

Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

2017: 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 2017.

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.

Professor Shannon's national and international reputation, built on a long career dedicated to Indigenous health and education, was instrumental in the foundation of the UQ Poche Centre. As the Poche Centre's inaugural Director, we acknowledge and thank her for an incredible contribution. Given Professor Shannon's exceptional role in Indigenous affairs at the University, and her highly respected standing in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, she was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor. Professor Shannon and I were ably assisted by Rachel Bastin who held the position of the Centre's Operations Manager, a role that supported the leadership and managing operations of the Centre. Rachel departed the UQ community in December 2017.

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.

Mr and Mrs Poche's philanthropic donation is matched with University funding. I thank Professor Peter Høj, Vice-Chancellor, for his leadership in this initiative and the University's on-going support for the Centre. Professor Bruce Abernathy, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, has been a strong advocate for the UQ Poche Centre and has significantly contributed to a smooth transition into the Faculty.

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.

Associate 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 2017.

The UQ Poche Centre hosted the 2017 Meeting of the national Poche Indigenous Health Network. Held at the UQ Queensland Brain Institute in August, Poche Centres from around the nation provided synopses of their achievements and, under the guidance of Professor Tom Calma, pursued opportunities for collaboration through the national network.

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 secured a UQ Teaching Innovation Grant to support pedagogical challenges within MD and MPH programs at the University, and an Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation Fellowship (UQ) to embed Indigenous perspectives in the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

The Centre's research profile continues to develop with grant success, most notably Dr Chelsea Bond's Australian Research Council DECRA: *The Trouble with Culture: Rationalizing the Indigenous Health Inequality*, and continuation of Dr Bond's Office for Learning and Teaching Fellowship project: *Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Education and Culturally Safe Pedagogy*.

The next generation of Indigenous researchers were supported with three Poche Top-Up RHD scholarships increasing the number to six Research Higher Degree 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 RHD participation.

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 greater 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.

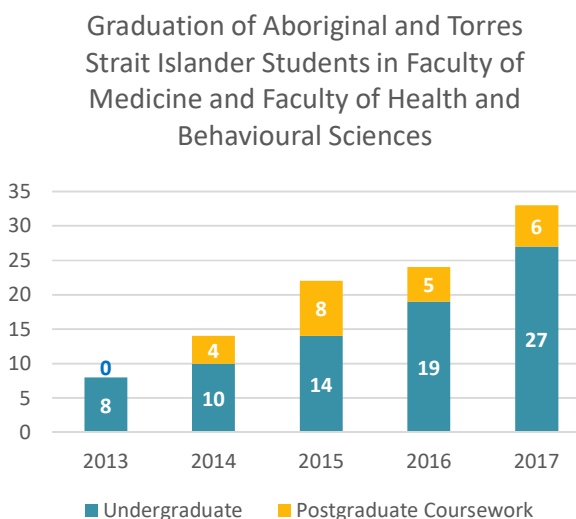
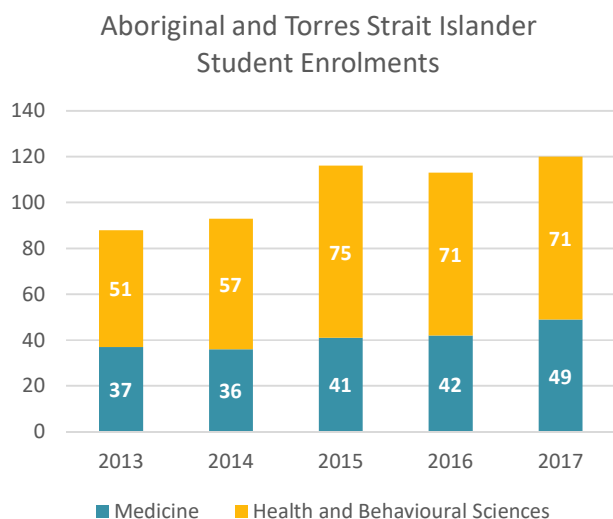
It was established to address two key challenges:

- **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 2017, 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.



* 2016 data indicative only

InspireU Health

The UQ Poche Centre funds the InspireU Health Sciences camp. 20 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 June 2017 school holidays. Students participated in a number of interactive health science workshops, work place visits and academic skills sessions.



Students attending the 2017 InspireU Health Sciences camp

2017 Deadly Choices Junior Murri Carnival

The 2017 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 ATSSIS Unit hosted 580 young people with 398 registrations for Rugby League and 182 registrations for 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

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.

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*.

2017 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 sixteen Indigenous undergraduate and masters students. This represents an 80 share of all Indigenous placements across the popular University-wide program.

In 2017, the Poche Centre supported eight 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.

2017 Summer and Winter Research Projects

Indigenous Birthing in an Urban Setting Study

Prof Sue Kildea and Dr Sophie Hickey, Mater Research Institute

Indigenous Young People: Health and identity

Dr Chelsea Bond, UQ Poche Centre

Sports, Stories and Survival: Examining Cherbourg's Past and Present

A/Prof Murray Phillips and Dr Gary Osmond,
UQ Poche Centre and Affiliate

Why don't clients attend health appointments?

Prof Pauline Ford and Dr Kate Odgers-Jewell,
IUIH & UQ Poche Affiliate

What do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in urban SEQ understand, want and need to continue to make informed choices about family planning

Dr Sophie Hickey, Mater Research Institute-UQ & Affiliate

Strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce: Leadership in Research

Dr Chelsea Bond, UQ Poche Centre

Reconciliation at UQ: Student perspectives and health/wellbeing impacts

Nell Angus, Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Indigenous Engagement

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

Dr Chelsea Bond, UQ Poche Centre

2017 UQ Student Clinical Placements at IUIH

Number of Placements

Disciplines	Sem 1, 2017	Sem 2, 2017	Total
Audiology	4	2	4
Dental	6	6	12
Exercise Physiology		4	4
Medicine	22	5	27
Nursing/Midwifery	2	1	3
Nutrition/ Dietetics	2	2	2
Occupational Therapy	10	106	116
Pharmacy		3	3
Physiotherapy		2	2
Psychology	2		2
Political Science	2		2
Social Work		2	2
Speech Pathology	6	6	12
Total	56	139	195

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 2017, this involved 195 student clinical placements. In addition, IUIH hosted 41 students who participated in project placements and research projects, and 85 students who were involved in a range of experiences in community fieldwork activities. In all, 321 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.

UQ Poche Affiliates

The Centre is rapidly developing a network of expertise and depth in Indigenous health and wellbeing through the formal appointment of 12 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.



Associate Professor Gary Osmond,
Australian Research Council Future Fellow, UQ Poche Affiliate

Poche Awards for Innovation in Indigenous Health

Facilitating collaboration in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health between UQ researchers (lead CIs) and the Centre's community partner IUIH, the UQ Poche Awards for Innovation in Indigenous Health Seeding Grant scheme supported several research projects, with grants of up to \$40,000 each. These included:

'Work It Out': Chronic Disease Self-Management and Rehabilitation Evaluation managed by Dr Emma Crawford (UQ) and Dr Alison Nelson (IUIH). The project investigates client experiences and outcomes of the 'Work It Out' chronic disease self-management and rehabilitation program, taking a mixed methods approach to service evaluation and applied research.

Evaluating outcomes of a therapy program for Indigenous children using Australian Therapy Outcome Measure for Indigenous Clients (ATOMIC) managed by A/Prof Jodie Copley, Dr Anne Hill, Chrisdell McLaren (UQ) and Dr Alison Nelson (IUIH). This project uses the Australian Therapy Outcome Measure for Indigenous Clients (ATOMIC) to evaluate educational outcomes of the IUIH children's therapy program across South East Queensland.

Developing a Demographic and Health Services Profile managed by Dr Mohammad Aktar Hussain and A/Prof Peter Hill (UQ). This project provides epidemiological and statistical expertise to evaluate demographic, health service and epidemiological data to help plan and monitor IUIH clinics in South East Queensland.

Indigenous Community Health: A Scoping Study managed by Professor Michelle Haynes, Dr Danilo Bolano, Dr Bernard Baffour, Dr Andrew Smith (UQ), Dr Carmel Nelson and Dr Lyle Turner (IUIH). This scoping study investigates the potential of IUIH's datasets and whether they can be used or adapted to develop a robust baseline of urban Indigenous health and wellbeing and to rigorously evaluate the collective and individual service impact of IUIH on Indigenous health and wellbeing outcomes over the life course.

Indigenous Health RHD scholarships

The Poche Centre Top Up Scholarship (\$50,000 per annum co-funded with the Lowitja Institute and the UQ Graduate School) increased by another three scholarship holders, growing the cohort to six 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.



Tara Lewis is a Iman woman from the Taroom country of Western Queensland. Her PhD project is 'Culturally responsive methodology for the communication assessment of Australian Aboriginal children'.

Lee Shepherd is a *Djirribal* woman whose country is located in Far North Queensland. Her PhD project is 'Sport for development programmes: Privatised aid and Indigenous sport in Australia'.



Shea Spierings is a Gangulu man born and raised on Darumbal country. His PhD project is 'Aboriginal perspectives on selfhood and criminalisation'.

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