

Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

2018: Year in Review



UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

Potential by Sid Domic, Team Leader, Outreach and Engagement, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit, University of Queensland.

Potential represents the potential in all of us. The plant doesn't reach its full potential until it flowers, a symbol of its expression and growth. In the image, the U shapes represent the UQ community—staff, students, Indigenous community, our partners, everyone. From the UQ community comes their individual growth, directed towards the centre circle which represents a focal point of all this knowledge and energy. This creates the flower, which is symbolic of our potential as a community working together. Also, Potential is a reflection of a DNA cross-section, which makes us what we are.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owners of the lands on which we work, and pay our respects to elders, past, present and future.



Acting Director's Message

I am pleased to report on the activities of the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health for 2018.

The Centre was structurally realigned from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) portfolio of responsibility and placed under the Health and Behavioural Sciences Faculty in July 2017.

I assumed the position of Acting Director, UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health in July 2017 after the resignation of Professor Cindy Shannon who held the positions of Pro-Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and Director, UQ Poche Centre.

The University of Queensland is located in the largest and one of the fastest-growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia. As a Centre of outreach, teaching and research, we are committed to genuine partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise the prime importance of Indigenous perspectives and leadership in improving the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Nations peoples.

The UQ Poche Centre acknowledges the generous philanthropic donation of Mr Greg Poche AO and Mrs Kay van Norton Poche that facilitated the foundation of the Centre and allows us to continue to address the challenges in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. I also take this opportunity to thank Mr Reg Richardson AM and Professor Tom Calma AO for their pivotal contributions to the UQ Poche Centre and the national Poche Indigenous Health Network.

I thank Professor Peter Høj, Vice-Chancellor, for his leadership in this initiative and the University's on-going institutional and financial support for the UQ Poche Centre. Professor Bruce Abernathy, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, has also been a strong advocate and facilitated the UQ Poche Centre moving to the recently renovated building, Poche House, on Upland Road, St Lucia.

I thank the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), in particular Mr Adrian Carson, CEO of IUIH, for his leadership and collaboration with the UQ Poche Centre. IUIH, with its incredible vision of, and contribution to, Indigenous community-controlled health services, provides placements for a growing number of students as well as supporting the teaching and research activities at The University of Queensland.

I would like to acknowledge our UQ partners including Professor Bronwyn Fredericks (Pro Vice-Chancellor - Indigenous Engagement), the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (ATSIS) Unit and UQ Faculty of Medicine which help the UQ Poche Centre fulfil its mandate efficiently and effectively.

I acknowledge our colleagues at the Mater Health Services, the national Poche Indigenous Health Network, the Poche Centres at the University of Sydney, Flinders University, University of Western Australia and University of Melbourne, and the associates and affiliates of the UQ Poche Centre.

Professor Murray Phillips

Acting Director

UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

Executive Summary

With a mandate to respond to challenges in urban Indigenous health, the UQ Poche Centre undertakes a broad range of research and workforce development activities targeted at improving health outcomes across the life-course. This Annual Report provides a strategic overview of the Centre's activities and achievements in 2018.

Workforce development focused on supporting pathways for students into careers in Indigenous health, from pre-university through to post-study. This included crucial outreach activity to grow the pipeline of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students into careers in health; and broadening opportunities for UQ students in Indigenous health through bursaries, scholarships and expanding placement and project opportunities.

Significant contributions were made by the UQ Poche Centre in the training of the workforce in Indigenous health. Poche staff members are working on a UQ Teaching Innovation Grant to support pedagogical challenges within MD and MPH programs at the University, and a UQ Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation Fellowship to embed Indigenous perspectives in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

The Centre's research profile continues to grow with Dr Chelsea Bond's Australian Research Council DECRA: *The Trouble with Culture: Rationalizing the Indigenous Health Inequality*, continuation of Dr Bond's Office for Learning and Teaching Fellowship project: *Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Education and Culturally Safe Pedagogy*, and several Lowitja Institute funded projects.

The next generation of Indigenous researchers were supported with two Poche Top-Up scholarships increasing the number to seven Higher Degree Research students. These students are supported by staff mentoring, opportunities to present their work, and regular reading and writing groups. It is recognised that growing UQ's Indigenous health research will involve building Indigenous Higher Degree Research student participation.

In late 2018, the UQ Poche Centre moved into a University building at 31 Upland Road, St Lucia. This free-standing dwelling is part of the University Campus and provides excellent offices for staff members, a communal space for Higher Degree Research students and a shared meeting room.

Looking forward, strategic initiatives in workforce development include extending our involvement with the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health; continued and expanded efforts in embedding Indigenous perspectives in the curriculum; pathways into study from high school to tertiary institutions; and cementing the Poche associate and affiliate network to provide opportunities for students in Indigenous health.

About the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

The UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health was established following a \$10million donation (invested in an endowment in perpetuity) from Mr Greg Poche AO and Mrs Kay van Norton Poche in late 2014.

The Centre draws together Indigenous and health expertise across the University and works closely and collaboratively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and health providers.

While a key focus of the UQ Poche Centre is translational research, it is not purely a research centre.

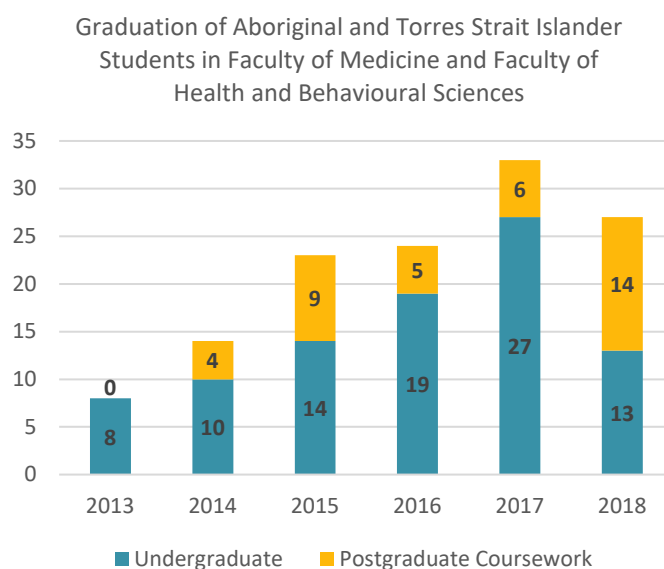
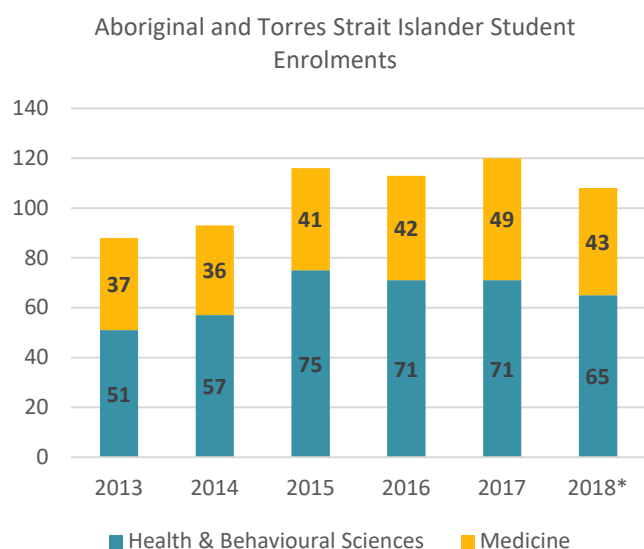
It was established to address two key challenges:

- **building a skilled and available workforce** to respond to challenges in urban Indigenous health through:
 - outreach programs and pathways into health for Indigenous people; and
 - ensuring all UQ health graduates are better trained to work in Indigenous health
- improving urban Indigenous health outcomes across the life course through **translational research** focused on prevention and education.

The Centre was active throughout 2015 and formally established as a University Centre in June 2016.

Workforce Development

The UQ Poche Centre is committed to developing a skilled and available workforce, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to respond to the challenges in urban Indigenous health. In 2018, the Centre launched a number of initiatives aimed at growing the pipeline of Indigenous health workers and researchers. In addition, the Poche Centre has been engaged in activities aimed at ensuring UQ graduates and employees are better trained to work in Indigenous health and Indigenous research.



* 2018 data indicative only

InspireU Health

The UQ Poche Centre funds the InspireU Health Sciences camp. 12 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Year 11 and 12 students from all over Queensland were given the opportunity to explore careers in health and medical sciences during the July 2018 school holidays. Students participated in a number of interactive health science workshops, work place visits and academic skills sessions.



Students attending the 2018 InspireU Health Sciences camp

2018 Deadly Choices Junior Murri Carnival

The 2018 Carnival was hosted on the St Lucia Campus with access to UQ football and netball sporting facilities. Hosting the carnival at UQ provides an integration of sporting competitions with an education and orientation program for the young participants and their families. The Poche Centre, IUIH and UQ ATIS Unit hosted 400 young people across the football and netball strongly linking health, sport and education. All of the players in the competition were required to have a 90% school attendance in the three months prior to the Carnival, and undertake a Health Check before competing. UQ students from several different disciplines, supervised by IUIH and UQ staff, gained hands on experience in supporting the carnival.



Participation in the *Deadly Choices Junior Murri Carnival* at UQ. Photos courtesy of IUIH and Deadly Choices

Leadership in Indigenous Health Curriculum Development and Delivery

The Centre provided leadership in embedding Indigenous perspectives in teaching and learning. Significant contributions were made in curriculum development and delivery of teaching throughout Faculty of Medicine and Health and Behavioural Sciences programs. The Centre also participates in the Faculty of Medicine's Indigenous Health Advisory Committee.

In 2017 the Poche Centre developed two internal funding proposals to support embedding Indigenous perspectives, strengthen Indigenous health teaching and further support graduate outcomes for workforce development.

Firstly, a Teaching Innovation Grant proposal was awarded to Dr Chelsea Bond. *Game-Changing Educators: Teaching Indigenous Health in a Culturally Safe Transformative Learning Environment* will focus on UQ's MD and MPH Programs within the Faculty of Medicine. Secondly, a proposal for a UQ Teaching Fellowship to design and produce a suite of Indigenous Studies modules for implementation across HaBS programs was awarded to Condy Canuto. The project is *Embedding Indigenous Knowledge in the Training and Development of the Health Workforce*.

2018 Summer & Winter Research Scholarships

The UQ Poche Centre continues to be the research unit of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students participating in UQ's summer and winter Research Program. Since the Centre's establishment in 2015, we have facilitated research opportunities for 20 Indigenous undergraduate and masters students. This represents a 75% share of all Indigenous placements across the popular University-wide program.

In 2018, the Poche Centre supported five student researchers in the summer and winter rounds. Student researchers worked on projects with Poche academic staff, Poche Affiliate staff across UQ, and the Centre's partners, including IUIH and Mater Research. The projects involved research topics as varied as birthing, health, identity, leadership, sport, family planning, middle ear infections, reconciliation, and youth and identity.

2018 Summer and Winter Research Projects

Indigenous Birthing in an Urban Setting Study

Prof Sue Kildea and Dr Sophie Hickey, Mater Research Institute

Watchful Waiting for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children with acute otitis media (WATCH) Trial

Dr Chelsea Bond, UQ Poche Centre

Chronic Pain Management in Indigenous Health Settings – a scoping review

Dr Emma Crawford, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Racism in the Health Justice System

Dr Chelsea Bond and Helena Kajlich, UQ Poche Centre

2018 UQ Student Placements Activities

Disciplines	Clinical	Project / Research	Fieldwork
Audiology	2		
Counselling	1		
Dentistry	6		2
Exercise Physiology	4		2
Health Science		5	5
Human Services		2	3
Medicine	3		37
Mental Health	1		
Nursing	5		1
Nutrition & Dietetics	4		5
Occupational Therapy	124	21	9
Physiotherapy	3		1
Public Health			2
Psychology	3		
Social Work	1		1
Speech Pathology	5		1
Sports Coaching		4	14
Other disciplines		7	2
Total	162	39	88

Student Placements

An integral part of the Centre's activities is providing support, mentoring, career opportunities and placements in Indigenous health for students studying at the University. The UQ Poche Centre expanded its partnership with IUIH to support the student clinical placement program to strengthen the future Indigenous health workforce. All UQ students who attend IUIH and its member services for placements receive a comprehensive orientation to working in the community-controlled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector. In 2018, this involved 162 student clinical placements from 21 disciplines. In addition, IUIH hosted 39 students who participated in project placements and research projects, and 88 students who were involved in a range of experiences in community fieldwork activities. In all, 272 UQ students were given experience working in Indigenous health.

Research

The Centre's research profile is developing with Australian Research Council and Lowitja Institute grant success, and continuation of the Office for Learning and Teaching Fellowship.



Dr Chelsea Bond's **Australian Research Council DECRA**, *The Trouble with Culture: Rationalizing the Indigenous Health Inequality*, aims to render visible the realness of race in contemporary Indigenous public health discourse and practice. The work is situated within a contemporary context to contest the relegation of race as a relic of a by-gone era. The persisting health inequalities that Indigenous people experience reveal race as a powerful predictor of health and illness in Australian society today. Using critical race theory, this research will illuminate our understanding of, and ability to address Indigenous health inequality and support the formulation of a race-critical Australia public health research agenda.

Dr Chelsea Bond's **Office for Learning and Teaching Fellowship**, *Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Education and Culturally Safe Pedagogy* involves the development of collaborative multi-institutional responses to the challenges facing Indigenous academics, informed by the experiences of emerging Indigenous academics, and the collective wisdom and expertise of established Indigenous academics. The fellowship aims to: examine Indigenous academics' understanding and experiences of cultural safety in teaching Indigenous knowledges; identify the barriers to culturally safe teaching and learning environments; and explore and share the strategies Indigenous educators use to ensure a culturally safe teaching and learning environment.

The Lowitja funded **Roles and Ritual: The Inala Wangarra Rites of Passage Ball Case Study** describes an existing urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ritual that celebrates the "coming of age" of young Indigenous men and women (Rites of Passage Ball). It investigate the impact of ritual upon young Indigenous men's social and emotional wellbeing and their role(s) within their family and community, and examine the expectations of urban Indigenous young men, exploring the varying ways in which they enact and challenge racialised, cultural and gender expectations.

The Lowitja funded **Moving beyond the front line: A 20 year retrospective cohort study of career trajectories from the Indigenous Health Program at The University of Queensland** maps the career trajectories of a multidisciplinary cohort of Indigenous graduates of the Indigenous Health Program (IHP). It determines the enablers of professional success of these health leaders in various facets of the health system and investigates the impact of active participation in the community of Indigenous health professionals over the course of a career.

The Lowitja funded **Canada-Australia Racism Working Group**. The aim of the discussion paper is to share knowledge and influence binational action to address racism experienced by First Nations Peoples of Canada and Australia. The objectives of the discussion paper are to: describe the evidence pertaining to the state of race relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Australia and Canada; Identify and describe the factors that contribute to addressing racism in both countries; and Identify and recommend areas for further investigation.

The Lowitja funded **National Health Justice Partnership**. The Commonwealth Government's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 includes as a key objective "a health system free of racism and inequality" (2013, p8), identifying this as crucial to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, achieving Closing the Gap targets, and delivering on Australia's obligations under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A health system free of racism is an ambitious 10-year vision, not least because of the paucity of race scholarship in Australian health research. The epidemiological significance of the variable of race as a determinant of health is well-evidenced by descriptive studies chronicling the appalling and alarming health conditions of Indigenous peoples, however our understandings of how race operates to produce Indigenous health inequalities, and/or the ways in which racism functions within the Australian health system remains limited.

UQ Poche Affiliates

The Centre is rapidly developing a network of expertise and depth in Indigenous health and wellbeing through the formal appointment of 14 Affiliates at the University, as well as 13 Adjunct and Honorary Staff. The network has recognised research interests and expertise, from maternal and child health to health economics, and from clinical research to evaluation.

Dr Emma Crawford
Lecturer, Occupational Therapy; UQ Poche Affiliate



Research Scholarships

In 2018 a Poche Centre Top Up Scholarship (\$50,000 per annum co-funded with the Lowitja Institute and the UQ Graduate School) was awarded to Amy McQuire, which grew the cohort to seven MPhil and PhD candidates. The scholarship supports Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander scholars to pursue their research interests and careers in Indigenous health and wellbeing.



Max Mitropoulos is a proud descendent of the Kullilli people from what is now considered south-west Queensland. He also has European and Chinese ancestry.
Supervisory team: Dr Morgan Brigg and A/Prof Jon Willis



Lee Shepherd is a Djirribal woman whose country is located in Far North Queensland, Australia.
Supervisory team: Dr Steven Rynne and A/Prof Jon Willis



Amy McQuire is a Darumbal and South Sea Islander woman from Rockhampton in Central Queensland.
Supervisory team: A/Prof Elizabeth Strakosch, A/Prof Chelsea Bond, A/Prof Jon Willis

Meet Our Summer Research Scholar: Gabriella Ceolin



I loved the idea of working on a project which in some way might enable positive change in Indigenous communities. As an Aboriginal woman, working on projects that benefit Indigenous communities is something that is very close to my heart. I chose the IBUS project because I was fascinated by their work and wanted to know the program first hand. After my initial winter program, I learnt so many skills which I was able to successfully use in my studies. I also really loved the work the IBUS team was doing and knew that my time on the project wasn't over yet. I was very fortunate to return for a second round on the project in summer where I again learnt more skills which were able to assist me in my studies

In 2018, Gabriella graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) and in 2019 has commenced the Doctor of Medicine.

Contact Us

THE POCHE CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH

The University of Queensland
31 Upland Road
Brisbane Queensland 4067 Australia

T +61 7 3443 1678

E poche@uq.edu.au

W <http://poche.centre.uq.edu.au/>

Cricos Provider 00025B