

## Relationships: The organisations and people who will be part of our journey

- Provide national and international leadership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research
- Continue to maintain and build effective and appropriate relationships and networks, including with:
  - » Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations
  - » NGOs
  - » government
  - » policymakers
  - » health services, professionals and affiliates
  - » researchers and research organisations
  - » media
  - » potential donors and committed supporters and funders
- Provide a respectful and supportive space for collaboration on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research
- Ensure that the Institute is recognised as a key point of call for advice and worthy recipient of philanthropy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

## Sustainability: Leadership, accountability and integrity

- Maximise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership at all levels of the organisation
- Ensure diverse sources of funding to secure the Institute's long-term financial independence, without compromising our ethics and Dreaming
- Maintain and develop internal systems to ensure that the Institute is an effective and efficient organisation
- Adhere to the principles and practices of all relevant legislation
- Undertake all of our activities with integrity and an aspiration for best practice.

## Contact Us

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Our regional offices are in Darwin, Adelaide and Brisbane.

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the  
**Lowitja**  
INSTITUTE

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

Research, People,  
Relationships,  
Sustainability



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

*Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*



An Australian Government Initiative



*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations must be fully involved in the initiation, design and implementation of research the Institute undertakes. As a matter of priority, there needs to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation at all levels of health service, policy, administration and practice.*

Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue

The Lowitja Institute launch | February 2010

## Who We Are

The Lowitja Institute is Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. We are the only research organisation in Australia with a sole focus on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The voice of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people informs all our activities, whether we're conducting community-based research or setting our strategic direction.

By bringing together world-leading researchers, policy makers and experts in cutting edge service delivery, we enable the kind of high-quality, collaborative health research that will make a real difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We're also developing a new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers.

Our collaborative approach has been developed over fifteen years with the Cooperative Research Centres for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. It's earned us a reputation as national leaders in the translation of research knowledge into evidence-based practice and policy.

Partnerships are our strength. At every stage of our research, health services, academic institutions and government agencies work together with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to decide priorities, conduct the research and put the findings into practice.

Named in honour of our Patron, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG, we work under the direction of a skills-based Board, made up of a majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members and led by an independent Aboriginal Chairperson.

## Our Vision

To achieve equity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Our Dreaming

As the National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, with a sole focus on the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples, we will:

- Ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a strong voice in all activities
- Bring together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, health services, researchers, governments and other policy makers to enable high-quality, collaborative health research that makes a difference
- Continue to develop world-leading Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers
- Build on our record as national leaders in knowledge exchange and the translation of research findings into evidence-based practice and policy
- Work at the community, regional and national levels to improve health outcomes and set the research agenda
- Work with our extensive networks to be the pre-eminent source of evidence and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.

## Pathways

### Research: Our unique approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research

- Ensure all research projects reflect the Facilitated Development Approach (FDA) by:
  - » following rigorous quality assurance processes
  - » adhering to the highest ethical standards
  - » ensuring knowledge exchange is a critical part of all research
  - » maximising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander input and control of the research process
  - » promoting a collaborative approach that brings together researchers, service providers, policy makers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
  - » having a measureable impact.
- Ensure research is driven by the needs identified by community controlled health services and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities they represent
- Contribute to setting the national research agenda and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are at all agenda setting forums
- Create and maintain programs that support the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health researchers
- Ensure innovative, rigorous and strategic thought leadership across all our activities.

### People: Our team will drive our achievements

- Promote the employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our research and operational workforce
- Ensure our working environment supports cultural safety, personal safety and equity
- Embed a culture of best practice, collaboration and excellence amongst all our staff
- Invest in building the skills of our staff and our organisational capabilities.