health/nfoNet User Experience Survey with over 150 respondents providing feedback. Preliminary results are reported elsewhere in this review and a comprehensive report will be released by mid 2020.

Collaborative research engagement within Edith Cowan University:

- · Project Lead Professor Beth Armstrong, Healing Right Way Enhancing Rehabilitation Services for Aboriginal Australians After Brain Injury. Associate Investigator Professor Neil Drew. Funded by NHMRC (https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-research/ communication-disorders-research-group/projects/brain-injury-in-aboriginal-populations/ healing-right-way-enhancing-rehabilitation-services-for-aboriginal-australians-after-brain-
- Project Lead Associate Professor Natalie Ciccone. Yarning together: developing a culturally secure rehabilitation approach for Aboriginal Australians after Brain injury, Dr Michael Adams Co-Investigator. Funded by the Lowitja Institute.

Postgraduate supervision:

- Charmaine Papertalk-Green. Ngatha Wangga (I talk): Translation of knowledge to improve the lives of Yamaji.
- Jack Bulman (Masters, Uni Melbourne). Yarning, hope and healing for our men and women. Using the First 1000 Days Australia Model to support males make positive life transitions.

External research collaborations

- National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University Developing a culturally appropriate online toolkit to prevent crystal methamphetamine ('ice') related harms among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (Phase 1). Phases 2-3 will be lead by the Centre for Research Excellence in Mental Health at UNSW (now the Matilda Centre at University of Sydney). Dr Mick Adams and Professor Neil Drew Co-Investigators and Members of the Expert Advisory Group.
- Curtin University Healthway Exploratory Research project: Increasing Aboriginal people's use of services that reduce harm from illicit drugs. Dr Mick Adams.
- Menzies School Health Research The Lowitja Institute: Valuing Aboriginal and Torres Strait *Islander Young Men.* Dr Mick Adams
- Menzies School Health Research Professor James Smith and Dr Mick Adams, Proposed Think Tank research workshop far north Queensland and Torres Strait Islander communities



Reference or advisory groups: Dr Mick Adams

- Chairperson Healthy Males (previously Andrology Male Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee)
- Ambassador Safer Families Centre of Research Excellence
- Member Editorial Board, *ab-Original: Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations' and First Peoples' Cultures* (Penn State University Press)
- Member Cancer Council WA Aboriginal Reference Group (with Professor Neil Drew)
- Member NACCHO Ochre Day Conference Committee
- Member Mayi Kuwayu Study ANU National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research
- Member WA Register of Developmental Anomalies Cerebral Palsy
- Member Diabetes Australia External Reference Group

Publications, book chapters and books in 2019: Dr Mick Adams & Professor Neil Drew

- Stewart Sutherland and Michael Adams, Building on the Definition of Social and Emotional Well-Being: An Indigenous (Australian, Canadian and New Zealand) Viewpoint. ab-Original, Journal of Indigenous Studies and First Nations and First Peoples' Cultures. (Vol 3 No 1pp. 48-72)
- Mick Adams, Jesse John Fleay, Peter J. Mataira, Shayne Walker and Michael Hart (2019)
 Colonialism and the atrophy of Indigenous male Identities: Our Voices; Aboriginal Social Work edited Bindi Bennett and Sue Green (pp. 47-64)
- Mick Adams, *Indigenous postgraduate education: an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander standpoint.* Indigenous postgraduate education: Intercultural perspectives book chapter 12. Information Age Publishing Inc. (in press)
- Drew, N., & Adams, M. (2019). Community Based Mental Health in Cultural Contexts: From deinstitutionalisation to engaged and authentic community based care. In K. O'Doherty and D. Hodgetts, International Handbook of Applied Social Psychology, pp 232-251. London: Sage.



Conferences 2019

Health/nfoNet participated in the following conferences and events:

- Close the Gap for Vision by 2020, 14-15 March, Alice Springs (exhibited and presented)
- 15th National Rural Health Alliance, 23-25 March, Hobart (exhibited, presented and a workshop)
- ADAN Symposium, 19-21 March, Sydney (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- AHCWA, 27-28 March, Perth (exhibited)
- Ninti One workshop, March, Alice Springs (attended)
- ANU Rural Medical Students' Society Close the Gap, 13-14 April, Canberra (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- ADSSI staff and volunteer's, March, Sydney (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- AADANT, April, Darwin (static display)
- Australia/NZ addiction conference, 13-15 May, Gold Coast (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- QAAMS, 8 May, Adelaide (exhibited and workshop)
- Aboriginal Health Forum, 30 May, Perth (exhibited)
- · Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing, 18-20 June, Darwin (exhibited and two presentations)
- RHW Aboriginal health conference, 6 July, Perth (exhibited)
- RRSW, July, Victoria (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- 13th National Allied Health Conference, 5-8 August, Brisbane (exhibited)
- DANA, 15 August, Brisbane (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- NSW Aboriginal chronic conditions, 27 August, Sydney (provided inserts for delegates' bags)
- The MHS, 27 August, Brisbane (exhibited)
- The Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Drug Agencies (WANADA) and Local Drug Action Groups (LDAG) conference, 15-16 August, Perth (exhibited)
- Oceanic Palliative Care, 10-13 September, Perth (presented)
- IAHA National Conference, 23-25 September, Darwin (exhibited)
- CATSINaM, 24-26 September, Sydney (exhibited)
- Cranaplus, 18-20 September, Hunter Valley (exhibited and presented)
- 12th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference, 16-19 September, Perth (exhibited)
- PHAA Conference, 19 September, Adelaide SA (exhibited)
- NATSIHWA Symposium, 8 October, Alice Springs (exhibited)
- APSAD, 10-13 November, Hobart (exhibited and presented)
- 16th Specialised Conference on Small Water and Wastewater Systems, 8th November, Specialised Conference on Resource Oriented Sanitation, 1-5 December Perth (exhibited and presented).

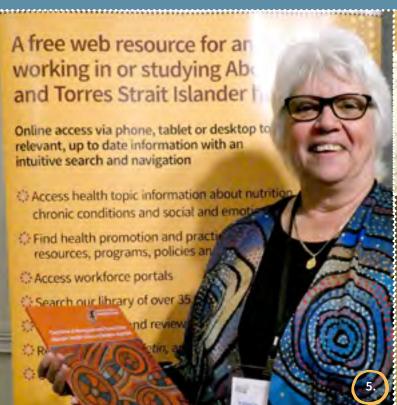


Presentations

- Burns, J, Elwell M. (2019), Providing information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander palliative and end-of-life care, WA, Perth WA, 11 September 2019
- Burns, J. (2019), Connecting and supporting health professionals who work in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, Hunter Valley, 20 September, 2019
- Elwell, M. (2019), Westcare Medical Centre, Perth WA, 7 March
- Elwell, M. (2019), Flinders University, Quality Assurance for Aboriginal Medical Services, Adelaide SA, 8 May
- Elwell, M. (2019), Lowitja Conference, Darwin NT, 18 June
- Elwell, M. (2019), Mental Health Services conference, Brisbane Old, 28 August
- Elwell, M. (2019), 2019 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference, Perth WA, 11 September
- Elwell, M. (2019), Indigenous Allied Health Australia conference, Darwin NT, 23 September
- FitzGerald, V. (2019) How the Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet contributes to the knowledge base for the environmental health sector. 12th National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health (NATSIEH) Conference, in Perth, WA, 16-19 September 2019
- FitzGerald, V. (2019) The Australian Indigenous Health/InfoNet: how the Environmental Health
 Portal provides information for Environmental Health Workers. 16th Specialised Conference
 on Small Water and Wastewater Systems, 8th Specialised Conference on Resource Oriented
 Sanitation (SWWS2019) 1-5 December 2019
- Trzesinski, A. (2019), 'Consulting with Indigenous communities to provide tailored support for addressing AOD use' at the 15th National Rural Health Conference, Hobart Tas, 27 March 2019
- Hoareau, J. (2019) Providing the evidence base to reduce harmful alcohol and other drug use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities at the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs Conference in Hobart Tas, 11 November 2019
- Hoyne, T. (2019) Providing the evidence base to help close the gap in health at the PHAA conference, Adelaide SA, 19 September 2019.





















- Nathan Appo, Donisha Duff, Uncle Mick, Sean Yorston AIATSIS Brisbane
- Group CTGV19 Alice Springs
- Nadia Clements, Avinna Trzesinski, Millie Harford-Mills and Heather Wilson Hobart NRHA
- Jane Burns presenting at the Cranaplus conference
- Valerie Swift Telethon Kids Institute 2 Rural Health
- Christina Batty, Vilma FitzGerald, Junior Vandy WANADA Perth
- Neil presenting at AIATSIS in Darwin
- Workshop activity AADANT conference
- Uncle Mick presenting at the NATSIHWA conference
- 10. The MHS conference Brisbane
- 11. Claire-Edwards, Avinna Trzesinski, Sonia Wood at 13th National Allied Health Conference
- 12. Emma Neil at AHCWA Conference Perth





Using social media for **Knowledge Exchange**

This year we implemented the tactics from the operational social media plan with great results, investigated a new addition to our Yarning Places, launched the #towardshealthequality campaign and participated in a @WePublicHealth Twitter takeover.

With a focus on enhancing our knowledge capabilities through social media, our follower numbers this year have grown by 73%. We've increased our engagement rate from 1.5% to 5% and received a huge 2660% growth rate in the numbers of messages, comments and replies we received.

We have also been busy testing a new addition to our Yarning Places that will work seamlessly with our other existing Yarning Places such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

The social media strategy saw the implementation of a number of new tactics, including repurposing and extending the life of the Knowledge Exchange products we produce.

One example was the popular #towardshealthequality campaign, which celebrates the positive developments in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. To complement the launch of the Overview of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health status 2018, we launched the campaign on our social media channels. This celebrated the good news stories in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and was very positively received. The campaign was seen over 69,351 times and received more than 1431 likes, 586 shares, 67 comments and 251 clicks.



To finish the year, we were invited by Croakey to take over the @WePublicHealth Twitter account. During the 7 day takeover in November, we shared insights into the state of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and demonstrated to the @WePublicHealth followers the many ways the Health/nfoNet can help them with their work. These tweets were seen more than 110,790 times (101% higher than the previous week's takeover) and engaged with 1,298 times (162% higher than the previous week's takeover).

We held a 'Movember' staff morning tea to raise funds for Nathan Appo's campaign. He gave us a thumbs up on Twitter.

Social media statistics





in
LinkedIn
followers:
6,431





Follower numbers this year have grown by 73%

Increased our engagement rate from 1.5% to 5%

2660%

Growth rate in the numbers of messages, comments and replies

#towardshealthequality campaign









586



omments



25



@WePublicHealth7 Day Twitter takeover









Ken Wyatt and Mick Adams Lowitja conference, Darwin





ATSINaM CEO visits HealthInfoNet

palliAGED

Met with organisations for the Lowitja research project





Darwin

Presented at the AIATSIS conference and exhibited at the **IAHA** conference







Alice Springs

Attended Close the Gap for Vision and NATSIHWA conferences and Ninti One meeting



Exhibited at the AHCWA and Rural Health West Aboriginal Health conferences

Perth























Website statistics

The Health/InfoNet places great emphasis on the user-friendliness of its web resource in terms of its navigation and appearance, and the ability of users to readily access the information they are seeking. The first two aspects are the focus of the HealthInfoNet's Web Enhancement Group (WEG), which captures, collates and considers feedback from a variety of sources, including periodic online surveys of users. Recommendations for changes to the web resource's navigation and appearance, once approved, are then implemented by the HealthInfoNet's IT staff.

The Health/nfoNet has continued to concentrate on optimising the website for Google indexing. This involved numerous experiments with the URL formatting to see which would result in Google consistently indexing the website according to our site map.

Below is a summary of improvements to the website and the database:

- added the functionality for automatic creation of linked website thumbnails to make the content pages more visually appealing
- in preparation for a new website (third party) launch, the ability to have alternate 'very' plain language text was added to the backend
- expanded on the link types that we record to account for addition of new resource types ie. Apps, social media, podcasts
- expanded and improved on the list of classifications
- added a new 'crisis support' page and links on certain content to help users located emergency contact details quickly.

Library database

We provide a comprehensive repository of resources in our easy to search database. These include journal articles, reports, grey literature, policies and resources. The Bibliography also provides a valuable archive of resources for the sector. At the conclusion of 2019, we had 38,100 publication entries, over 3,200 were added during 2019.

What makes this collection really useful are direct links to publications and relevant web pages:

- close to 70,000 links at the end of 2019
- nearly 13,000 new links were added during 2019 (including for older items)
- over 11,000 broken or redirecting links were fixed.

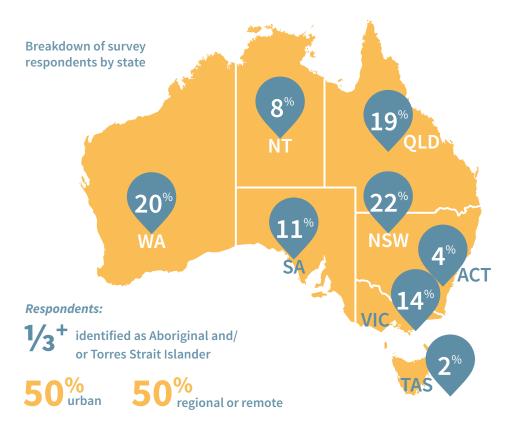
We also began to measure how much time someone can save by using the Health/InfoNet advanced search. Searches of multiple journal databases were conducted for a selection of health topics and year ranges. Early results found that after assessing, filtering and deduplicating the results, it took an average of 45 to 60 minutes to find all the articles relevant to Indigenous health. A HealthInfoNet advanced search taking just a couple of minutes returned the same, or more, articles, plus a variety of other publication types too.

Further work will be done in 2020 to better quantify the time savings of searching our curated collection.



HealthInfoNet user survey

In November 2019, the Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet* conducted a User Experience Survey to find out more about users of the Health*InfoNet* and how they interact with various parts of the web resource. The survey attracted more than 800 participants, approximately half of whom identified as being part of the workforce. Data presented in this section is based on the responses of these workforce participants.



Overwhelmingly, survey responses were positive, with 95% of users agreeing they would recommend the Health*InfoNet* to others. The results of the survey provide solid evidence that the Health*InfoNet* is achieving its aim of providing timely, relevant and accessible information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. Data collected in the survey will continue to be analysed by our Impact and Evaluation team and a full report will be published later in the year.

As a policy officer at the Ministry of Health, I often need references about Aboriginal health that are in place across Australia (programs, policy, information etc.) to prepare ministerials, papers, or briefings. The Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet has been a very reliable source to get that information from.

[On the HealthInfoNet I am] Able to find culturally appropriate tools for my workplace.
Appropriate and relatable resources that can be understood and used by Aboriginal people all over Australia.

(Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker or Practitioner, Regional WA)

(Government worker, NSW)

Key results

USERS IN THE WORKFORCE AGREE HEALTHINFONET IS A







Accessible





Relevant



source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

the Health/nfoNet helps them find more information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health than other sources



agree the Health*InfoNet* is a **TRUSTED SOURCE OF INFORMATION**



were satisfied overall with the HealthInfoNet as a source of information about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health

I have been lecturing in Alcohol and Other Drugs, Community Development and Nursing in the this website [HealthInfoNet] as it has the most up to date information and it does not come from a dominant white culture world view. (Educator, Remote WA)

I have gathered culturally specific information [from the HealthInfoNet] that maybe more appropriate for a client/ our mob to understand better the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol and what they can do or what is out there to help them succeed in giving it up or harm minimisation. (Government worker, Regional Qld)



Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander, and

non-Indigenous users in the workforce, feel that the Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet*

DEMONSTRATES UNDERSTANDING

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture



of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, and

of non-Indigenous users in the workforce

feel that the Australian Indigenous Health*InfoNet* helps them to apply their health knowledge in a way that is more







Staff planning and team building day

Our annual staff planning day was held in May with the aim to review progress on strategic themes, as outlined in the HealthInfoNet's Strategic Navigation Plan.

Staff reviewed the progress on each of the goals set under the strategic themes and rated how they thought they were tracking. In all, seven topics were discussed and groups then had time to present their discussion to all of the staff and detail their 'next steps' recommendations to help direct future strategic planning.

In the afternoon teams enjoyed a few games of barefoot lawn bowls.



Staff team building exercise





Some of our staff at a cultural PD with Noel Nannup

Cultural responsiveness - professional development

As part of our ongoing commitment to continuous learning, some of our staff attended events which continue to broaden their knowledge and cultural awareness.

- Jane Burns attended the AIATSIS conference in Brisbane.
- Michelle Elwell attended the Applied Stage Two Aboriginal Research Methodology for Aboriginal People at the Nulungu Research Institute, The University of Notre Dame Australia in December.
- Vilma FitzGerald Indigenous Studies Australia and New Zealand Open University.
- Michelle Pierre, Courtney King, Ashleigh Parnell and Gemma West participated in the Cultural Immersion PD day with Dr Noel Nannup.
- Tara Hoyne attended the Danjoo Kooliny Walking Together Towards 2020 and Beyond: Voice Treaty Truth 2 day Summit.



Our 22nd birthday celebrations

We celebrated 22 years on the 22nd of September which is a real milestone for us – as is every year - as we continue supporting the workforce.







Our partners



The School of Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health is committed to educating all students to live well and help others to adopt healthy lifestyles in a range of settings. Its guiding ethos is derived from the Wiradjuri people's phrase "Yindymarra Winhanganha" the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in.

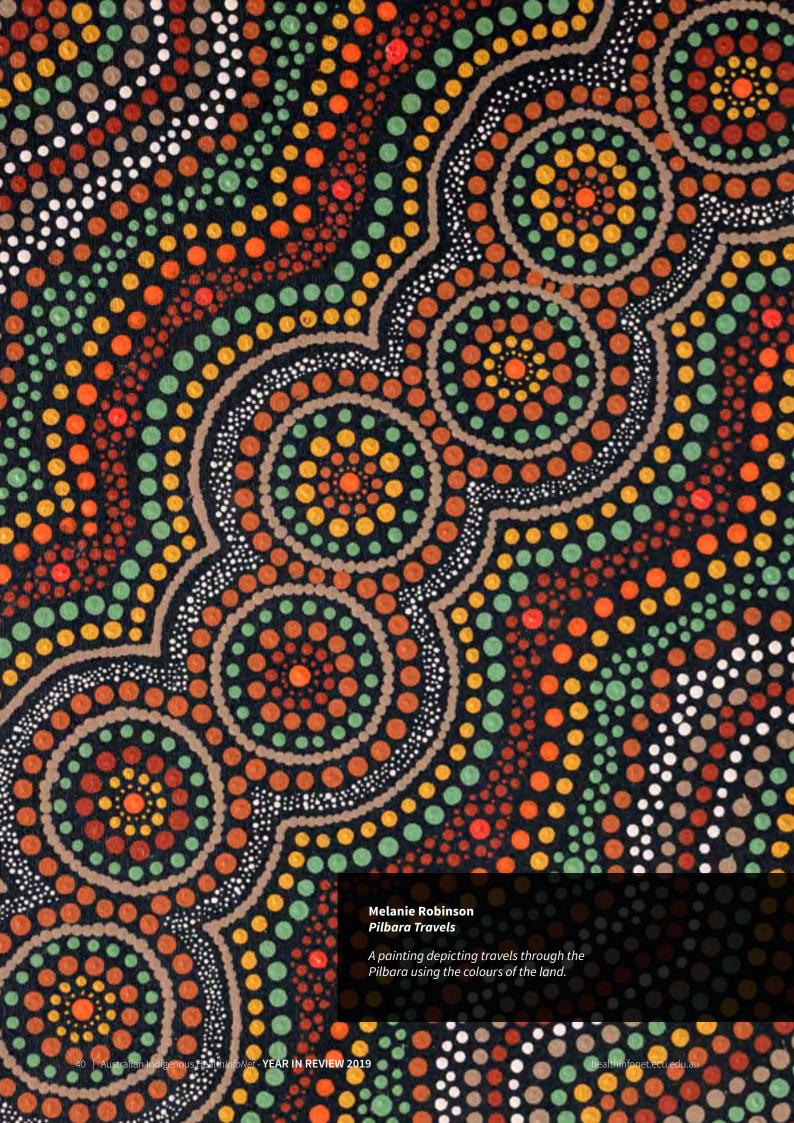


The WACOSS mission is to advocate for social change to improve the well-being of Western Australians and strengthen the community services sector that supports them. By challenging systems, behaviours and attitudes that create poverty, inequality and exclusion, they strive to make the lives of all Western Australians better.

- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
- Alzheimer's Australia
- Analysis and policy Observatory
- Asthma Australia
- Australian Association of Social Workers
- Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
- Congress of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Nurses and midwives
- Cranaplus
- First People's health unit Griffiths University
- Mealth direct
- Mitnet
- Indigenous Allied Health Australia
- Indigenous Health Education Unit (Sydney) Medical School)
- Injury Matters
- Kidney Health Australia
- Kulunga Research Network
- Mental Health Coordinating Council
- Menzies School of Health Research
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association

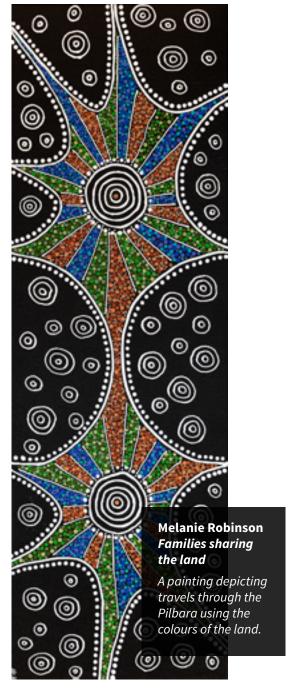
- National Centre for Clinical Research in **Emerging Drugs**
- National Drug Research Institute
- National Rural Health Alliance
- Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- Rural Health West
- SA Network of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health
- The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
- The Australian Association of Social Workers WA
- The Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine
- The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
- The Australian Lung Foundation
- The Australian Physiotherapy Association
- The Brien Holden Vision Institute
- The Indigenous Eye Health Unit
- The Lowitja Institute
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance
- The National Heart Foundation of Australia
- The Research Centre for Injury Studies





New Art

The artwork featured on our website is very important to us. By featuring a wide variety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artwork, we wish to represent and acknowledge the diversity of our users and be inclusive of the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures throughout Australia. We also want to provide a welcoming and culturally safe place. The majority of the sections of the website have their own distinctive Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander artwork which helps users to identify which section they are in. The art on our website is ethically sourced; artists are paid for their artwork and copyright permission is obtained to display the artwork. A selection of art added to our collection this year includes two pieces by Melanie Robinson and Bec Morgan.







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*Joined the team in 2019



