



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

CREATE CHANGE

2023 Annual Report

Poche Centre for Indigenous Health



Everything that has a spirit
– whether it be grass, rocks,
water – is living. If it's living,
it has a spirit; well, you can
communicate with it.



So that's knowledge that has been pushed to the invisible. It doesn't connect with Western ways. But if you can speak to the spirit of the lands, country, animals you can heal anything here in the present. We always can connect with the past and that knowledge for better cycles in the future when it comes to healing.

Symbolising Aboriginal people through the Sand Goanna represents a connection to land, sea, water, forest, desert right across the country. The turtles and Torres Strait Islander Dhari represent Torres Strait Islander culture and their connection to the sea and maritime. You can see two of the oldest living cultures in the world and the knowledges that they possess in the areas of astronomy with the Milky Way, the emu in the sky, and the pattern of the bark of the tree representing ecological knowledges and knowledges for country and being able to access medicines, food for nutrition, also the ability to craft utensils, or weapons which we use in everyday life. The wedgetail eagle has a great story with regards to his perspective on life. From his perspective he sees 360 degrees. All that's below him from that vantage point, he can see the past, the present, and the future unfold in front of him.

These circles that spread across the painting represent different communities throughout Australia that the UQ Poche Centre is engaging with and collaborating with on research. The 6 circles around the outside represent research methodologies that will give an overview of the issue and look at pathways to healing in community.

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The UQ Poche Centre's graphic and the cover graphic are reproductions of Consolidate by proud Kalkadoon artist Sid Domic. The graphics reflect our evolving goals and partnerships, highlighting the importance of visual identity and fostering a recognisable and trusted brand within the community and the broader UQ framework.

"Consolidate"
Sid Domic, 2023
Acrylic on canvas

Poche Family recognition

Our work is made possible through the generous support of philanthropists Mr Greg Poche AO and Mrs Kay van Norton Poche.



About the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

The vision of the University of Queensland (UQ) Poche Centre for Indigenous Health is to achieve equitable health and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples through research excellence.

We exist to provide national and international leadership in Indigenous health research and research workforce development to improve life expectancy and transform health inequities and injustices in Australia and other international settings.

Our mission is to become a leading Indigenous health research centre in Australia. We will do this by creating impact through engaging in collaborative research that addresses gaps and challenges identified by Indigenous communities and building the capacity and capability of Indigenous health research communities in Australia.

Focusing on Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing, we undertake multidisciplinary research to enhance understanding of diverse health issues affecting Indigenous peoples, reduce health inequity and improve health outcomes.

We work in urban, regional and remote parts of Australia, and internationally. Our expertise and interest spans infectious disease, bloodborne viruses, sexual and reproductive health, child and maternal health, health promotion, policy and practice, substance use, mental health, chronic health conditions, sexuality and gender, and the effects of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples.

With a mandate to respond to challenges in Indigenous health, the UQ Poche Centre undertakes and facilitates a broad range of transdisciplinary research activities to improve health systems and determinants of health. Prioritised on the life-course, our research agenda is aligned with the needs of the Centre's partners and aims to develop the next generation of researchers to rise to the challenge of Indigenous health research.

The UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health was established in 2015, made possible by the generous support of philanthropists Mr Greg Poche AO and Mrs Kay van Norton Poche.

The Centre is part of the national Poche Indigenous Health Network, together with Poche Centres at the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney, the University of Western Australia and Flinders University in Adelaide and Alice Springs.

Vision

To achieve equitable health and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples through research excellence:

- Our communities drive our research agenda
- We work with partners to deliver meaningful change
- We privilege Indigenous research paradigms and methodologies
- We support our people to become the future leaders in health research





Letter from our Chair

As we all know and, I trust, appreciate, 2023 was an extraordinarily challenging year for all First Nations peoples precipitated primarily by the Australian Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum. Despite those challenges, 2023 was nevertheless another exceptional year of achievement for the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health under the leadership of Professor James Ward. The Advisory Board is delighted with the year-upon-year growth in the Centre's capacity, capability, connectivity, community and, most importantly, impact as it implements its vision of using research excellence to achieve equitable health and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples.

The contents of this report illustrate a wide-ranging set of achievements and impactful initiatives either commenced or enhanced over the past 12 months. Amongst the many highlights that have drawn the attention and approval of the Board throughout 2023 have been the securing of some \$7.8 million in new competitive external research funding to both supplement that from ongoing project funding secured in earlier years and to leverage the initial philanthropic investment made by the Poche family and the continued engagement and growth of mutually beneficial activities with not only the Centre's principal partner, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) but also with a host of other key stakeholders and collaborators. The latter is most prominently evident through leadership in establishing the 'game-changing' Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health in conjunction with IUIH, Metro North Health and Queensland Health, the formation of the National Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services (RAUCCHS) to advance innovation and impact in urban Indigenous health nation-wide, and the activation of the Centre of Research Excellence in Urban Indigenous Health. Growth in capacity that the Board was eager to see has been realised through an increase in staff headcount to 57, although, as Professor Ward notes in his report, this has not been achieved through a proportionate growth in staff identifying as Indigenous. This highlights even further the importance of the initiatives the Centre is putting in place – and very successfully so – to create pathway programs for First Nations students,

to increase the number of enrolled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander PhD and Research Masters students, and to provide mentoring and peer-support through programs such as Yarning for Success.

While the extraordinary growth and impact of the UQ Poche Centre is the result of immense effort from a team of people, all of whom deserve appropriate recognition and praise, the Centre's success would most certainly not have been possible without the exceptional leadership provided by Professor James Ward. To that end, the Board was delighted to see Professor Ward's broader leadership recognised at the 2023 Lowitja Institute Awards through his receipt of the Cranlana Centre for Ethical Leadership Award.

As Advisory Board Chair, I wish to take this opportunity to not only acknowledge the outstanding work of Professor Ward and all staff of the Centre over the past year but to also thank my fellow Board members – Professor Tom Calma AO (the co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia), Adjunct Professor Adrian Carson (CEO of IUIH), Professor Bronwyn Fredericks (UQ Deputy-Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Engagement), Professor Geoff McColl (Executive Dean of the UQ Faculty of Medicine), and Ms Britt Walker (representing the donors) – for their input and sage guidance of the Centre over its continued period of growth and transformation. On behalf of the Board and the UQ Poche Centre, I also want to again explicitly acknowledge the generous and visionary philanthropic support of Greg Poche AO and Kay van Norton Poche AO that both stimulated the formation of the Centre and continues to underpin all the work of the Centre. The Board looks forward with great optimism to 2024 and to the ongoing contribution the Centre will help make to sustained improvements in health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

This will be my final report as Chair of the Advisory Board as I step down from the role as Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences at the end of 2023 and the incoming Executive Dean, Professor Louise Hickson will assume the Chair role for 2024. I want to take the opportunity to personally thank colleagues within the broad family of the Centre for their warm engagement over the 8 years I have been in the Chair position and to extend very best wishes to all in the Centre for its ongoing success and contributions to a more equitable Australia.

Professor Bruce Abernethy AM

Outgoing Executive Dean, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, The University of Queensland.

Director's report

Reflecting on 2023 at the UQ Poche Centre, I am filled with immense pride for the strides we have made in Indigenous health research, professional development, and community engagement.

This year, we have continued to grow our team, deepened our commitment to impactful research and fostered significant partnerships that have been instrumental in advancing our research and community engagement goals.

This year, the UQ Poche Centre has seen tremendous achievements in academic outputs, with research endeavours culminating in 74 journal publications and several other commissioned reports provided. The significance of our work has been magnified through extensive media, reaching over 336 million people globally. This was made possible through 481 media items, including news articles, interviews, and features, effectively communicating our research findings and initiatives to a broad audience. This visibility reflects the relevance and urgency of our work in Indigenous health, and the expansive reach has raised awareness about Indigenous health issues, positioning the Centre as a leading voice in the discourse on health equity.

Our team has grown to 57 members, consisting of 25 academics, 27 research professionals, and 5 operations and research support staff. This expansion, including the welcome addition of our new Centre Manager, Heather Young, has strengthened our potential for innovative research and meaningful community collaboration. Our staff retreats have been instrumental in enhancing professional relationships and mutual knowledge within our team while aligning our efforts towards impactful research. Through these retreats, we have fostered an environment of mutual learning and support central to our collective mission.

We've seen growth in our educational initiatives, with the UQ Poche Centre cohort of 15 higher degree by research students, including 13 PhD and 2 MPhil students. The Pathways to a PhD: Doing Research for Mob program is central to our capacity-building efforts. 10 participants had the privilege of learning from international leaders in Indigenous health research and workforce development during a 3 day intensive workshop to develop the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research leaders.



“In 2023, the UQ Poche Centre’s research efforts have flourished and attracted significant support through \$7.8 million in grants.”

UQ Poche Centre's academic achievements this year:



74

Journal publications
and reports



336M

People reached



481

Media items



57

Team members

Our partnerships have been instrumental in advancing our research and community engagement goals. Collaborations with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, Poche Indigenous Health Network, Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Inala Indigenous Health Service as well as over 70 health and health related organisations have been fundamental in propelling our initiatives and efforts in community outreach and research endeavours.

Our involvement in key events has significantly contributed to our mission of enhancing Indigenous health and wellbeing. I was honoured to present at the 3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Well-being Conference. The Yarning for Success PLUS Retreat, hosted by Poche, further exemplified our commitment to nurturing academic and professional growth within our community.

Additionally, our Centre co-convened the Indigenous Peoples Conference on HIV and Hepatitis Health Equity alongside ASHM, showcasing our leadership in addressing critical health disparities. My participation as a speaker at the International AIDS Society 2023 Conference in Brisbane and the Harm Reduction International Conference further allowed us to highlight our research on an international platform.

The Mabuia Health Education Consultation Trip illustrated our dedication to creating collaborative health solutions, emphasising community health, education, and wellbeing. Furthermore, the UQ Poche Seminar Series provided a venue for exchanging knowledge and fostering collaborations to elevate Indigenous health research, affirming our dedication to meaningful dialogue and community partnership.

In 2023, the UQ Poche Centre's research efforts have flourished and attracted significant support through \$7.8 million in grants. Projects like ATLAS, the LEWIS Study,

and the CRE in Urban Indigenous Health have driven forward our mission to improve health outcomes. The Deadly Fit Mums program represents our focus on culturally appropriate perinatal care. Our diverse project range, including the ENDING-STI Synergy Project, GOANNA Survey 3, INDICARE Study, and IMPACT-STI, showcases our multifaceted approach to health challenges. Initiatives such as Let's Yarn About Sleep, RAUCCHS, RAUGH, the SCALE-C study, and Young Deadly Free emphasise our commitment to community collaboration and public health advancements. Through these and other efforts, the UQ Poche Centre continues to lead in advancing Indigenous health and wellbeing.

Looking back on 2023, I am proud of our Centre's growth and the impact of our work on Indigenous health and wellbeing. I am grateful to the Poche Family, our advisory board, staff, Elder in Residence, Aunty Mary, partners, and the Indigenous communities we work with. Their contributions and support are invaluable to our achievements.

As we look to the future, I am hopeful for further expansion of our team, continued impactful research, and fostering enhanced collaborations. Our commitment lies in nurturing the next generation of researchers and effecting meaningful change in Indigenous communities, building upon existing alliances and welcoming new partnerships.

I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success this year. Your dedication, expertise, and passion are the heart of the UQ Poche Centre. Thank you for your essential role in our collective efforts. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence in Indigenous health research, reduce health inequity and improve health outcomes for Indigenous peoples.

Professor James Ward

Director, UQ Poche Centre of Indigenous Health

Strategic plan

Research strategy

Our emerging urban Indigenous health research theme enables the Centre to empower individual researchers both within UQ and externally to develop and lead their own research programs. Our research strives toward excellence, translation and impact. The Centre places a strong emphasis on fostering the next generation of Indigenous health research leaders, from undergraduate students undertaking summer and winter research projects to Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students and early-career researchers.

The UQ Poche Centre Research Strategy promotes rigorous scientific research that has a demonstrable impact on reducing health inequities and injustices and improving health outcomes in communities nationally and internationally. This research will be prioritised on the life-course, improving health systems and determinants of health and aligning with the needs of the Centre's Partners.

Community Engagement Strategy

Our Community Engagement Strategy sees the UQ Poche Centre strengthening our relationship with existing partners to improve outcomes in Indigenous health and growing new partnerships with organisations providing health care to urban Indigenous peoples. In addition, the UQ Poche Centre community engagement strategy includes collaborating internally at UQ to drive research consistent with the Centre's vision, lifting the profile and impact of the Centre.

Meaningful community engagement and mutually beneficial partnerships are instrumental in identifying the gaps and challenges in Indigenous health service delivery and in co-designing research methodologies to ensure the successful translation of research into practice.

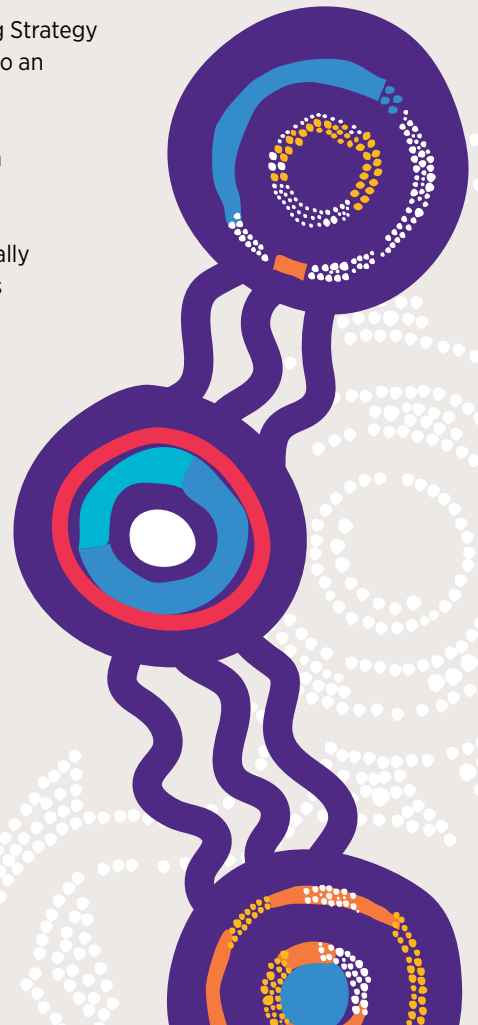
Indigenous Health Researchers Strategy

Our Indigenous Health Researchers Strategy is to foster the next generation of Indigenous health research leaders through providing training and mentorship. To do this, the UQ Poche Centre aims to develop and promote pathways that privilege Indigenous peoples to become Indigenous health research leaders, with a focus on higher degrees by research, in addition to supporting a cohort of non-Indigenous researchers to address our core strategies.

Health Workforce Training Strategy

We acknowledge that educating and training a skilled and culturally safe health workforce is critical to achieving health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Health Workforce Training Strategy sees the Centre transitioning to an advisory and facilitative role, supporting the 2 UQ health faculties (Medicine and Health and Behavioural Sciences) in educating future health professionals to deliver culturally safe healthcare for Indigenous people. This includes continuing to facilitate UQ student placements with key partners to enhance student experiences and exposure to careers in Indigenous health.



Our advisory board



Professor Bruce Abernethy
Board Chair
Executive Dean
Faculty of Health and Behavioral Sciences
The University of Queensland



Professor Tom Calma AO
Co-chair
Reconciliation Australia



Adjunct Professor Adrian Carson AM
Chief Executive Officer
Institute of Urban Indigenous Health



Britt Walker
Poche Family



Professor Bronwyn Fredericks
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
Indigenous Engagement
The University of Queensland



Professor James Ward
Director
Poche Centre of Indigenous Health
The University of Queensland



Professor Geoff McColl
Executive Dean
Faculty of Medicine
The University of Queensland

Chair member statement

As a member of the Advisory Board, it has been a privilege to work with the UQ Poche Centre during the past year.

The UQ Poche team, under Professor James Ward's outstanding leadership, has continued to build on the considerable achievements of the last few years. During 2023, the Centre maximised the benefits of the initial Poche donation. This was augmented with additional funding from the University of Queensland and the award of substantial grants of nearly \$8 million. The resulting outputs delivered a highly effective program of research focused on transforming Indigenous health outcomes. None of this success would have been possible without the Centre's talented team members and strong partnerships with UIIH and Metro North Health.

The Centre continues to be well supported by the University and the Executive Deans of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences and the Faculty of Medicine. In particular, Professor Bruce Abernethy's stewardship during his time as Chair of the Advisory Board has been instrumental in the Centre's growth over the last 5 years. We wish him well as he steps down from this role and look forward to working with Professor Louise Hickson.

While the Centre's achievements to date have already far exceeded the expectations of the donors, there is no doubt that UQ Poche will continue its current positive trajectory. I look forward to further successful evolution in 2024.

Britt Walker
Advisory Board Member
UQ Poche Centre of Indigenous Health

People

Staff increases



57

Staff in 2023



25

Academics



27

Research professionals



5

Operations and research support



20

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff

Students



15

Higher degree by research students



13

PhD students



2

MPhil students



1

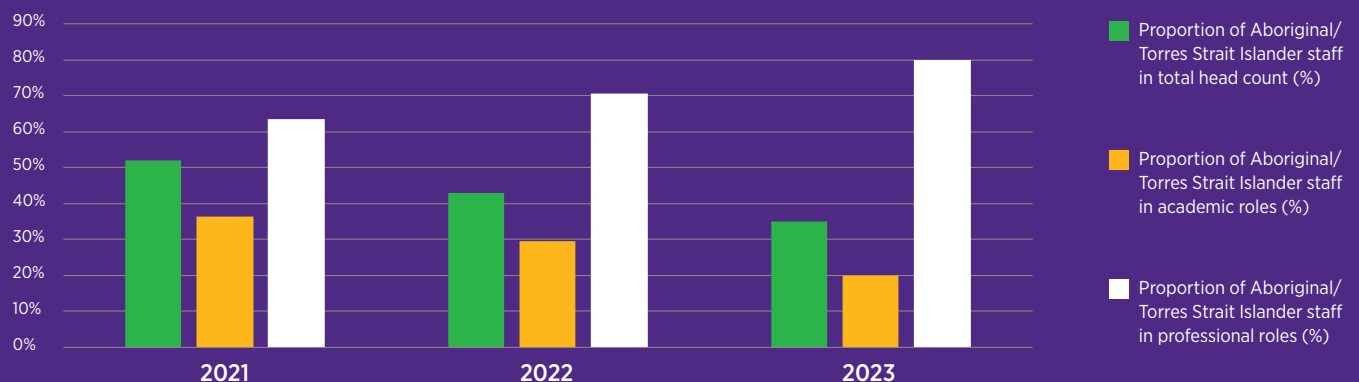
Poche scholarships awarded



11

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

UQ Poche Centre Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander staffing composition



Executive team



Professor James Ward
Director



Professor Roxanne Bainbridge
Deputy Director



Professor Anthony Shakeshaft
Professor of Indigenous Health
Services Research

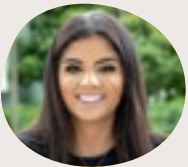


Dr Sharon Grant
Research Strategy and
Operations Manager

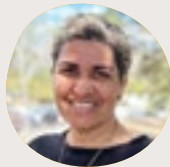


Heather Young
Centre Manager

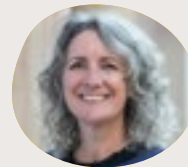
Research support and operations team



Taleah Carson
Executive Assistant



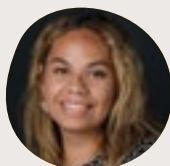
Amanda Donigi
Research and Communications
and Engagement



Dr Sharon Grant
Research Strategy and
Operations Manager



Rebekah Hauti
Research Support Officer



Arielle Henaway
Executive Assistant



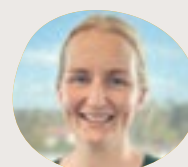
Maria Lawton
Administration Assistant



Dana Mam
Senior Community
Engagement Officer



Bridget Moore
Research Operations
Coordinator



Heather Young
Centre Manager

Our higher degree by research students

In 2023, the UQ Poche Centre welcomed 4 new higher degree by research (HDR) candidates to the team and awarded one Poche Top-Up Scholarship. The UQ Poche Centre HDR cohort comprised 9 Aboriginal students by the end of the year and 15 students total. There were 3 students who completed their PhD in 2023.

Ashrafal Alan (PhD)

Environmental exposures in pregnancy and birth outcomes in Queensland: A study for better policy and health outcomes

A/Professor Abdullah Mamun
Professor Leoni Callaway

Amba-Rose Atkinson (PhD)

Health Outcomes of People caring for Country

Professor James Ward
Professor Elizabeth Eakin
Dr Nina Hall

Condy Canuto (PhD)

The utility of the Adult Health Check (MBS item 715) for sexual health screening within an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service

Dr Judith Dean
Dr Jon Willis
Dr Joe Debattista

Stephanie Hadikusumo (PhD)

Exploring models of care for optimal care of acute mental health crises in Indigenous patients

A/Professor Xiang-Yu Hou
Professor Harvey Whiteford
Professor Roxanne Bainbridge
Dr Saira Sanjida

Stephen Harfield (PhD)

Strengthening primary health care for urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents: patterns of care, and enablers and barriers to care

Professor James Ward
Gita Mishra
Peter Azzopardi

Tammy Hatherill

Understanding the Role of Aboriginal Traditional Healings in Modern Day Australia

Prof Roxanne Bainbridge
Dr Judith Dean
Dr Hayley Williams

Nat Lee (PhD)

Where is the Indigenous in Indigenous Public Health?

Lisa Fitzgerald
Professor Chelsea Watego
Tendai Mukandi

Brielle Perry (PhD)

Integration and expansion of the ATLAS sentinel surveillance system to improve infectious disease outcomes for Indigenous Australians

Professor James Ward
Professor Thomas Snelling

Jethro Romer (MPhil)

The health determinants of sexually active people engaging in chem sex

Professor James Ward
A/Professor Gulam Khandaker
Dr Nicholas Smoll

Dr KM Shahunja (PhD)

Association of family, neighbourhood, and psychosocial environmental factors with asthma symptom trajectories among children in Australia

A/Professor Abdullah Mamun
Professor Peter Sly

Amanda Sibosado (PhD)

Co-designing an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to better meet the needs of Aboriginal young people in Western Australia

Dr Judith Dean
A/Prof Lisa Fitzgerald
Dr Michelle Webb

Janet Stajic (PhD)

Exploring the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker role

Lisa Fitzgerald
Professor Chelsea Watego
Tendai Mukandi

Kate Thompson (PhD)

Enhancing Children's Journey in Out-of-Home Care: A Multi-perspective Study (a focus on kinship care among Indigenous families)

Karen Healy
Dr Carmen Parter
Jemma Venables

Clara Walker (PhD)

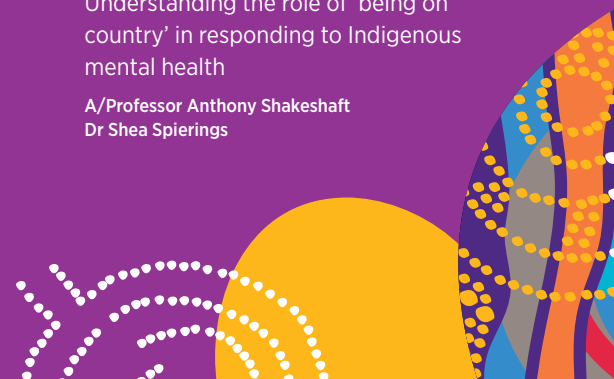
The sexual and reproductive health of Indigenous Australians in rural and remote communities: health service access and experiences

A/Professor Federica Barzi
Professor James Ward

Sidney Williams (MPhil)

Understanding the role of 'being on country' in responding to Indigenous mental health

A/Professor Anthony Shakeshaft
Dr Shea Spierings



Sowing seeds of change for an Indigenous public health

Nat Lee is a Mualgal (St Pauls Village, Moa Island, Zenadh Kes), Yidinji, Kullilli, and Thunghutti woman who was raised on both Mamu Country (Innisfail) and Quandamooka Country (Wynnum Manly). She is a PhD candidate within the School of Public Health at the University of Queensland (UQ), where she is also honoured as a Poche Scholar at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.

She holds a Master of Public Health, a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Sociology from UQ and a Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Research and Leadership from the University of Melbourne (though these Western accolades are not a part of her identity).

Nat's story into health began growing up in a 3 bedroom house with 16 family members with occasional extended family and community members. Through this upbringing, she learned advocacy, community love, and community care.

Her professional career in health began as a Receptionist and Administrative Assistant at the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service in Woolloongabba (formerly AICHS) in the mid 1990's. She worked with her Ather Steve Mam and Aka Pam Mam, who co-founded the medical centre. She credits her upbringing and working with her elders, who had a wealth of Indigenous knowledges, as the centre of her understanding of community love, community care and community health.

Nat is preparing to submit her PhD Thesis in 2024 with her research title: Redefining public health on Indigenous terms that better serves an Indigenous public good.



Nat Lee
(PhD)

Her research brings together the collective wisdom and work of Indigenous people working in public health and ignites a space to illuminate and redefine a richer understanding of an Indigenous public health based on truth-telling and critical inquiry as defined by Indigenous people.

This research foregrounds Indigenous intellectual sovereignty to uncover an Indigenous public health that is of better service to Indigenous peoples' and our communities. It does so by ensuring the principles of Indigenist research methodology that centres self-determination guide this research at all stages by acknowledging and respecting the agency and wealth of Indigenous intellectual sovereignty.

Nat's research reveals that public health was not the initial career path for most participants, with many unaware of the field or equating community health work to public health.

The allure of public health, aimed at addressing Indigenous health needs through multidisciplinary approaches, influenced their career choices. Participants sought to shift discourse from a deficit to an Indigenous lens, focusing on Indigenous rights, survival, and self-determination despite recognising systemic issues within public health. Workplace environments were an important factor in supporting intellectual sovereignty. Professionals' self-identification varied, with some resisting the label due to its implications of hierarchy and power in status and class. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health was considered to be public health because Indigenous knowledges are more aligned with community care, community love and community health.

Nat considers the most rewarding aspect of her research experience as being a part of a large Indigenous research community that is dedicated to systemic reform, critical public health, and safe cultural practices in health care for her community.

Bridging gaps in Indigenous health: integrating vaccine data into Indigenous health surveillance

Brielle Pery is a public health epidemiologist who has significantly contributed to the field through her roles as a Senior Epidemiologist at both the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service and Metro North Health Service. Brielle completed a Bachelor of Public Health at Central Queensland University, followed by a Master of Epidemiology at The University of Queensland (UQ), where her thesis focused on detecting cryptosporidiosis and Ross River virus outbreaks in the Gold Coast region.

In 2023, Brielle began her PhD in Epidemiology at UQ with the ATLAS Team. Her project, titled “Integration and expansion of the ATLAS sentinel surveillance system to improve infectious disease outcomes for Indigenous Australians,” is the integration and expansion of the ATLAS sentinel surveillance system to include vaccine-preventable diseases. In turn, this expansion is expected to improve infectious disease outcomes for Indigenous Australians.



Brielle Pery
(PhD)

Brielle, a Bindal woman from North Queensland, has always been driven by her desire to contribute positively to her community. Her extensive experience as a public health epidemiologist and her special interest in health surveillance has led her to pursue further education and research skills. Her PhD merges her passions by working on expanding the ATLAS system, an indigenous-led and governed national sentinel surveillance network. This project aligns with her professional interests in infectious diseases and immunisations and fulfils her aspiration to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

The ATLAS system, established to address gaps in knowledge of infectious diseases affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, currently collects primary care data from participating Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) Australia-wide for Sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBVs). Brielle’s work focuses on expanding the network to include data on vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) and immunisation status, aiming to improve the understanding and management of infection patterns and clinical care at local, regional, and national levels. Her research is particularly significant given the disproportionate impact of VPDs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, which can largely be mitigated through immunisation.

Integral to Brielle’s research are the ATLAS Face-to-Face workshops, which have provided valuable insights to gain an understanding of how ACCHOs utilise the ATLAS system and their specific requirements. Brielle is currently in the planning phase of her research and has found the opportunity to attend the Australasian Epidemiological Association conference exceptionally rewarding, enabling her to network with professionals, discover new research and technologies, and draw inspiration from the broader epidemiological community.

Looking ahead, Brielle aims to work closely with ATLAS data scientists to obtain VPD data, linking vaccine status to include vaccine coverage in the system, undertake data analysis, and ultimately provide ACCHOs with further information such as infectious disease rates, local outbreaks, impact and evaluation of local interventions (e.g. vaccine interventions) and patterns of clinical care. Her research endeavours to address gaps in knowledge regarding infectious diseases and outbreaks among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, making a substantial contribution to both health outcomes and policies.

Navigating the path from traditional healing to academic research

Tammy Hatherill is a proud First Nations woman, respecting her Palawa/Pakana ancestors and the Anindilyakwa mob on Groote Eylandt where she was raised, and first introduced to Aboriginal Traditional Healings. Tammy's PhD is based on Aboriginal Traditional Healing and its role in modern-day Australia, specifically with the psychology of First Nations people; "Understanding the Role of Aboriginal Traditional Healings in Modern Day Australia."

What specific problem or challenge does your research aim to address, and why is it important to you?

Although my heritage is Palawa/Pakana Tasmanian Aboriginal, I was raised on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria, in a very remote area of the Northern Territory. The mob there speak Anindilyakwa and were very traditional peoples in the late 70's and 80's, retaining much of their culture and traditional ways. As such, I grew up witnessing traditional healing and bush medicine at play, and thought of it as normal, and that everyone healed using the same methods. Fast forward to when the family moved to Brisbane in the late 80's and I came to realise that traditional healings were considered by many as having no relevance or the practice was mocked and disrespected. Government policy and procedures appear to restrict medical and psychological professionals from referring clients to traditional healers and/or for the professional to practice any type of traditional healing in their own practices. Therefore, the research I do is around traditional healing and to bring to the attention of government and decision makers that there just may be 'something' extremely valuable in allowing traditional healing into the mainstream health system.

How has the Pathways to PhD: Doing Research for Mob program facilitated your transition into HDR studies?

When I decided I wanted to complete a PhD and explore my passion around Traditional Healing, I approached a local University and a research facility, and I was extremely disappointed in their lack of help and direction. It wasn't until I was informed about Poche by a work colleague that I felt heard, understood and my very broad research idea, considered PhD worthy. From the initial enquiry Poche was helpful, as was the zoom meeting with Judith Dean and James Ward. Both encouraged me to keep thinking about my goals, and Judith gave me information about the upcoming PhD Pathways Program.



Tammy Hatherill (PhD)

The program in Brisbane was deadly. It was an absolute delight to be involved in such a positive, uplifting and yet very real course, on what students could expect if they were to undergo a PhD. The Pathways program gave me a sense that a PhD course would be a great joy and a wonderful experience, whilst reflecting the hard work, tears and frustrations I was likely to encounter along the way. I found it was real. I found it didn't sugarcoat what a PhD entails, and I found I was given the information I required to make an informed decision. I feel without the Pathways Program I wouldn't have started my PhD, because I was directionless and wasn't getting help from other sources. I am grateful for the Pathways program for helping me to transition across to commencement of my very exciting PhD research.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you give to someone considering Higher Degree Research through the pathways program?

With hand on heart, Higher Degree Research via the pathways program has been the best experience for me. I feel guided as I navigate the 'great unknown.' It's nice to have people around who understand culture and traditional ways, and it's nice to have people who understand academia and PhD stuff, and it's brilliant that the Pathways Program has people with all these qualities. It's just wonderful to be surrounded by a team who are enthusiastic, helpful, and truly willing to show new students what the expectations are and how to achieve the things that need to be done. I guess I feel safe including culturally safe. Truly, the only regret you'll have, is if you don't do Higher Degree Research through the Pathways Program.

Data for change: the ATLAS traineeship improving Indigenous outcomes

One of the programs offered by the UQ Poche Centre is the ATLAS Data Science Traineeship. In 2023, trainee Tehau Ackinclose was able to develop and hone his skills in data analysis through the internship program.

The program, open to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, blends external short-course training with hands-on intern-style placements within the ATLAS Indigenous Primary Care Surveillance Network team, leveraging real-world datasets from Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs).

Tehau embarked on his traineeship in January 2023, bringing a research interest in data and history, which contributes to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. "It is hard to argue with strong data or, a better word, evidence. Evidence and proof, using data as a tool for positive change. History is another interest of mine, because I believe that understanding history helps us to better understand the issues and problems of the present/current times."

Throughout his traineeship, Tehau developed a strong foundation in data analysis and Python programming that compliments his ongoing education. Tehau's academic pursuits include courses at Johns Hopkins University on data concepts and measurement, short courses in exploring and manipulating data, and his Certificate 4 in Adult Tertiary Preparation at TAFE QLD.

Tehau has contributed significantly to the ATLAS projects through his insights and perspectives. His close collaboration with team members underscores the value of relationships and teamwork in his professional development. Reflecting on his experience, Tehau asks, "What hasn't the internship helped me? I get a bit emotional even thinking about it because the internship has not just given me the opportunity but, has also inspired me to return to school and further my education. I didn't have the best of experiences in school, and I also missed a lot of school due to my bone disease because of time spent in hospital and at home healing. That has been my biggest regret. Because I see now as a mature adult, the importance of education. The learnings from my internship I have applied to my work with IUIH regarding data and the Python skills I have developed. I see it most in my monthly reports and how I think about things as well. It has also opened a doorway for me to enrol in TAFE to progress my career even further."

Tehau envisions his career as a continuous commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, aiming to create a better future for both current and future generations. He believes that the internship serves as a stepping stone in his career, equipping him with the necessary skills and knowledge to make significant contributions toward these goals.

"The internship has been invaluable in shaping my personal and professional growth. It has also provided me with real and meaningful practical experience in data analysis and has inspired me to pursue further education. Through the mentorship from the ATLAS team, I gained a deeper sense of purpose and commitment to improving outcomes."



Impact reporting

At the UQ Poche Centre, we are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples by supporting community ties to reduce health inequity.

Our engagement strategy enhances connections with existing allies and new organisations in the healthcare sector, ensuring our research directly contributes to our vision and impact. Collaborations with key healthcare services are vital to our success, driving our initiatives and bolstering community outreach. These collective efforts underline our dedication to advancing Indigenous health research and achieving meaningful health outcomes for Indigenous communities across Australia.

Research

5

New research partnerships

\$7.8M

New grants awarded

6

Funding applications submitted and awaiting outcomes

Academic work

74

Publications

58

Citations

44.1%

Cited publications

30

Collaborative publications*

481

Media items

336⁺ million

Audience reach**

Online engagement

8,648

Website visitors

38,785

Website views

2,892

Twitter engagement

47,136

Twitter impressions

* Publications involving collaboration with universities, research institutes, hospitals and medical centres in Australia

**based on the 2023 Media Summary from the University of Queensland

Current research funding

Large projects (>\$1 million)

Funding partner	Project title	UQ Poche lead (CIA)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2018–2023)	SCALE-C: Strategies for hepatitis C testing and treatment in Aboriginal Communities that lead to elimination	Prof James Ward
Australian Research Council (2019–2023)	Impacts of Banned Drinkers Register Re-introduction in Northern Territory	Prof James Ward (Prof Peter Miller)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2019–2023)	Centre for Research Excellence in the accelerated implementation of new point-of-care technology for infectious diseases	Prof James Ward (Prof Rebecca Guy)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2019–2024)	Gono B Gone: Targeted immunisations programs for vulnerable children and young people against serious infectious diseases	Prof James Ward (Prof Helen Marshall)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2019–2024)	NT Safety and Efficacy of Iron in Haemodialysis Study	A/Prof Federica Barzi (Prof William Majoni)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2019–2024)	PANDORA (Pregnancy and Neonatal Diabetes Outcomes in Remote Australia) Generations	A/Prof Federica Barzi (Prof Louise Maple Brown)
Viertel Senior Medical Research Fellowship (2020–2024)	Improving STI and BBN outcomes and associated drivers among Aboriginal peoples	Prof James Ward
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2024)	Eliminating endemic sexually transmissible infections in remote Australia using targeted multidisciplinary strategies	Prof James Ward
Medical Research Future Fund (2020–2024)	Transforming access, relational care, and primary health care in an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	Prof James Ward
Australian Research Council (2020–2024)	The developmental significance of sleep transition in early childhood	A/Prof Abdullah Mamun (Dr Sally Staton)
Health and Wellbeing Queensland (2020–2023)	Research Partnership – Health and Wellbeing Queensland and ISSR	A/Prof Abdullah Mamun (Prof Lisa McDaid)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2024)	Implementing a precision public health approach to eliminate sexually transmitted infections and control HIV in remote Australia	Prof James Ward
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2025)	Progression of chronic kidney disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults: the eGFR3 Cohort Study	A/Prof Federica Barzi (A/Prof Jaquelyne Hughes)
Medical Research Future Fund (2021–2025)	VOICE – Validating Outcomes by Including Consumer Experience. Developing a Patient Reported Experience Measure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people accessing primary health care	Prof Roxanne Bainbridge (Prof Megan Passey)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2021–2026)	Integration and expansion of a sentinel surveillance system to improve infectious disease outcomes for Indigenous Australians: the ATLAS network	Prof James Ward
National Health and Medical Research Council (2021–2026)	‘Azithromycin before Birth’ – Single dose azithromycin shortly before birth to reduce infection in Aboriginal mothers and babies: a randomised controlled trial	Dr Victor Oguoma (Prof Peter Morris)

Funding partner	Project title	UQ Poche lead (CIA)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2021–2026)	National First Nations Research Network	Prof James Ward (Prof Gail Garvey)
Medical Research Future Fund (2021–2024)	Improving surveillance infrastructure for Indigenous primary health care	Dr Clare Bradley
NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (2021–2024)	Transforming the health system response to child maltreatment: the need for cross-jurisdictional e-cohorts. NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies, 2020	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (Dr Kathleen Falster)
Medical Research Future Fund (2021–2026)	Improving the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in South Australia	Stephen Harfield (Dr Justin Canuto)
Australian Research Council (2021–2027)	ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course	A/Prof Abdullah Mamun (Prof Janeen Baxter)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2022–2027)	Kipayali Mayi Kuwayu: generating and translating evidence to community and policy action	Dr Carmen Parter (Prof Ray Lovett)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2027)	Birthing in Our Community: gold standard Indigenous maternal infant health	Prof James Ward (Adrian Carson)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2025)	Digital infrastructure for improving First Nations maternal and child health	Prof James Ward (Prof Clair Sullivan)
NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies (2022–2025)	Effect of a vaporised nicotine product vs varenicline on smoking cessation for low-socioeconomic status Australian smokers: A randomised trial	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (A/Prof Ryan Courtney)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2027)	Scaling up infectious disease point-of-care testing for Indigenous people	Dr Clare Bradley (Prof Rebecca Guy)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2022–2026)	Centre of Research Excellence in Urban Indigenous Health	Prof James Ward
Medical Research Future Fund (2023–2028)	Obstructive sleep apnoea diagnosis and management in First Nations communities: community co-design, local capacity building and place-based models for sustainable success	A/Prof Fatima Yaqoot
Medical Research Future Fund (2023–2026)	Closing the final gaps in maternal and infant health: the Deadly Fit Mums Program	A/Prof Federica Barzi
National Health and Medical Research Council (2023–2028)	Implementing a life course approach to antenatal and postnatal care for prevention and reduction of non communicable disease risks in Nepal (IpreventNCD)	A/Prof Abdullah Mamun
Australian Research Council (2023–2030)	ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures	Prof James Ward (Prof Brendan Hokowhitu)
NSW Government's Prevention Research Support Program (2022–2025)	The prevention of alcohol and other drug harms in rural communities in NSW	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (Dr Sara Farnbach)
Australian Research Council (2021–2025)	Bridging the Knowledge Gap – Building an Indigenist Health Humanities Collective	Janet Stajic (Prof Chelsea Watego)

Medium projects (\$100k – \$1 million)

Funding partner	Project title	UQ Poche lead (CIA)
The Burnet Institute (2020–2023)	Eliminate Hepatis C	Prof James Ward
Paul Ramsay Foundation (APPRISE CRE Collaboration) (2020–2023)	Using systems thinking to better understand risks and protective factors at play for urban Indigenous peoples during COVID-19	Prof James Ward (Prof Bronwyn Fredericks)
Paul Ramsay Foundation (APPRISE CRE Collaboration) (2020–2023)	First Nations COVID-19 Pandemic Response: Harnessing the evidence from an urban First Nations health ecosystem to inform ongoing response, recovery and health system adaptation	Prof James Ward (Dr Noel Hayman)
Australian Government's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (2022–2023)	Examining the use and potential harms of alcohol and other drugs on Norfolk Island, and the development of potential responses	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (Dr Sara Farnbach)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2024)	Developing and implementing an ethical framework for HIV Phylogenetic Analysis in Australia	Prof James Ward (Prof Sharon Lewin)
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2024)	Exposure to Trihalomethanes in pregnancy and birth outcomes in Queensland: integrated data analysis and case studies for better policy and health outcomes (2020–2024)	A/Prof Abdullah Mamun
Medical Research Future Fund (2020–2024)	Co-designed sleep health program to achieve better sleep and improved mental health symptoms in Indigenous adolescents	A/Prof Fatima Yaqoot
Department of Health and Aged Care (2021–2025)	An AI-assisted STI Risk Assessment and Linkage to Care Coaching System: Your Life, Your Body and Your Privacy!	Dr Judith Dean (Prof Li Yan)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2024)	Multidisciplinary co-design of innovative, client centred models for indigenous mental health services in South East Queensland	Prof Roxanne Bainbridge
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2026)	Digital infrastructure for improving First Nations maternal and child health	Prof James Ward (Prof Clair Sullivan)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2027)	Healthy Environments and Lives (HEAL) - National Research Network on Human Health and Environmental Change (NHMRC Special Initiative in Human Health and Environmental Change	Prof James Ward (Prof Sotiris Vardoulakis)
Medical Research Future Fund (2022–2024)	Type 2 diabetes prevalence and management in patients attending an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service in Southeast Queensland over a twelve-year period: factors associated with good management and low risk of hospitalisation	A/Prof Federica Barzi
Commonwealth Department of Health (2021–2025)	Young, Deadly and Free Project	Prof James Ward
National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2027)	Sleep for Strong Souls (3S): Multisectoral partnership and codesigned solutions to improve the sleep health of First Nations Adolescents	A/Prof Fatima Yaqoot

Funding partner	Project title	UQ Poche lead (CIA)
Lowitja Institute (2023)	Optimising the integration of best evidence screening for childhood neurodevelopmental disability into routine clinical care	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (Rob McPhee)
Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General	Program Evaluation Services for Fast Track Sentencing Pilot	Dr Shea Spierings (A/Prof Caroline Salom)
Commonwealth Department of Health (2023–2026)	GOANNA 3 Study: Third Australian cross-sectional survey of social and behavioural factors related to BBVs and STIs among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 16-29 years	Prof James Ward
Queensland Health (2023)	Develop a state-wide First Nations Health Equity Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation	Prof Roxanne Bainbridge
NSW Government Communities and Justice (2023–2024)	Independent review of the NSW Government's Department of Communities and Justice's methods for rapid evaluation	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft
Lowitja Institute (2023–2024)	Supporting agency and connectivity to drive primary healthcare innovation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in southeast Queensland	Stephen Harfield (Kaava Watson)
Medical Research Future Fund (2023–2025)	Implementation of anti-racism strategies to improve health outcomes for First Nations peoples in a large urban hospital.	Prof James Ward

Small projects (<\$100k)

Funding partner	Project title	UQ Poche lead (CIA)
Health Developments Corporation (2023)	Analysis of Health Hub Morayfield (HHM) Use by Indigenous Patients in 2018 -2022: focusing on use of the Minor Accident and Illness Centre	A/Prof Xiang-Yu Hou
Northern Territory Government	Co-design of a care co-ordination approach to optimise treatment outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families in Darwin.	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft (Rob McPhee)
Commonwealth Department of Health (2022–2023)	Evaluation of the Australian's Government's Investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care through the Indigenous Australian's Health Programme (IAHP Yarnes)	Prof Roxanne Bainbridge (Allen + Clare Consulting)
Queensland Family and Child Commission (2023)	For the provision of a Research Report: Methamphetamine Use by Parents with Children under 3 years	Prof Anthony Shakeshaft, Dr Saira Mathew
Queensland Sexual Health Research Fund Grant (Round 4) (2022–2024)	HIV prevention knowledge, attitudes, and practices among young Queenslanders: Informing PrEP Access for 'at risk' youth.	Dr Judith Dean

Research highlights

Professor Anthony Shakeshaft led an independent review of the NSW Government's Department of Communities and Justice's (DCJ) methods for rapid evaluation of their programs.

The review provided expert analysis of a new approach to funding social services for both non-Indigenous and Indigenous families in NSW. The emphasis for DCJ is increasing their evidence-based decision-making to both improve outcomes for vulnerable families and control government costs. The rapid evaluation tool, called Standardised Evaluation Analysis, derives its key outcomes from a large-scale linked dataset called the Human Services Data Set (HSDS). This method is building the capacity to evaluate a large number of programs annually, in order to track their effectiveness and financial impact over time. The objective is to build a sophisticated analytic tool that uses extensive data, the results of which can be used to continually adjust their investments into the most effective programs.

Professor Anthony Shakeshaft, Dr Saira Mathew and Professor James Ward are nearing completion of a report on Methamphetamine use by parents with children under 3 years for the Queensland Family and Child Commission's Child Death Review Board.

The detailed report focuses on the impact of parental methamphetamine use on the health and wellbeing of both non-Indigenous and Indigenous children, with a particular focus on children under 3 years of age. The report aims to highlight the adverse impacts, as well as identify potential opportunities for system improvements. The team anticipates that the report will be finalised, submitted and approved early in 2024. It will offer valuable insights and recommendations for future policy developments that may more effectively protect vulnerable children from harms associated with the use of methamphetamines by their parents. It will also include findings that practitioners can promptly use for replication and citation in their discussions and decision-making processes.



Professor Roxanne Bainbridge
Deputy Director



A/Professor Xiang-Yu (Janet) Hou
Principal Research Fellow



Dr Saira Mathew
Research Fellow



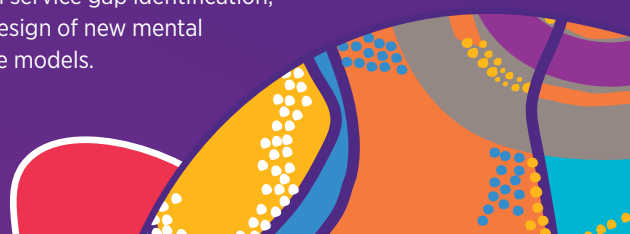
Professor Anthony Shakeshaft
Professor of Indigenous Health Services Research

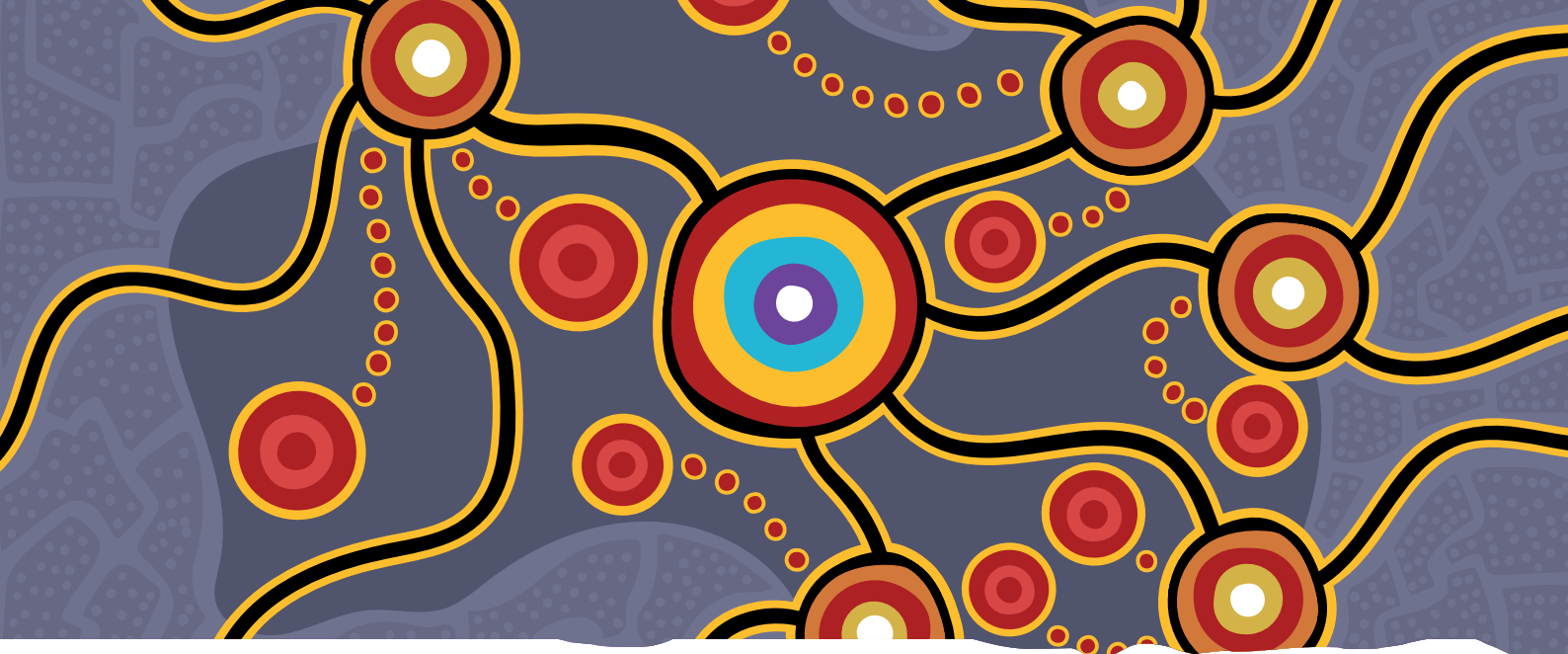
Roxanne Bainbridge is involved in several initiatives, funded through various grants, showcasing a comprehensive approach to improving Indigenous health outcomes across Australia.

The projects range from developing innovative mental health care models and enhancing allied health services in rural areas, to standardising health worker professions and evaluating health equity strategies. These projects aim to leverage Indigenous knowledges, co-design with communities, and utilise mixed research methods to address health disparities, improve service access and effectiveness, and foster sustainable health solutions for Indigenous populations.

The NHMRC MRFF project, led by Roxanne Bainbridge, aims to co-design innovative, client-centred, culturally safe mental health care models to enhance Indigenous peoples' access to services in South-East Queensland.

It targets a comprehensive spectrum of health care, from community settings to mainstream primary, secondary, and tertiary services, utilising a socio-ecological framework to understand factors affecting health-seeking behaviours. The project's objectives include assessing mental health prevalence, service usage, and access barriers among Indigenous populations using mixed research methods, geospatial analyses for service engagement, systems-level service gap identification, and the co-design of new mental health service models.














ATLAS

A national sentinel surveillance and research network aimed at improving health care delivery in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island primary care services focused on infectious diseases.

In Australia, many sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses are notifiable conditions, and our understanding of these infections is based on cases reported by each jurisdiction. However, without background testing information it is difficult to understand the true burden of disease in communities. Initiated from an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence led by Professor James Ward, and with overall study leadership provided by Dr Clare Bradley, the ATLAS Indigenous Primary Care Surveillance and Research network grew to include participation from 49 ACCHS and Indigenous communities in 2023. Analyses are returned to participating ACCHS in the form of detailed surveillance reports, provided every 6 months, and a customisable online dashboard. Both outputs present ATLAS data analysed against 12 performance measures based on clinical guidelines and considered vital for STI and BBV control. These analyses can be used by the ACCHS for reporting purposes and in continuous quality improvement initiatives.

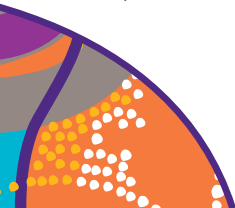
Notable achievements for the ATLAS network in 2023 include the expansion of the network into sites in Victoria, and preparation to expand into the Northern Territory.

A significant amount of stakeholder engagement was undertaken to support this work, including Professor James Ward presenting at the NACCHO Members Conference, held on Noongar Boodjar, in October 2023. Work towards expanding the scope of the surveillance network also progressed and we welcomed PhD candidate Brielle Pery to the ATLAS team, whose work will focus on vaccine-preventable diseases and antenatal care.

-  **Tehau Ackinlose**
Data Intern
-  **Dr Clare Bradley**
Program Manager
-  **Alan Ho**
Data Analyst
-  **Dr Kate Lewis**
Data Manager
-  **Dr Kiara Minto**
Research Fellow
-  **Dr Paul Schwenn**
Research Data Scientist
-  **Lauren Trask**
CQI Research Officer
-  **Jaidev Vasudevan**
Senior Research Assistant
-  **Professor James Ward**
Program Lead

The ATLAS team also held a second stakeholder workshop in August 2023, including the launch of a revised data dashboard.

The workshop gave members further opportunity to meet and have their say regarding the direction of our work, consolidating the process started at 2022's event. 2023 again saw significant consolidation of the ATLAS program, increasing the size of the network and progress towards the ongoing sustainability of the data infrastructure.



Centre of Research Excellence in Urban Health

The Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Urban Indigenous Health aims to achieve excellence in health outcomes for urban Indigenous peoples through an Indigenous-led program of innovative, high-quality, community-driven research aimed at transforming health service delivery for Indigenous peoples who live in the capital cities of Australia.

The CRE is underpinned by foundational strategic partnerships between the **ATSICCHS sector** (IUIH), academia (UQ, Australian National University (ANU), University of Melbourne), and the mainstream health sector (QLD Health and MNHHS).

One major project of the CRE involves the development of a dashboard to be hosted on the AIHW website that provides a breakdown of the health status of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in each capital city area in Australia. The AIHW and UQ Poche will test a beta version of the dashboard this year.



A/Professor Federica Barzi
Chief Investigator



Ed Dyson
Senior Research Assistant



Dr Stuart Leske
Chief Investigator



Dr Shea Spierings
Associate Investigator



Professor James Ward
Chief Investigator

Another major project involves linking, for the first time, data between a capital city community controlled health service, in this instance IUIH, with Queensland Health data from Metro North HHS. Currently, initial ethics has been submitted and received for this data linkage and staff are working on completing additional ethics applications and approvals.

The LEWIS Study

LEarning, Wondering and Inquiring: Leading System reform, elevating health and wellbeing of our families through BiOC.

The LEWIS study is a project led by IUIH in close partnership with UQ Poche with the overarching aim to improve the health and wellbeing of Australian First Nations babies and families born in SEQ during the period 2022-2026 and to collate evidence to support effective scale up of Birthing in our Community (BiOC) programs in Southeast Queensland, and potentially nationally.

Funded under MRFF Healthy Mums and Bubs, the study name LEWIS was decided following consultation with the IUIH BiOC staff and mums to capture the aim of the study but also acknowledge Lewis', the first Bub 'born within the program.

In 2023, LEWIS established sound governance with regular Chief Investigator meetings and the formation of a small working group that meets fortnightly to progress operational and research requirements. The study team has been making significant progress, inroads, and learnings and is well-positioned to start the qualitative studies and obtain ethics clearance for the quantitative analyses in 2024.



A/Professor Federica Barzi
Principal Research Fellow



Dr Tahmina Begum
Research Fellow



A/Professor Judith Dean
Principal Research Fellow



Dr Penny Haora
Research Fellow



Zoe Nano
Research Assistant



Birri O'Dea
Senior Indigenous Health Research Officer



Professor James Ward
Director

Deadly Fit Mums

The Deadly Fit Mums (DFM) program - a holistic, culturally appropriate, community-controlled urban model of care co-designed with the local community to improve nutrition, exercise, and psychosocial wellbeing for pregnant women having an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander baby.

The DFM Program builds upon the success of the BiOC program that has previously shown significant inroads to Closing the Gap in maternal and infant health outcomes for mothers and their Indigenous babies. Recognising that more needs to be done to finally Close the Gap for Indigenous women birthing in greater Brisbane, the DFM program has integrated, into BiOC, a rigorous program focused on health and wellbeing, physical activity and nutrition to further strengthen perinatal health trajectories for women and their babies.

Their study objectives are

1. to develop and implement a scalable DFM program in greater Brisbane;
2. assess outcomes for mums and their families and
3. assess program acceptability for a subset of families accessing the DFM program in 4 hubs (Salisbury, Brisbane North, Logan, Brisbane Bayside).

Through participation in the DFM program, we anticipate an improvement in modifiable protective health determinants for mothers, such as physical exercise, optimal nutrition, healthy weight and smoking cessation, leading to increased maternal physical and psychosocial wellbeing as well as improved birth outcomes. This study will determine how the DFM program can be enhanced to deliver a best practice perinatal model of care for women having Indigenous babies across greater Brisbane, which will be scalable for national implementation.

In 2023, the study Investigators formed a Project Working Group (PWG) comprising the UQ Poche Project Manager, IUIH Research Manager, DFM Service Delivery Manager and BiOC Manager representing each of the Hubs and IUIH personnel that meets fortnightly. DFM has been successfully scaled up to full capacity in the 4 hubs, qualitative studies will commence in 2024 and quantitative studies at study completion in 2027.



A/Professor Federica Barzi Chief Investigator



Dr Tahmina Begum Research Fellow



A/Professor Judith Dean Principal Research Fellow



Dr Penny Haora Research Fellow



Dr Stuart Leske Program Manager



A/Professor Abdulah Mamun Principal Research Fellow



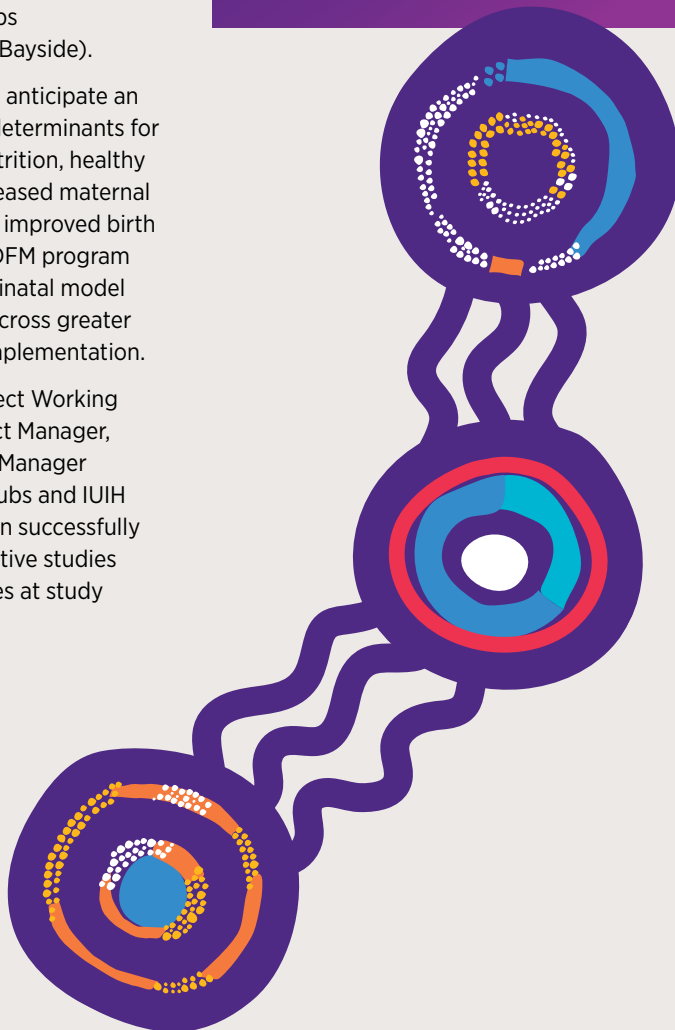
Zoe Nano Research Assistant



Dr Victor Oguoma Senior Research Fellow



Professor James Ward Director



ENDING-STI synergy

The ENDING-STI Synergy Project aims to reduce the prevalence of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in partnership with Indigenous communities in Central Queensland and Northern Territory.

The project is funded by an NHMRC Synergy grant awarded to a team of investigators from the University of Queensland, UNSW and the University of Melbourne and is led by Professor James Ward. Using a precision public health approach, the ENDING-STI Project identifies regions and populations at risk, seeking to understand drivers of STI transmission. The ENDING-STI Team collaborates with Indigenous community representatives to evaluate interventions tailored for local communities. Organisations partnering in the project include Katherine West Health Board, Bidjerdii Community Health Service, Nhulundu Health Service Gladstone and the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

The project team expanded in 2023, welcoming Rani Lawler as the study coordinator for the Northern Territory and Jane Wallace as a Principal Research Technician. Additionally, community advisors and researchers from Queensland and the Northern Territory have been instrumental in guiding the project's direction.

In 2023, the project team worked with various organisations to collect information that will help to better understand STI transmission in study regions in Northern Territory and Central Queensland. In May, 6 young Aboriginal and Torres



Dr Salenna Elliott
National Coordinator



Dr Kiara Minto
Research Fellow



Jethro Romer
Study Coordinator



Jane Wallace
Principal Research Technician



Professor James Ward
Project Lead

Strait Islander community members from Central Queensland participated in a 2 day training workshop to learn interview skills, led by Joanne Bryant and Kacey Martin from UNSW. Community researchers then interviewed peers about relationships, mobility and access to sexual health care. Further interviews and group yarns are planned with young people and health service staff in both study sites in 2024.

Other information collected includes 2021 Census data and de-identified reports of STI cases, testing and hospital presentations. Collection of de-identified pathology specimens for genomics analysis also commenced in 2023. The data will be analysed and mapped across each region to understand who is most at risk, where hotspots are, and the underlying factors promoting the spread of STIs.

Throughout the year, local study coordinators Rani Lawler and Jethro Romer regularly met with Community Advisors in each region to discuss progress and share data as it was collected. Once all mapping and data analysis is complete, Community Advisors will use this information to choose which STI programs and services should be trialled and evaluated in their communities.

Throughout the year, the project team participated in various events, showcasing their involvement and progress. These included presentations at the Lowitja Institute's International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference, the Indigenous Peoples Conference on HIV and Hepatitis Health Equity, the Deadly Sex Congress, and the Central Queensland Youth Interagency Health Forum. These platforms provided valuable opportunities for the team to highlight the project's community-led approach and the impact on improving sexual health outcomes among Indigenous Australians.

GOANNA Survey 3

GOANNA Survey 3 is the third national survey of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 16-29.

The project, led by Professor James Ward and supported by the Commonwealth Department of Health, will examine patterns of sexual health knowledge, behaviours and access to health services related to sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood borne viruses (BBVs) among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The study findings will improve understanding of links between behaviour, sexual health knowledge, health care access and risk of STIs and BBVs in this priority population, monitor changes since previous surveys and identify emerging issues. Ultimately, this study will advance knowledge, scholarship, clinical and public health practice in STI and BBV transmission and prevention and help inform government policy and develop targeted interventions to reduce rates of STIs and BBVs in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The project is a combination of rigorous research and community engagement nationally. Results will be reported to health services, government and in research presentations and publications.



Dr Salenna Elliott
Project Investigator and Mentor



Kellie Stacy
Study Coordinator



Professor James Ward
Project Lead

The aim is to ensure that policies, prevention programs and primary health care initiatives designed to reduce the burden of STIs and BBVs in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are based on current evidence.

The project started in July 2023, with the study coordinator collaborating with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health organisations nationwide to establish official partnerships for conducting surveys within their communities. The UQ Poche research team is working collaboratively with partner organisations to develop and establish robust governance practices, and they are progressing as planned to start collecting data in 2024.



INDICARE

Funded in 2022 through the MRFF Indigenous Health Research Scheme, the Inala Diabetes Care (INDICARE) Study is a data-linkage of patients' primary health electronic medical records, hospital admissions, emergency department presentations and medication items.

The objectives are to describe type 2 diabetes (T2D) prevalence and management in patients attending The Inala Centre for Research Excellence (COE) Health Care over a twelve-year period (2010-2022). The aim is to identify culturally appropriate and effective strategies to further improve the management of T2D in Indigenous peoples across Australia, and especially those living in urban area.

Significant study milestones were reached in 2023, including:

- the established a strong study governance and a working group team comprising health practitioners at INALA COE and UQ Poche researchers that meets at least monthly, often face to face.



A/Professor Federica Barzi
Chief Investigator



Dr Tahmina Begum
Investigator



Stephen Harfield
Chief Investigator



Christopher Sexton
Investigator



Professor James Ward
Chief Investigator

- obtaining approvals from all the relevant research ethics committees and data custodians
- welcoming to the team Chris Sexton, our senior statistician who spent the last few weeks of 2023 preparing the INALA COE data for the statistical analyses that will start in 2024.



IMPACT-STI

IMPACT-STI has adopted a multi-disciplinary precision public health approach to addressing and eliminating sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The project works in partnership with local government and Aboriginal community-controlled health services.

This project is supported by an NHMRC Ideas Grant led by Professor James Ward. Dr Sandi Mitchell is our Study Coordinator with Robert Palm as the Senior Community Engagement Officer.

In 2023, the project finalised approvals and agreements with partnering organisations and established a Far North Queensland Community Coalition Group. The group is made up of First Nations community members that represent their communities and diverse groups within the Cairns and Hinterland area. Members share their knowledge on all aspects of this project, including analysing health service data, project engagement in their communities and co-design interventions. Community members work in genuine partnership with researchers throughout, ensuring research activities align with community priorities and ultimately making decisions on which interventions should be evaluated.

Local data is being collected to identify hotspots and subpopulations at risk of STIs and understand the drivers of STI transmission within these communities. Researchers and the community coalition members have been working together to review the data and use it to inform the design, implementation and evaluation of interventions that aim to reduce prevalence and improve management of STIs. Researchers meet with community coalition groups every 2 months and individually during their weekly community visits.



Carl Honeysett
Research and
Engagement Coordinator



Dr Sandi Mitchell
Study Coordinator/Research Fellow



Robert Palm
Senior Research Assistant



Professor James Ward
Project Lead

This project takes the approach to Indigenous health research where community representatives take on a central decision-making role rather than being involved only in an advisory capacity. The project is hopeful this will encourage others to establish genuine community-control of research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



Implementing Life Course Interventions

The Implementing Life Course Interventions (ILCI) program is working to help address the global challenge of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), the leading cause of mortality worldwide.

This high burden of NCDs disproportionately affects marginalised populations such as First Nations peoples in colonised jurisdictions and populations in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. Fundamental to this program is the implementation and translation of 5 significant studies within primary health care services, where we have established partnerships. These studies employ both a life course and implementation science frameworks.

The first project under the ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course is Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Problematic Health Outcomes Over the Life Course of First Nations People. Given the unclear epidemiology of ACEs and the need for effective prevention and mitigation strategies, this study seeks to explore the biological, social, and lifestyle mechanisms that link ACEs to problematic health outcomes. It aims to develop culturally appropriate toolkits for health practitioners, families, and communities, enhancing early management of ACEs. This project is a collaboration between UQ Poche Centre and Queensland Health. This grant is led by A/Prof Abdullah A Mamun.

The second project under the ARC Centre of Excellence for children and families over the Life Course is the Prevention and Management of Multimorbidity among First Nations people. With the World Health Organisation highlighting multimorbidity as a significant public health concern, this study provides an analysis of the phenomenon in Indigenous populations. It offers a comparative perspective on multimorbidity prevalence and seeks to address the critical knowledge gap by identifying the increasing disparities and severity of comorbid conditions with age.

The third project is Preventing non-communicable diseases among Indigenous children and youth in major cities in Australia. Despite their rapid population growth, these groups face significant social disadvantages and a higher risk of NCDs. The project partners with urban Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to co-develop and implement tailored behavioural intervention programs, addressing the critical developmental stages of Indigenous children and youth.

The fourth project is implementing a life course approach in antenatal and postnatal care settings for prevention and reduction of non-communicable disease risks in Nepal. Acknowledging the disproportionate impact of NCDs in Low- and Middle-income Countries, the project collaborates with stakeholders to co-create tailored implementation strategies. These interventions aim to integrate maternal and child health services with NCD prevention, leveraging behaviour change interventions to address tobacco and alcohol avoidance, healthy eating, and psychosocial support.

The fifth project is preventing and managing diabetes among Indigenous women and youth, focusing on the disproportionately higher rates of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) and youth-onset Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). By systematically reviewing interventions and strategies, this study identifies effective practices for improving the prevention and management of GDM and T2DM, contributing to reducing health disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.



Dr M Mamun Huda
Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow



Dr Edmund Kanmiki
Research Assistant



A/Professor Abdullah A Mamun
Lead Investigator



Dr KM Shahunja
Research Assistant



Tolassa Wakayo Ushula
Senior Research Technician



Let's Yarn About Sleep

Let's Yarn About Sleep (LYAS) is a transdisciplinary program with the primary objective to advance sleep health equity among First Nations peoples. LYAS emphasises culturally responsive solutions, community empowerment, co-design, local capacity building, and place-based delivery.

Through extensive collaboration with 300+ stakeholders, including First Nations communities, industry partners, end users, and policymakers, LYAS has tailored sleep health education, training, and employment pathways for 12 rural and remote Queensland communities.

Starting as a small pilot project in remote Queensland, Let's Yarn About Sleep has grown into a globally recognised program renowned for its leadership, innovation and collaborative approach to transforming the way the sleep health needs of First Nations peoples are assessed and addressed.

LYAS encompasses several projects aimed at addressing specific aspects of sleep health within First Nations communities; these include Let's Yarn About Sleep Pilot (LYAS-Pilot), Let's Yarn About Sleep Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (LYAS-OSA) and Sleep for Strong Souls.

The LYAS-Pilot project was the first project identified by the Mount Isa/Kalkadoon community to address the growing sleep health issues among their young people. The LYAS-Pilot project co-designed a culturally responsive sleep health program with community. This program trains "Sleep Coaches" to deliver 5 sessions to First Nations adolescents and introduces concepts such as sleep hygiene, sleep physiology, and relaxation on Country.

Sleep for Strong Souls continues the successful work of the pilot project and expands the program with other communities who have highlighted their interest. Our LYAS team tailors each program to the needs of the specific community, with co-design sessions recently having commenced in Cloncurry. We plan to work with 11 additional communities this year.

LYAS-OSA aims to improve Obstructive Sleep Apnoea (OSA) diagnosis, treatment and management pathways for First Nations people in rural and remote areas. OSA is largely undiagnosed due to a lack of culturally responsive resources that promote awareness as well as inaccessible health infrastructure in non-urban areas. This project aims to co-design with community, clinicians, and end-users to develop a series of OSA resources to target awareness as well as upskill nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers in diagnosis and management.

The LYAS project has seen significant advancements and achievements through strategic collaborations and milestones. The establishment of the Multi-Institutional Agreement (MIA) and Collaborative Research Agreements (CRA) has been essential in facilitating funding and partnerships with institutions such as Diabetes Victoria, Griffith University, Beyond Blue, and Ngak Min Health.

Additionally, the project commissioned an artwork by First Nations Artist Judith Rose, "Sleep on Country", for the Sleep for Strong Souls program. The piece symbolises the importance of sleep within Indigenous communities.

The formation of project governance groups alongside the successful recruitment of staff in Brisbane, Mount Isa, and for the North West Hospital and Health Service (NWHHS) teams has ensured effective project management and implementation. This is complemented by extensive community engagement efforts led by Roslyn Von Senden across several locations, including Mount Isa, Boulia, Cairns, Cloncurry, Dajarra, Doomadgee, and Normanton.











Ethics approvals for all 9 Work Packages within the OSA and Sleep for Strong Souls programs mark a comprehensive approach towards data analysis, the co-design of culturally responsive sleep health resources, training packages, and service model development.

LYAS's impact has been further amplified through prominent media coverage and presentations at significant conferences and seminars, such as Sleep Down Under 2023, IAHA National Conference 2023, and the Sleep Health Foundation National Webinar. These platforms have provided opportunities to share the program's achievements and research outcomes, raising awareness and fostering a broader understanding of the project's objectives and successes.

Recognition of the project's contributions and the individuals involved has been notable, with accolades such as the UQ Partners in Indigenous Research Excellence Awards, the Queensland Women in Technology First Nations Change Maker Award, and the Sleep Health Foundation's Innovation and Sleep Science Communication Award. Such acknowledgments highlight the project's innovation, leadership, and impact.

The LYAS team is led by Yaqoot Fatima, a Pharmacist, Epidemiologist, Sleep Scientist, and the Research Lead of the Let's Yarn About Sleep program. Fatima's research aims to reduce the societal burden of poor sleep and associated health issues through coordinated multidisciplinary, translational research and co-designed programs and service models.

Funding for the project initiatives is through various grants, with the Pilot project supported by the 2019 MRFF Indigenous Health Grant, the OSA project by the 2021 MRFF Early to Mid-Career Researcher Grant, and the Sleep for Strong Souls project by the 2022 NHMRC Partnership Grants.

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Caitie Ashby
 Research Assistant
- 
Karen Chong
 Clinical Research Assistant
- 
Markesh Fanti
 Clinical Research Assistant
- 
A/Professor Yaqoot Fatima
 Research Lead
- 
Mina Kinghorn
 Senior Project Coordinator
- 
Gina Nuttall
 Research Translation
- 
Roslyn Von Senden
 Senior Project Coordinator
- 
Dr Daniel Sullivan
 Research Fellow

Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services

The UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health established the National Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services (RAUCCHS) in 2022. This alliance brings together researchers and urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled health service (ATSICCHS) providers to shape and implement an innovative national Indigenous urban health research agenda.

This initiative underscores a commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through strategic research and collaboration.

The RAUCCHS team is composed of several researchers from the UQ Poche Centre, including James Ward, Anthony Shakeshaft, Abdullah Mamun, Anton Clifford-Motopi, Federica Barzi, Janet Stajic, and Stuart Leske.

During 2023, UQ Poche developed a prototype for an interactive dashboard designed for integration into ATSICCHS websites. This tool aims to illustrate the need for an urban health research agenda and assist the development of creative designs for static visualisations in printable policy briefs. UQ Poche started to draft the contents for the “State of the Play” report. This report, once completed, will be shared with RAUCCHS members.



A/Professor Federica Barzi
Principal Research Fellow



Dr Anton Clifford-Motopi
Senior Research Fellow



Dr Stuart Leske
Program Manager



A/Professor Abdullah Mamun
Principal Research Fellow



Professor Anthony Shakeshaft
Professor of Indigenous Health Services Research



Janet Stajic
Senior Research Assistant



Professor James Ward
Director

The development and implementation of an urban health services research agenda for ATSICCHS in Australia’s capital cities remain central to RAUCCHS’s objectives. This focus addresses the unique health needs of urban Indigenous populations and aims to drive systemic improvements in health outcomes and service delivery.

Funding for RAUCCHS meetings and activities is secured through the Centre of Excellence in Urban Indigenous Health, which specialises in health services research. This financial support underscores the importance of RAUCCHS’s mission and its potential to effect meaningful change in Indigenous health care.

RAUCCHS has been proactive in establishing and nurturing research partnerships and collaborations. Since its inception in 2022, RAUCCHS has sought to foster strong connections between ATSICCHS providers and UQ Poche, enhancing the capacity for impactful research and the exchange of knowledge and resources. These partnerships are important to the Alliance, as they not only broaden the scope of its research but also ensure that findings and innovations directly benefit the communities served by ATSICCHS.

Since establishing the RAUCCHS network, UQ Poche and 3 members of RAUCCHS have submitted a grant application for the Medical Research Future Fund’s (MRFF) Indigenous Health Research Fund - 2023 Indigenous Health Research Grant Opportunity. RAUCCHS team members Anton Clifford-Motopi and Janet Stajic are also working on a journal article that will report on the findings of interviews with RAUCCHS members about an urban health services research agenda.



The Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health

The Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health (RAUGH) team is a tripartite association between UQ's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH).

Established in 2021, the project aims to close the gap in life expectancy and achieve health equality for urban First Peoples in greater Brisbane North, through applied research in priority areas in healthcare pathways - across the continuum of care and across the lifespan. Projects include health system research and evaluation in areas including cancer, mental health, surgery, rehabilitation, hospital in the home, maternal health, emergency department, infectious disease, geriatric and paediatric care.

The partnership between RAUGH, MNHHS and IUIH focuses on co-designed services and workforce development to enhance health equity for urban First Nations peoples. Its operations are guided by a Data Governance Framework rooted in Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance, ensuring practices from data access to dissemination uphold First Peoples' rights and promote self-determination in the Metro North region.

RAUGH's endeavours are strategically aligned with priority areas that include research, evaluation, knowledge translation, workforce development, and engagement and partnerships. This approach aims to establish and conduct research programs that cover the entire spectrum of health care - from primary to tertiary systems. A significant focus is placed on leveraging external research funding to enhance health services, programs, and policies tailored to the needs of urban First Peoples. Through the establishment of data linkages between partner organisations,

RAUGH seeks to identify critical data gaps and improve data governance, ultimately facilitating the development of co-designed models of care that prioritise cultural safety and patient experiences.

The RAUGH data linkage project represents a significant step forward in integrating health data across different services. For the first time, it involves linking data from IUIH, a community-controlled health service in a capital city, with Queensland Health data from MNHHS. The project has successfully received initial ethics approval, marking a key milestone in its development. Currently, the team is focused on obtaining the necessary additional approvals, including those required under the Public Health Act and Site Specific Assessment applications.



Rebekah Hauti
Research Support



Dr Saira Sanjida
Research Fellow



Professor James Ward
Executive Director

SCALE-C Study

Ensuring no one is left behind in Australia's effort to eliminate hepatitis C.

The SCALE-C study aimed to enhance access to HCV testing, treatment and care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in 4 communities in NSW and South Australia. In total, 536 people attending partner Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) consented to participate in the study and were tested for HCV using point-of-care testing. The study found that prioritisation of HCV increased patient engagement, and HCV test-and-treat models of care delivered by ACCHS simplify the HCV care pathway and ensure all HCV care is provided in a culturally safe setting.



Erin Flynn
Senior Research Study Coordinator



Professor James Ward
Executive Director

The project was supported by an NHMRC Project Grant and is a collaboration between The University of Queensland, The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute and the Kirby Institute. Erin Flynn coordinated the study. The grant is led by Professor James Ward.

Young Deadly Free

Young Deadly Free's mission is to increase awareness of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

Over the last 10 years sexually transmissible infections notification rates have been on the rise in Australia, while the rates of testing have been decreasing. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 29 years continue to experience disproportionately higher notification rates of STIs and BBV compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

In 2023, the Young Deadly Free project engaged Blackfish Productions to produce 9 new promotional videos which featured Young Aboriginal, and Torres Strait Islander people from around Australia. These new videos highlight topics such as diverse relationships, gender, sexuality, young men getting tested, pornography, respectful relationships, stigma and shame, consent and how STIs affect everyone.

The new promotional videos will be released in early 2024 and aim to target young people, Elder's, health providers, and teachers across communities nationally making resources more accessible, culturally appropriate and relatable.



Amanda Donigi
Research Communications



Rebekah Hauti
Research Support



Dana Mam
Community Engagement



Zoe Nano
Project Lead



Professor James Ward
Executive Director



Institute for Urban Indigenous Health Partnership

The UQ Poche Centre's partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) represents a strategic collaboration aimed at enhancing health outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of South East Queensland. The relationship sees our 2 organisations contributing to various studies targeting urban Indigenous health, underpinning both national and international efforts to improve health equity disparity.

IUIH, a Community Controlled Health Service (CCHS), leads in the development and delivery of comprehensive health and family wellbeing services, working closely with other member CCHSs across the South East Queensland region.

A key collaboration with IUIH is the Research Alliance for Urban Goori Health (RAUGH). Established in 2021, this partnership also with Metro North Health aims to transform healthcare system responsiveness to the needs of Indigenous Peoples in North Brisbane, with the goal of improving healthcare access utilisation and quality of care and ultimately closing morbidity and mortality gaps experienced by First Nations peoples. Current initiatives under the RAUGH partnership include mental health pathways, data linkage studies, and a hospital in the home study.

The partnership with IUIH has also led to the formation of the National Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services (RAUCCHS). The Alliance seeks to deliver a unified urban Indigenous health research agenda by bringing together researchers and ACCHS providers from capital cities.

Another important project under this partnership with IUIH is the Deadly Fit Mums program, aimed at improving perinatal health outcomes through increased physical activity and healthy eating among pregnant Indigenous women. This project, integrated into the Indigenous-led Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program, offers a supportive and friendly group environment for mums to come together and share yarns about their pregnancy journey, as well as tips to stay strong and healthy.

Additionally, the expansion and evaluation of the Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program is a testament to the partnership's commitment to scalable, evidence-based interventions in urban settings. The BiOC program, led by IUIH, provides culturally appropriate quality care, contributing to significant policy, systems, and practice changes. The program is integrated within a family services model grounded within a culturally intrinsic parenting model that supports connection, belonging and cultural growth. The service is supported by an Indigenous workforce strategy and is based out of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled community-based hub.

The collaboration further extends to the LEWIS (LEarning, Wondering and Inquiring: Leading System reform) Study. The Study, led by IUIH in close partnership with UQ Poche, is focused on elevating the health and wellbeing of Australian First Nations babies and families in South East Queensland from 2022-2026. Funded under the MRFF Healthy Mums and Bubs, the LEWIS Study was named to reflect its goals and in honour of 'Lewis', the first baby born within the Birthing in Our Community (BiOC) program. 2023 marked a year of significant advancement for LEWIS, establishing robust governance structures and advancing operational and research efforts, setting the stage for comprehensive qualitative and quantitative analyses in 2024.

Through these initiatives, the partnership between the UQ Poche Centre and IUIH illustrates a comprehensive approach to addressing the health challenges faced by Indigenous communities in urban environments, paving the way for impactful health systems reforms and enhanced community wellbeing.



Community engagement

Lowitja Conference

The 3rd Lowitja Institute International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference, held from June 14-17, 2023, in Cairns on the traditional lands of the Gimuy Walubara Yidinji and Yirrganydji peoples.

With the theme “Truth, Rights, Response,” the event hosted close to 1200 attendees, representing the largest assembly of global and national Indigenous health experts in Australia since the pre-pandemic era. The Lowitja Institute’s CEO, Adjunct Professor Janine Mohamed, spoke of the overwhelming interest in the conference and its role in fostering innovative ideas and transformative community-led research that challenges Western paradigms.

The conference featured keynote presentations from distinguished local and international speakers and over 250 presentations on community-led health and wellbeing research. The discussions and presentations spanned a wide range of topics, including Indigenous data sovereignty, decolonisation, nation-building, and health issues like cervical cancer screening and diabetes management.

UQ Poche Centre was well-represented at the Conference, with several members delivering presentations on various critical topics.

Professor James Ward: Prevalence of hepatitis C virus (HCV) exposure and infection among indigenous and tribal populations: a global systematic review and meta-analysis.

Natasha Lee, a PhD Candidate: ‘...pushing boundaries... pushing back or shoving sideways...’ - Redefining public health on Indigenous terms to better serve Indigenous public good.

Amba-Rose Atkinson, PhD Candidate: Country, Climate, and First Nations Health.

Stephen Harfield, PhD Candidate: Involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents in research to improve their health and wellbeing.

Janet Stajic, a PhD Candidate: Workplace environments that empower Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health worker and health practitioner workforce to thrive.

Jethro Romer and Carl Honeysett: Community leadership of two research projects in regional Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Lowitja Institute Awards for outstanding research. Professor James Ward, the Director of the UQ Poche Centre, was among the awardees and was honoured to receive the prestigious Cranlana Award for his contributions to Indigenous health research.

“I stand on the shoulders of many leaders here this week who have paved the way for me to do the research I do.”





Yarning for Success PLUS Retreat

The Yarning for Success PLUS Retreat, hosted by the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Queensland (UQ), took place at Rumba Resort in Caloundra, Sunshine Coast, from June 21 to June 23.

The event, supported by the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences (HABS), UQ, was specifically designed to offer comprehensive support to the new cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander academics and HDR scholars joining the faculty, aiming to enhance their academic skills, develop broader capabilities, and foster culturally safe and respectful work environments.

The retreat featured face-to-face sessions led by esteemed guest speakers, including Brendan Hokowhitu, Tanja Hirvonen and Janine Mohammed, and virtual presentations from Sandra Eades and Gail Garvey. The agenda was carefully planned, beginning with a Welcome to Country by the Gubbi Gubbi Dancers, followed by introductions, housekeeping notes, and an overview of the retreat by Professor James Ward, Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, UQ.

Professor Roxanne Bainbridge shared her journey and insights on Indigenous health research, setting the stage for discussions on Indigenous methodologies, epistemologies, and research design.

Essential topics such as cultural safety, racism in healthcare, and trauma-informed care were explored in depth, offering participants valuable perspectives and tools for navigating these complex areas.

The retreat also provided a platform for Yarning for Success and Higher Degree Research Scholars to present their research to academics and fellow Yarning for Success participants, fostering an environment of two-way learning and knowledge exchange. The Our Collaborations in Health Research (OCHRe) Network presentation further enhanced the program, emphasising the importance of connection and community in research.

The Yarning for Success PLUS Retreat successfully concluded with more scholar presentations and a focus on academic writing, underscoring the retreat's commitment to nurturing the next generation of Indigenous scholars and professionals. The event highlighted the HABS faculty's dedication to supporting Indigenous academics and reinforced the value of culturally informed, collaborative approaches to education and research.

NAIDOC Week 2023

The NAIDOC theme for 2023 'For our Elders' recognised our Elders, both past and present and their contribution to our history and continuing survival of Indigenous culture for more than 65,000 years. We acknowledge their resilience, wisdom, guidance and their valuable contribution to our communities.

Aunty Mary is our Elder-in-Residence, which is a joint appointment between the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (UIIH) and the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. Aunty Mary worked as a nurse at the Brisbane Mater Hospital in the early 1970s before joining the Brisbane Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) in 1976. With a career in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health spanning nearing 50 years, Aunty Mary has played a pivotal role in the establishment of health services, peak bodies, federal health frameworks and the national curricula for general practice training. In December 2019, Aunty Mary's lifelong contributions were honored by QUT, awarding her a prestigious Honorary Doctorate. A published author and advocate for Aboriginal community control and better health outcomes. Aunty Mary provides critical support towards the Centre's engagement activities by defining and implementing cultural capabilities and core values for staff and students.

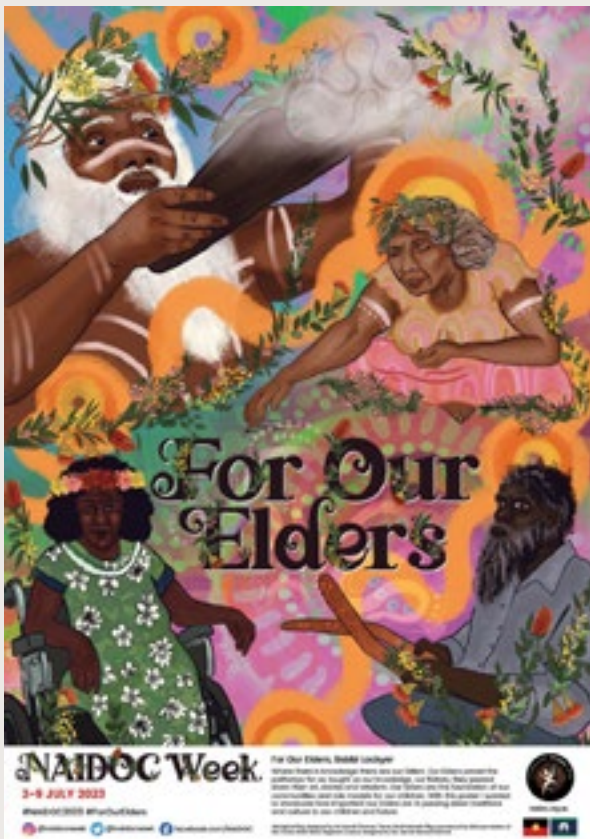


Image: The 2023 National NAIDOC Week Poster, 'For Our Elders', designed by Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru artist Bobbi Lockyer.



Yarning with Dr Aunty Mary AM

Who are some of the Elders you respected growing up and why?

At the forefront was Mum and Dad because they set those values, taught me about my culture, who I was, family, my community, and my identity – looking after us, loving us and putting me in a good position to want to know about these things. Dad is from North Stradbroke Island and Mum and half her family were removed from NW Carnarvon Gorge near Springsure, Central Queensland to Cherbourg. The other half were moved to Woorabinda. There wouldn't have been too many jobs on the island. Dad worked in forestry like a lot of men back then. He'd make all the cupboards and beds in our house and he had a green thumb. We would go on walks with him, and he'd show us where the native bees and the honeybees were, and we would learn how to fish in the fresh water.

How important do you think it is to inspire future generations?

It's very important. Our families are complicated and struggle to continue with the pressures that families are living under, the government pressures and decisions that are being made without us and without knowing our history. That's why The Voice was so important. Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Nations of the country is huge. You've got to try to get into the mindset of the people you're trying to inspire. There comes a time when you must use what you've seen, heard, and learned to be able to challenge injustice around you.

What knowledge or wisdom would you most like to pass on to the younger generation?

I would ask young people to think about where they want to be and let them know that sometimes the path isn't a straight line. My life's just been about taking advantage of those opportunities that come my way, but nothing changes – if nothing changes.



Indigenous Peoples Conference on HIV and Hepatitis Health Equity

The Indigenous Peoples Conference on HIV and Hepatitis Health Equity was held in Meanjin (Brisbane) on July 21-22, bringing 175 First Nations delegates and allies under the theme “Achieving Health Equity for First Nations Peoples in HIV and Hepatitis in an Increasingly Inequitable World.”

The Conference, co-convened by Professor James Ward of The UQ Poche Centre and Edan Campbell-O’Brien from ASHM, focused on the disproportionate impact of HIV and Hepatitis on Indigenous communities. This event, preceding the 12th IAS Conference on HIV Science, provided a culturally safe forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and other Indigenous Health Professionals internationally to advocate for the needs and interests of Indigenous Peoples in global and state led initiatives in HIV and Hepatitis.

UQ Poche Centre Director, James Ward, highlighted the significant but challenging journey towards closing the health gap by 2030. Similarly, Edan Campbell-O’Brien emphasised the importance of a culturally safe forum for First Nations health professionals to lead the discourse on health equity.

The conference featured an impressive roster of speakers, including international Indigenous leaders and experts who shared insights on policy, programming, and the critical steps needed to address HIV and Hepatitis inequities. Through sessions that explored the challenges and gaps within the sector, the event fostered a proactive dialogue on advancing health equity for Indigenous peoples. This inaugural conference set a strong foundation for future efforts, accenting the essential role of collaboration, Indigenous leadership, and evidence-based interventions in the global fight against HIV and Hepatitis within First Nations communities.

International AIDS Society Conference

The International AIDS Society (IAS) 2023 Conference, held in Brisbane and virtually from July 23 to 26, was an important moment in the global HIV science community’s ongoing efforts to address the epidemic.

With over 5,000 attendees, this 12th iteration of the IAS Conference on HIV Science showcased groundbreaking advancements across prevention, treatment, and cure research, solidifying its status as the premier platform for translating HIV science into policy and practice.

A highlight of the conference was the plenary session featuring UQ Poche Centre Director, James Ward, who delivered a keynote address on “Empowering First Nations Communities to Combat BBVs and STIs.” His presentation detailed the innovative work conducted in partnership with ATLAS, Young Deadly Free, and ATSIHAW, alongside our next-generation researchers. By focusing on the intersection of community engagement and scientific research, Professor Ward’s insights provided a roadmap for leveraging community strengths to address public health challenges.

IAS 2023’s inclusive format fostered interdisciplinary learning and collaboration, with sessions on broadly neutralising antibodies, long-acting treatments, and prevention strategies highlighting the need for integration across scientific disciplines, implementation science, behavioural science, and health economics. The emphasis on community partnerships and the value of community-related sessions emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing the HIV response.

The IAS 2023 Conference showcased the latest scientific advancements and stressed the role of community engagement and interdisciplinary collaboration in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Professor Ward’s contribution to this dialogue, through his keynote on empowering First Nations communities, epitomised the conference’s spirit of innovation and inclusivity.

“Understanding the social determinants affecting STI rates is critical. Our work with ATLAS allows us to develop targeted, culturally informed interventions that address these underlying factors.” – Insights from roundtable discussions on Priorities, Challenges, and Solutions.



ATLAS Face-to-Face Workshop

The Annual ATLAS Workshop, held August 2nd and 3rd in Meajin (Brisbane), marked an important moment for the network, bringing together 20 participants from 14 different services and hubs.

The workshop featured a mix of speakers, interactive sessions, and collaborative group work focusing on the significant advancements and strategic direction of the ATLAS project. The event started with a meaningful Welcome to Country by Yuggera Elder, Uncle Steven Coghill. Day one of the event featured an insightful presentation from Professor James Ward and an overview of the 2022 gathering and details of the ATLAS team's accomplishments from Dr Clare Bradley. Day 2 presentations included Dr Aunty Mary Martin's session on the impact of cultural influences, a presentation on real-world applications in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) through co-created resources and opportunities for PhD students to share their impactful ATLAS data journeys.

The ATLAS Network's face-to-face workshop showcased project efforts to tackle sexually transmissible infections (STIs), blood-borne viruses (BBVs), and vaccine-preventable diseases within Indigenous communities. Participants engaged in discussions about the network's expansion and the significant enhancements made to the ATLAS data dashboard. The event highlighted the critical need for integrating STI and BBV screening into routine health assessments, with a particular focus on the MBS 715 health check. Challenges related to STI testing and the necessity for culturally sensitive health services were addressed, leading to recommendations for improving direct-acting antiviral (DAA) uptake, analysing the impact of social determinants on STI rates, and employing genomic sequencing for targeted interventions. Moreover, the introduction of an Indigenous Data Science internship program marked a pivotal step in empowering ACCHOs with the capability for data-driven decision-making.

The ATLAS face-to-face workshop set a proactive and forward-looking agenda aimed at leveraging research, community engagement, and data to enhance Indigenous health outcomes, affirming the ATLAS Network's dedication to advancing health equity.

“This workshop has been instrumental in setting a clear, actionable path forward. The collective effort and shared knowledge here pave the way for tangible improvements in Indigenous health care.” – Participant feedback during the evaluation session.

The Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services, 2023 Annual Face-to-Face Meeting

On August 23rd, 2023, the Research Alliance for Urban Community Controlled Health Services (RAUCCHS) hosted its second annual face-to-face meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Brisbane. This gathering was aimed at furthering the development of an innovative Indigenous urban health research agenda, fostering collaboration, and setting strategic directions for the future.

The meeting featured several speakers from the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, each presenting key updates relevant to RAUCCHS's mission. Anton Clifford-Motopi shared insights from his comprehensive interviews with RAUCCHS members, providing a better understanding of community perspectives. Anthony Shakeshaft delved into the capacity of the UQ Poche Centre, capabilities for RAUCCHS members and outlined the research agenda and priorities for the coming year. Federica Barzi presented the Urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equity Dashboard tool for data visualisation and accessibility for health service providers. Finally, James Ward provided a comprehensive update on UQ Poche's contributions to national significance, including data linkage, capacity building for the Centre of Research Excellence, antiracism initiatives, and the forthcoming Australian Research Council funded Centre of Excellence starting in 2024.

The event was attended by a broad spectrum of leaders and professionals from the Indigenous health community, including chief executive officers, directors of corporate services, medical directors, general managers, business development managers and human resources from the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (Moreton ATSICHS), Kambu Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Health (Kambu Health), Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS), Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (WNAHCS), Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service (DYHS).

Significant outcomes were achieved during the meeting, notably the agreement of developing advocacy tools such as one-page policy briefs about the need for an urban health agenda and a state of the play report of Urban Aboriginal Health Report written by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services with assistance from UQ Poche. Additionally, the meeting facilitated a consensus on exploring topics for future Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant opportunities aiming to align research funding with the specific needs of Indigenous health services.





Pathways Program to a PhD: Doing Research for Mob

In August 2023, the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health hosted its annual Pathways Program to a PhD: Doing Research for Mob, solidifying its commitment to fostering the next generation of Indigenous health research leaders.

This unique program is designed to clarify the process of undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in health research and aims to expand career opportunities in the health and wellbeing space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Pathways Program invited 10 enthusiastic participants to be a part of the 3 day intensive, exploring the various facets of doctoral research with a particular focus on Indigenous health issues at The University of Queensland's St Lucia campus and Poche Centre Offices in Toowong.

The event's itinerary was curated to provide an immersive experience, enabling participants to gain deep insights into the world of academic research. It kicked off on Tuesday, August 29, with an inspiring Welcome to Country by Uncle Gregory "Cheg" Egert, Elder-in-Residence, ARC Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Future and an introduction session led by Professor James Ward, Director of the UQ Poche Centre, and Aunty Mary Martin, Elder-in-Residence.

This session set the tone for the 3 day event, emphasising the program's intent to nurture research leadership among Indigenous communities.

A highlight of the first day was a panel discussion featuring firsthand accounts of completing a PhD. This panel shared personal stories, motivations, and offered practical tips and advice. This flowed into an interactive yarning circle where participants shared their reasons for attending and presented the topics they were interested in exploring in their PhD. This provided an opportunity for participants to workshop with leading researchers from the UQ Poche Centre on how to refine their research questions into viable PhD proposals. The day concluded with a visit to the UQ Anthropology Museum with a personal tour by Museum Director Michael Aird, offering participants an opportunity to reflect on the day's learnings and network in a more informal setting surrounded by artefacts representing the social and cultural history of Australian Aboriginal and Pacific peoples.

Day 2 sessions explored the specifics of a PhD. Professor Roxanne Bainbridge led a session on what it means to do a PhD. This was followed by a discussion on Indigenous methodologies, frameworks, and paradigms that provided valuable insights into culturally appropriate research approaches, emphasising the importance of aligning research with the values and needs of Indigenous communities.



Following a panel discussion on potential research topics and earmarked scholarship opportunities available for HDRs at the UQ Poche Centre, the day concluded with a panel discussion with 2 of Poches leading Indigenous researchers, providing a platform for participants to engage directly with experts in Indigenous health research. The evening was capped off with a dinner at Saint Lucy Caffè e Cucina on the UQ campus, allowing for continued conversations in a relaxed atmosphere.

The final day focused on the practical aspects of enrolling in and starting a PhD, offering guidance on key dates and enrolment processes. The program closed with remarks from Professor James Ward, preparing participants with the information necessary to embark on their PhD journeys. The day ended with a BBQ lunch at the UQ Poche Centre, providing a casual setting for participants to digest the wealth of information received, share reflections on their learnings, and foster connections with fellow attendees and Poche Centre Staff.

Throughout the event, attendees had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of speakers and panellists. These exchanges provided a rare opportunity to gain insights from experienced researchers and academics, fostering a supportive network for aspiring Indigenous PhD candidates. By offering an in-depth look at the PhD application and enrolment process, insights into Indigenous research methodologies and the support available at UQ Poche Centre, the program equipped attendees with the knowledge and confidence to pursue their academic and research aspirations.

The Pathways Program to a PhD represents a significant investment in the future of Indigenous health research. By providing a platform for learning, discovery, and connection, the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health aims to contribute to improved health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through research opportunities. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the program's role in inspiring and preparing future researchers. The 2023 Pathways Program to a PhD event built on the foundation established in 2022, fostering future Indigenous health leaders and supporting them to be able to address future challenges through enhanced knowledge and capabilities.



Mabuiag Health Education Consultation Trip

In 2023, members of the UQ Poche Centre visited Mabuiag Island for Health Education Consultation Trip to foster a collaborative approach to enhancing community health, education, and wellbeing.

This visit, from September 25th to September 29th, aligned with workshops hosted by the MGK Men's Group, enabling UQ delegates to engage with a wide array of stakeholders, including community leaders and various organisational representatives. The trip follows on from efforts established in 2020 led by Mr Carl Francia from UQ School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and a Sabai Koedal Man who is equally passionate about making a difference in the Torres Strait Island region.

Key discussions focused on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise the partnership between UQ and the Mabuiag community, encompassing broad goals to support community aspirations across health, economic, and cultural domains. The MOU, led by local leaders and supported by UQ, aims to facilitate a comprehensive collaboration benefiting both the community and university sectors.

Throughout the trip, the UQ team engaged in meaningful dialogues with healthcare professionals, educators, and community members to identify health priorities, such as diabetes education, mental health services, and the need for occupational therapy services. These discussions highlighted the potential for UQ allied health students to contribute to health education and service delivery both in person and via remote engagement.

Significant emphasis was placed on educational initiatives, with discussions on enhancing health and wellbeing education at Tagai Primary School and addressing the need for additional resources and support for students with special needs. Moreover, the trip highlighted the importance of Telehealth services and the potential for expanded use within the community and school settings.

Community feedback emphasised the desire for continued engagement, with a focus on developing strategic and operational plans that align with community needs and aspirations. This collaborative approach, marked by the proposed MOU and ongoing dialogues, exemplifies a commitment to a partnership that values community input and leverages UQ's resources to address the unique challenges faced by the Mabuiag Island community.



Staff retreats

The Poche Centre hosted 2 enriching multi-day staff retreats in 2023, fostering collaboration, enhancing skills, and reinforcing the Centre's efforts to impactful research and community engagement. The retreats serve as an opportunity to strengthen team cohesion and advance the Centre's commitment to improving health equity and outcomes for Indigenous communities.

The first retreat, from May 30 to June 1, coincided with Reconciliation Week, emphasising the retreat's objectives and values with a recognition of Reconciliation Week. Activities included sessions on the Centre's direction, media and communications strategies, research impact, and academic writing, alongside interactive sessions like storytelling to foster personal connections among staff. A highlight was the group's participation in the Reconciliation Film Club, featuring the film "Black Divas", followed by a QandA session with Dallas Webster and a team dinner at Nice Thai by Kid Curry.

The November retreat, from November 29 to 30, focused on evaluating research impact and strategic development and commenced with intention-setting to guide the direction of the retreat. Project presentations ranged from exposure to trihalomethanes in pregnancy to Indigenous-specific health checks, highlighting the Centre's diverse research areas. The retreat also dedicated time to developing a cohesive research strategy, signalling a forward-thinking approach to upcoming challenges and opportunities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary healthcare.

HDR student presentations offered fresh perspectives on public health challenges and solutions for Indigenous Australians, covering topics from expanding the ATLAS surveillance system for better infectious disease outcomes to innovative approaches for eliminating sexually transmitted infections and re-envisioning co-design through a cultural lens.

Both retreats exemplified the Poche Centre's dedication to enhancing team dynamics, skillsets, and understanding of Indigenous health concerns. By intertwining professional development with cultural acknowledgment and community-centric research, the retreats accentuated the Centre's holistic approach to advancing health equity and nurturing a collaborative, informed, and motivated staff.



Seminar Series

Initiated in 2022, the UQ Poche Centre Seminar Series has established itself as a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing and collaborative research efforts in the pursuit of excellence in Indigenous health research. The series has highlighted innovative research methods and identified strategies for improving health outcomes among Indigenous populations.

Throughout the year, the series has hosted a diverse roster of speakers, comprising internal presenters from within the UQ Poche Centre and external contributors from other institutions and organisations. Internal presenters primarily focus on disseminating findings from ongoing research projects, providing insights into the Centre's current research directions and outcomes. External speakers have broadened the conversation by introducing new research perspectives and sharing their research expertise, enriching the learning experience for attendees.

2023 Presentations

Renae Kirkham

Co-designing Strategies to address Youth Type 2 Diabetes across Northern Australia



Judith Dean

Building a Body of Community-Driven Research and Practice Change using Cat 2 and 3 Grants: Peer Led Models of HIV Testing



Mr Trevor Watkins and Dr Abbey Diaz

Towards Optimal and Equitable Cardiovascular Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People with Cancer

Prof Craig Munns

The Child Health Research Centre



Clair Sullivan

The Algorithm Will See You Now



Prof Yan Liu

Road to Healthy Cities: Health Inequalities and the Role of the Built Environment



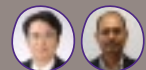
Prof Xue Li

Social Media Analysis for Detection of Cyberbullying and Suicide Ideation



Prof Naoki Nakashima and A/Prof Rafiqul Islam Maruf

Portable Health Clinic



Roslyn Von Senden

Let's Yarn About Sleep



Professor Adrian Barnett

Bad Statistics in Medical Research



Jamie-Lauren Culbong, Olivia Smith, Michelle Webb and Stella Starceвич

Looking Forward

Dr Azhar Potia

Transitions from Primary to Secondary School: Supporting Successful Educational Pathways of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students



Our finances

Income sources 2023

Philanthropy	\$1,758,144	17%
Australian Competitive Grants	\$4,108,469	39%
Other Grants	\$3,567,550	34%
The University of Queensland	\$1,182,008	11%
Total	\$10,616,171	

Total expenses 2023

Scholarships	\$121,665	1%
Collaborative Research	\$1,028,477	12%
Salaries	\$6,545,910	75%
Other Research Costs	\$994,140	11%
Total	\$8,690,192	

Income by type 2019-2023



Outputs

Journal Articles

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Research Reports

1. Bainbridge, R., Hardie-Boys, N. et al. (2023). IAHP Final Report for the Evaluation of the Australian Government's investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme. Commonwealth Department of Health.
2. Bainbridge, R., Hardie-Boys, N., et al. (2023). Value-Based Integrated Care: A scoping review. Commonwealth Department of Health.
3. Bainbridge, Roxanne, Langham, Erika, Ballangarry, Julie, Doran, Christopher and Ward, James (2023). First Nations Health Equity Strategy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: Technical Report. Brisbane, Australia: The University of Queensland; UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. doi: 10.14264/db42c9b
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6. Morgan, W., Langham, E., Hardie-Boys, N., Monaghan, R., and Bainbridge, R. (2023). Evaluation of the Australian Government's investment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care through the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme: Cross-Cutting Collaborative 5: The PHC Data Environment. Commonwealth Department of Health.

Conference Papers

1. Burton, E., **Barzi, F.**, Longmore, D., Webster, V., Boyle, J.A., Shaw, J.E., Guthridge, S., Singh, G.R., Brown, K., Crispe, S., Maple-Brown, L.J. and Hare, M.J.L. (2023). IDF2022-0785 Trends in outcomes of pregnancies complicated by diabetes among First Nations and non-First Nations women in Australia. IDF World Diabetes Congress 2022, Lisbon, Portugal, 5-8 December 2022. Shannon, Ireland: Elsevier Ireland. doi: 10.1016/j.diabres.2023.110354

Conferences and Keynotes

1. May 18th: Syphilis Everyone's Business Forum, Attendee, James Ward
2. June 2nd: Sleep in Aotearoa 2023 - Sleep Health Equity Through Community Capacity and Capability Improvements, Presenter, Yaqoot Fatima
3. June 6th: Aboriginal Corporation Drugs and Alcohol Network (ACDAN) Symposium, Session Speaker, James Ward
4. June 12th: The Lowitja Institute Conference, Sponsorship, UQ Poche
5. June 12th: The Lowitja Institute Conference, Session Speaker, James Ward
6. June 18th: Communicable Diseases and Immunisation Conference 2023, Delivered Aileen Joy Plant Oration, James Ward
7. June 21st: Yarning for Success Retreat, Host, UQ Poche Centre
8. July 21st: ASHM/Poche Indigenous People's Conference, Co-hosted and Keynote, UQ Poche Centre
9. July 22nd: International HIV Coinfection + Viral Hepatitis Elimination Conference (IHCVHEC), Keynote, James Ward
10. July 23rd: International Aids Society (IAS) Conference, Speaker, James Ward

11. July 28th: UQ School of Dentistry Research Day, Keynote, James Ward
12. August 2nd: ATLAS Program Face to Face Workshops, Hosted, James Ward
13. August 15th: Data for Policy Summit - Closing the Gap Target 2: Is there a mitch-match between data and policy?, Presenter, Abdullah Mamun
14. August 18th: NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Keynote, James Ward
15. August 23rd: Research Alliance Urban Community Controlled Health Services (RAUCCHS) Annual Meeting, Host, UQ Poche Centre
16. August 29th: Pathways to a PhD: Doing Research for Mob, Host, UQ Poche Centre
17. September 8th: University of Western Australia Tristate Program, Keynote, James Ward
18. September 18th: Australasian Sexual and Reproductive Health conference - ATLAS, Presenter, Clare Bradley
19. September 20th: Ngak Min Health Connection Event, Attendee, Abdullah Mamun
20. September 25th: Mabuiag Health Education Consultation Trip, Facilitated, James Ward
21. October 9th: 39th Annual NRL Workshop on Infectious Diseases, Keynote, James Ward
22. October 11th: Ngar-wu Wanyarra Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Conference - Yarning about the experiences of participants in sleep health yarning circles, Presenter, Yaqoot Fatima
23. October 11th: Deadly Sex Congress – Community Congress, Presenters, Robbie Palm, Jethro Romer
24. October 12th: Australia Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, Speaker, James Ward
25. October 16th: Cranlana Executive Colloquium; Attendance as sponsored by Lowitja Award, Attendee, James Ward
26. October 20th: Syphilis Everyone's Business Forum, Keynote, James Ward
27. October 24th: Sleep Health Foundation National Webinar Let's Yarn About Sleep, Presenters, Yaqoot Fatima, Roslyn Von Senden
28. October 25th: Aboriginal Corporation Drugs and Alcohol Network (ACDAN) Symposium, Attendee, James Ward
29. November 11th: Sleep DownUnder 2023 Conference, Two session presentations, Roslyn Von Senden, Markesh Fanti, Yaqoot Fatima, Dan Sullivan
30. November 14th: Annual Scientific Conference of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases, Presenter, Abdullah Mamun
31. November 24th: NAPWHA Gilead World AIDS Day, Keynote, James Ward
32. November 28th: 2023 IAHA National Conference - Achieving Sleep Health Equity through First Nations Sleep Health Workforce, Presenter, Yaqoot Fatima
33. November 28th: Third WHO Life Course Network meeting -Extending benefits across the life course – Connecting Healthy Development and Healthy Ageing, Invited Guest, Abdullah Mamun



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CREATE CHANGE

UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

The University of Queensland
74 High Street, Toowong
Queensland 4066 Australia

P +61 7 3443 3103
E poche.admin@uq.edu.au

poche.centre.uq.edu.au

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