

UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

Annual Report 2020





UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health

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Contents

About UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous health	4
A letter from our Board Chair	5
Director's report	6
About UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous health 2020 snapshot	8
Building the Poche Centre to improve Indigenous health	10
Staff awards	15
Financials	15
Our people	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board• Staff• Students• UQ Poche Centre affiliates	
Publications	22

About the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous health

The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at The University of Queensland (UQ) is a university wide centre that brings together health expertise across the University, and works collaboratively with Indigenous community organisations and health providers, to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health was 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, comprising Poche Centres at the University of Melbourne, the University of Sydney, the University of Western Australia and Flinders University in

Adelaide and Alice Springs. A key partner in the activities of the UQ Poche Centre, since the beginning, is the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), which delivers world-class primary health care services to the Indigenous population of South East Queensland.

Our vision at UQ Poche Centre is to provide national leadership in urban Indigenous health research and research workforce development to close the gap in life expectancy and achieve health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our staff employ strengths-based approaches in all aspects of our research and training endeavours, with emphasis on Indigenous leadership, governance, capacity building and ways of doing

things. The Centre is committed to becoming a national centre of excellence in urban Indigenous health. Our aims are to improve health outcomes for Indigenous peoples living in urban regions (defined here as capital cities and suburbs), through the conduct of impactful research, enhanced student exposure and experiences in Indigenous health, and by creating a next generation of Indigenous research leaders. This will require building upon and strengthening our existing partnerships, particularly with the IUIH as well as creating new partnerships and collaborations locally and nationally. This will effect outcomes for Indigenous peoples that will be sustainable, transferable and translatable over the long-term.



A letter from our Board Chair

2020 was an exceptional year for the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health – the type of year that we had always envisaged, and aspired to, since the formation of the Centre in 2015. Pivotal to the Centre's many achievements over the past 12 months was the recruitment of Professor James Ward from SAHMRI to become the Centre Director in January. On behalf of the Board I wish to thank James and his growing team for all their efforts and contributions and acknowledge what has been achieved in a year – courtesy of COVID 19 – of unprecedented disruption and global challenge.

Among many highlights for the year from the perspective of the Advisory Board were the development of the Centre's Strategic Plan for the coming 5 years, which, in particular, reaffirmed the commitment to research and partner and community engagement; the securing of competitive external research funding to leverage the philanthropic investment of the Poche family; the significant contribution of the Centre (and James in particular) to the Australian response to COVID-19; the progress of the Centre's growing number of Indigenous research scholars; and the continued engagement with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) in the provision of clinical training opportunities for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students enrolled in a wide variety of health and other programs. We were especially delighted to see Professor Ward's contribution to the national response to COVID-19 challenge, particularly as it related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, be recognised by a UQ Staff Excellence award.

From the outset it has been clear that the success of the UQ Poche Centre, with its focus on urban Indigenous Health, would be heavily dependent on the relationship between the University and core partners in the Centre, most particularly IUIH. In that context it is particularly pleasing to note not only the continued engagement

between the UQ Poche Centre staff and IUIH in terms of clinical training of the next generation of the health workforce but the success in jointly securing major funding from MRFF for transforming access, relational care, and primary health care in an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. In a broadening of engagement to also incorporate the public health and hospital system, the extension of the UQ-IUIH relationship to also involve Metro North Hospital and Health Services through the First Peoples Urban Health Research Alliance is particularly noteworthy and offers the UQ Poche Centre and its partners an enormous new opportunity to fully track and understand the engagement of a major urban Indigenous population in North Brisbane with the health services provided by both the public and community controlled sectors.

As Advisory Board Chair I also wish to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members – Professor Tom Calma AO (representing the national Poche Indigenous Health Network), Mr Adrian Carson (CEO of IUIH), Professor Maher Gandhi (representing the Mater Research Institute), Professor Geoff McColl (representing the UQ Faculty of Medicine), Professor Bronwyn Fredericks (UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Engagement), and Ms Britt Walker (representing the donors) – for their input and sage guidance of the Centre over this important period of growth and transformation. On behalf of the Board and the UQ Poche Centre I also want to explicitly acknowledge the game-changing donation by Greg Poche AO and Kay van Norton Poche that led to the formation of the Centre and continues to provide the inspiration and foundation for the work of all in the Centre.

The Board looks forward with great enthusiasm to the contribution that the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health can make to fostering real and sustained improvements in the health of Indigenous Australians.



Professor Bruce Abernethy

Executive Dean, UQ Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Director's report

Improving Indigenous Health outcomes is no easy feat, the efforts of all is required to address one of Australia's most wicked problems. The year 2020 will be remembered for many reasons, not least the advent of one of the world's most crippling pandemics that impacted global economies, health outcomes and social capital everywhere on the planet. My appointment in February 2020 coincided with COVID-19 that dragged me in more ways than I needed or expected to be during my first year as Director of the Centre. My experience and expertise in infectious diseases meant I was dragged into the Australian First Peoples response as well as the national response because of existing ties to national committees. Although 2020 has been a challenging and exhausting year it has been one of relative triumph and one that I am proud to say that the enormous efforts we put into protecting Indigenous communities nationally have thus far paid off. Indigenous Australians have the lowest number of cases of any other identifiable Indigenous population on the planet and not a single death has occurred as a result of COVID-19 in our population.

During 2020 we have been in a period of building capabilities within the Centre to deliver on the challenges of addressing Indigenous Health. My first focus was to develop our 2020–2024 Strategic Plan that sets out our strategic approach. The Strategic Plan was developed by assessing key outputs of the Centre and potential capacity of the Centre by interviewing over 30 key stakeholders about the Poche centre both internally and with our key partners.

The Strategic Plan sets out our key activities that will enable us to become the national leading research centre in urban Indigenous health. These activities have been refocused to align with the strengths of our staffing within the Centre. This includes the conduct of rigorous scientific research that has a demonstrable impact on closing the gap in health morbidity and mortality between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in urban settings: this research will be prioritised to meet the needs of the Centre's Partners. The development of a community engagement strategy that nurtures existing partnerships while building new partnerships and collaborations both internally and externally to UQ to advance our vision. A strategy that develops and promotes pathways for Indigenous people to become Indigenous health research leaders, particularly through participation in and completion of higher degrees by research and finally developing appropriate education to future health professionals to deliver culturally-safe healthcare for Indigenous people.

The change in strategic direction has also mean changes in staffing during 2020. We farewelled A/Prof Jon Willis who has been at the Centre since its inception, Mr Shane Drahm who was employed at the Centre during 2019 and 2020, Ms Alma Coe who returned to her substantial position within HaBS. It meant we also welcomed new staff Mr Jamie Hagan and Ms Cam Mulholland as Operations Manager and Administration Officer and Dr Carmen Parter as Senior Research Fellow a key staff member and someone with a formidable reputation nationally in health policy and programming and as someone also very familiar to the Poche Indigenous Health Network.

We developed our research portfolio in 2020 with successful applications to the Medical Research Futures Fund (MRFF) to conduct transformational research around UIHs Model of Care for their patients and with the APPRISE group where we were successful with small grants to assist in the COVID—19 response.

We enhanced our community engagement strategy during 2020 with an enhanced relationship with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, held throughout the year to discuss issues of mutual interest. We met with other key stakeholders such as QAIHC, Inala Centre of Excellence and our and Inala Wangara to discuss potential collaborations and areas of mutual interest.

An exciting development during 2020 was the approval to develop a First peoples Urban Health Research Alliance a partnership between Metro North Hospital and Health Service, UIIH, Queensland Health and UQ Poche. This Alliance will be formally established in 2021 and with funding to support the Alliance for the first two years of operation. This Alliance will enable a focus on Indigenous specific health research looking at the total cascade of care between primary and tertiary care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living in Brisbane's north. This is a unique opportunity to identify both strengths and gaps in the system to advance our knowledges in improving urban Indigenous Health outcomes.

During 2020 one of the most exciting initiatives the Poche Centre has been involved in is has been a talent search for Indigenous academics to join the UQ academy. In mid- 2020 the HaBS

and Medicine faculty in partnership with UQ Poche advertised an expression of interest. The EOI process eventuated with 9 new academics joining UQ toward the end of 2020 and early in 2021. All of these academics will become Affiliates of the Poche Centre.

We supported several online forums for our Poche Scholars during 2020 and supported them during the pandemic by checking on them. Poche Scholars Lee Shepherd and Max Mitropoulos submitted their PhD thesis in December 2020 and Shea Spierings and Mitch Rom are due in early 2021. All four have been have been offered Post-Doctoral Fellow positions with UQ to commence in 2020 and 2021.

Finally a significant review was undertaken of the Poche Centres Education package that is implemented to undergraduate health science students that has resulted in significant changes to the curricula. Current work is underway to match the educations modules to incoming national accreditation standards.

The UQ Poche Centre is well situated to address some of the most complex issues in Indigenous Health situated on campus at St Lucia n the doorstep of the largest urban Indigenous population in Australia.



About UQ Poche Centre 2020 snapshot

Operations

- Appointment of Director of the Centre, Professor James Ward, Dr Carmen Parter Senior Research Fellow, Mr Jamie Hagan and Ms Cam Mulholland
- Development of the UQ Poche Centre Strategic Plan 2020-2024

Community engagement

- Strengthening our existing partnership with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health and the development of a new 10 year agreement between UQ and UIIH.
- Agreement was given to establish the First Peoples Urban Health Research Alliance; a unique partnership between UIIH, Metro North Hospital and Health Service and UQ Poche.
- Our Centre hosted a UQ NAIDOC Week Event featuring our Poche Scholars Shea Spierings, Lee Shepherd and Janet Stajic
- The Poche Centre through Prof James Ward contributed significantly to the Australian response to COVID-19 and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID-19 response. Prof Ward was awarded a UQ Staff Excellence award recognizing his contribution to Australia's COVID-19 response.

Research

- Securing an MRFF research grant in partnership with UIIH to transform model of care for patients attending UIIH primary health care centres
- UQ Poche Centre was awarded two COVID-19 grants specific to urban Indigenous Australians
- Two Poche Centre seed funding grants were awarded in 2020

Building the next generation of Indigenous research leaders

- Two Poche Scholars Max Mitropoulos and Lee Shepherd submitted their PhDs,
- Ms Kate Thompson commenced her PhD within the School of Nursing Midwifery and Social Work and as a Poche Scholar.
- Nine new Indigenous academics joined schools within the HaBS Faculty and will be supported by Poche Centre during their induction phase into UQ with a dedicated program title Yarning for Success

Student experiences and Indigenous health education

- UQ Game Changing Health Education modules were reviewed by an Aboriginal Advisory Committee resulting in significant changes to content and materials for implementation.



Building the Poche Centre to improve Indigenous health

New research

Transforming access, relational care, and primary health care in an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Investigators: James Ward, Raymond Lovett, Karen Gardner, Carmel Nelson, Lyle Turner, Danielle Butler, Anton Clifford, Leanne Coombe, Saira Matthew, Adrian Carson, Yvette Roe.

Funding Source: Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

Amount: \$1,209,747

Years: 2020 – 2024

Synopsis: Primary health care (PHC) systems throughout the world face the challenge of delivering quality care to growing populations with complex care needs. The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), a regional network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in South East Queensland has overseen substantial increase in uptake of care in their clients, with demonstrable improvement in health outcomes; however, evidence is emerging of the inability of the system to effectively respond to the rapid population growth, necessitating a redesign of the way care is delivered. This prospective observational cohort study using mixed-methods, will evaluate a model of patient centred medical homes, developed by an Alaskan Native controlled health service and adapted to the local context. Unique to this model is coordinated care that is delivered by a multidisciplinary team, rather than by individual clinicians. This study is embedded in Aboriginal governance with internationally recognised research leads and will examine: the feasibility and acceptability of implementing the model of care; whether compared to pre-implementation, this model of care improves access and relational continuity of care; longer term health outcomes (such as hospitalisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concepts of health); as well as cost-effectiveness. The research findings will deliver key lessons for: (1) for broader PHC system reform, as well as for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, including related and distinct policy initiatives such as Health Care Homes; (3) system change management in real-world, PHC settings; and (4) Aboriginal led and governed models of research collaboration and distinct policy initiatives such as Health Care Homes; (3) system change management in real-world, PHC settings; and (4) Aboriginal led and governed models of research collaboration.

Pandemic health messaging for Indigenous peoples during COVID-19

Investigators: Shea Spierings, Jim Walker, Maree Tombs and James Ward.

Amount: \$79,000

Years: Oct 2020 – Dec 2021

Funding: Paul Ramsay Foundation through the APPRISE CRE Collaboration

Synopsis: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are identified as a key population for prevention and response for COVID-19. However, there are concerns that messaging and preventative actions concerning COVID-19 are waning and will continue to decline, and community members will become desensitized to new information. Given that there will be a need to have communication strategies for some years to come, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people utilise social media readily to access health related information, the challenge remains of how to develop consistent, enduring, meaningful and reinforced messaging about risk and response processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to address both complacency and mistrust. Here we propose a research study to first investigate how COVID-19 messages are received by communities, and secondly to investigate meaningful ways to ensure communication is enduring and impactful over a longer period. We propose to survey 600-1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about messaging related to COVID-19 including vaccines.

Transforming access, relational care, and primary health care in an urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

Investigators: James Ward, Raymond Lovett, Karen Gardner, Carmel Nelson, Lyle Turner, Danielle Butler, Anton Clifford, Leanne Coombe, Saira Matthew, Adrian Carson, Yvette Roe.

Funding Source: Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)

Amount: \$1,209,747

Years: 2020 – 2024

Synopsis: Primary health care (PHC) systems throughout the world face the challenge of delivering quality care to growing populations with complex care needs. The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), a regional network of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in South East Queensland has overseen substantial increase in uptake of care in their clients, with demonstrable improvement in health outcomes; however, evidence is emerging of the inability of the system to effectively respond to the rapid population growth, necessitating a redesign of the way care is delivered. This prospective observational cohort study using mixed-methods, will evaluate a model of patient centred medical homes, developed by an Alaskan Native controlled health service and adapted to the local context. Unique to this model is coordinated care that is delivered by a multidisciplinary team, rather than by individual clinicians. This study is embedded in Aboriginal governance with internationally recognised research leads and will examine: the feasibility and acceptability of implementing the model of care; whether compared to pre-implementation, this model of care improves access and relational continuity of care; longer term health outcomes (such as hospitalisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander concepts of health); as well as cost-effectiveness. The research findings will deliver key lessons for: (1) for broader PHC system reform, as well as for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, including related and distinct policy initiatives such as Health Care Homes; (2) system change management in real-world, PHC settings; and (3) Aboriginal led and governed models of research collaboration and distinct policy initiatives such as Health Care Homes; (3) system change management in real-world, PHC settings; and (4) Aboriginal led and governed models of research collaboration.

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New research

Using systems thinking to better understand risks and protective factors at play for urban Indigenous peoples during COVID-19

Investigators:	Bronwyn Fredericks James Ward Sue McEvoy, Shea Spierings, Troy Combo, Francis Nona
Amount:	\$107,000
Years:	Oct 2020 – Dec 2021
Funding:	Paul Ramsay Foundation through the APPRISE CRE Collaboration
Synopsis:	<p>Systems thinking focuses on the dynamic interaction, synchronisation, and integration of people, processes, and technology to understand an issue. Its process is iterative, holistic and enables multiple stakeholder groups to come together to better understand strengths and gaps in a system wide response, in this case urban Indigenous communities preparedness for COVID-19. The outcomes of this study will be to identify where strengths lay in the system as well as leverage points for intervention. In this study we will seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the interactions of urban indigenous individuals and communities in south east Queensland, specifically how they interact with the social systems (housing, health, education, and Indigenous cultural events); • Understand how these systems and interactions mitigate or protect the population during COVID-19 and for other pandemics; • To identify where linkages and causal pathways exist within systems and interactions to both identify leverage points for interventions meant to strengthen the system; • To use the causal understanding and the identified leverage points to synergise interventions and design better policy to address the vulnerabilities and protect the health of urban indigenous communities; and • Report this widely so other urban indigenous communities can learn from this study.

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

Investigators:	James Ward, Adrian Carson, Renee Brown, Carmel Nelson, Lyle Turner, Donisha Duff D, Antonette White, Tim Albers, Patrice Harald.
Amount:	\$169,000
Years:	Oct 2020 – Dec 2021
Funding:	Paul Ramsay Foundation through the APPRISE CRE Collaboration
Synopsis:	<p>This research, bringing together skilled First Nations researchers with policy, planning and service delivery expertise, will investigate and capture critical learnings from, a large urban community controlled health “ecosystem; the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health.</p> <p>Focussed on First Nations-led responses in an urban context, the proposed research aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Identify how an Indigenous-led approach compares and contrasts with mainstream and international First Nation responses and outcomes, primarily through comprehensive literature review; (2) Prepare a strategy for, and undertake if circumstances determine, the documentation of the First Few Cases should an outbreak occur in SEQ among urban Indigenous peoples; (3) Investigate, through detailed case studies, key aspects of service planning, response, and reorientation; and community activation achieved during the current pandemic; (4) Identify strengths and gaps of the overall pandemic response within a large, urban regional CCHS network, using systems thinking methods; and (5) Support the development and advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers is an integral component of all research conducted through the IUIH / Poche collaboration, with training, mentoring and technical assistance structured to support transfer of knowledge and skills, along with career development for early First Nations researchers in particular.

The establishment of the First Peoples Urban Health Research Alliance

Vision: The establishment of the Metro North Urban First Peoples Health Research Alliance represents an opportunity to substantially accelerate Australia's progress towards closing the gap in life expectancy and achieving health equality for urban First Peoples* in greater Brisbane north by ensuring the whole of health care system is responsive to the health and wellbeing needs of First Peoples.

Who: The Alliance will be the first of its kind in Australia – bringing together two of the country's largest urban health services: Metro North Hospital and Health Service (MNHHS) and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH), encapsulating a whole of health care system approach. The Alliance will be established with the University of Queensland (UQ) as the principal world-class research partner and will be hosted by the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, Director of the UQ Poche Centre, facilitating national reach through the national Poche Network. The Alliance will be led by Professor James Ward, who will report to a Governance Committee comprised of partnering organisation's representatives, First Peoples Elders and community members.

How: The Alliance will lead world class research and evaluation and knowledge translation pursuits, alongside a focus on building research capabilities and capacity within the health care system. Through these activities, the Alliance will enable a health care system to deliver high value, person-centred healthcare and quality of life for First Peoples who access health care, and or who live within the region. The Alliance will operate with underlying principles of working at systems wide level with strength-based approaches, collaboration and coordination, cultural safety and self-determination.

Outcome: The Alliance will play a key role in supporting MNHHS and IUIH to provide evidence-based outcomes to enable integrated and culturally appropriate health care to First Peoples of Queensland across the primary, secondary and tertiary health care systems. Concurrently, the Alliance will contribute to evidence to inform urban-based health systems reforms for First Peoples nationally and internationally.

The Alliance will focus on three priority areas

1. Research, evaluation and knowledge translation

- Establishment and conduct of research programs spanning primary, secondary and tertiary health care systems, including leveraging external research funding with a primary outcome to improve health services, programs and policy related to urban First Peoples;
- Evaluation of current programs, policies and practices spanning primary and tertiary health care systems;
- Conduct of knowledge translation spanning research and health partners by implementing a knowledge translation program within the Alliance;
- Best-practice data governance principles to accurately identify population needs to inform clinical priority areas and measures;
- Co-designed models of care to improve cultural safety and patient experiences and reduce potentially preventable hospitalisations, discharges against medical advice and failures to attend; and
- Continuous quality improvement methodologies for the collection of high-quality data, monitoring and evaluation of services, programs and policies.

2. Workforce development

- Education and workforce development programs that provide opportunities for staff within MNHHS and IUIH to conduct culturally-safe research, evaluation and knowledge translation activities;
- Research activities focused on First Peoples (but not exclusively) working in the public health and primary health care systems on workforce development, career pathways and translation of evidence into practice;
- Facilitating health student placements from UQ faculties within the Alliance to achieve its vision and outcomes; and
- Providing training opportunities through research to improve cultural safety, patient experiences and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of MNHHS activities focused on First Peoples.

3. Engagement and partnerships

- Bringing together of MNHHS, IUIH and UQ that opens up collaboration with a broad network of stakeholders across South East Queensland and Australia.

New research

Deliverables and outputs

Through its unique collaborative model and co-design principles, the Urban First Peoples Health Research Alliance will address these gaps and support MNHHS to develop, implement and evaluate services, programs and policies and a culturally-safe workforce to close the gap in life expectancy of the First Peoples population that it services. Over time the Urban First Peoples Health Research Alliance will focus on the following activities:

- **Systems:** Establishment of systems to conduct and achieve the aspirations of the Alliance; such as databanks, staffing, protocols and strategic planning;
- **Community engagement:** Engage and embed the processes, protocols and priorities of the Brisbane Indigenous community with strategic vision and input from IUIH within the Alliance;
- **Research:** Establishment of a research agenda suited to the needs of our health partners by: conducting a scoping exercise to identify and prioritise research themes for the Alliance; successful leverage of commitment, resources and capability within research and research enabling organisations to sustain a research agenda; facilitate First People's Health Research through academic partners across UQ; conduct a comprehensive First People's Health Profile for the MNHHS area, which will then be broadened over time to cover the entire South East Queensland region. The health profile will bring together administrative data sets demographics, social determinants of health, morbidity and mortality data – separated across the life course – and combine primary health and hospital data to facilitate a whole of system approach. The Alliance will support MNHHS and IUIH to develop and refine specific Indigenous Health Key Performance Indicators and take an active role in driving a culture of best-practice in terms of Indigenous data governance and reporting, including evaluation of Indigenous-specific services and programs;
- **Evaluation:** Conduct commissioned evaluations of MNHHS services and IUIH interfacing services to improve efficacy, efficiency and operations;
- **Building capabilities:** Develop a program to enhance research capacity, culturally safe service delivery and workforce across the region aimed at developing and connecting a critical mass of Indigenous and non-Indigenous health researchers, clinicians and policy and program leaders;
- **Establishing partnerships:** The Alliance will work closely with the Institutes and services across the Herston Precinct, including STARS, the Infectious Disease Institute, HBI and the QLD Comprehensive Cancer Centre to provide the necessary data and evaluation of services to ensure successful outcomes for Indigenous people; and
- **Governance:** Establishment of an appropriate governance group to oversee the Alliance; responsible for the establishment, monitoring and strategic direction of the Alliance.

The Alliance Governance Committee

It is proposed that academic leadership of the Alliance be provided by Professor James Ward, Director of UQ's Poche Centre for Indigenous Health Research, and governance of the Alliance will align with the Aboriginal Terms of reference, as articulated in The IUIH Cultural Integrity investment framework, and be through a Governance Committee, with the following recommended membership:

- Mr Shaun Drummond, CE of MNHHS, as the representative for MNHHS and Chair of the Governance Committee
- Adjunct Professor Jackie Hanson, Operations, Executive Director for MNHHS
- Mr Adrian Carson, CEO of IUIH, as the representative for IUIH
- Professor Bruce Abernethy and Professor Geoff McColl, as representatives for UQ
- Professor James Ward, Director of the Urban First Peoples Health Alliance, as an ex officio member

The Alliance will be located within the UQ Poche Centre and comprise the following staffing profile

Director of Data and Evaluation (Academic level D1)
Epidemiologist/Statistician (Academic level C3)
Two Experienced Health Researchers (Level C)
Administrative Support

The Alliance will leverage significant in-kind support from UQ and IUIH and will grow capability and capacity through securing Higher Degree Research students and additional research staff through external funding sources (additional government funding, competitive research funding and commissioned projects).

Staff awards

UQ Staff Excellence Award 2020

Professor James Ward

Response to COVID 19

Dr Leanne Coombe, Dr Emma Crawford, Adjunct Associate Professor Alison Nelson, Associate Professor Jodie Copley, Condé Canuto, Associate Professor Jon Willis, Dr Anne Hill, Adjunct Associate Lecturer Renee Brown, Dr Lisa Fitzgerald, Professor Murray Phillips – the Faculties of Health and Behavioural Sciences and Medicine partnered with academic staff from the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit and IUIH, to develop and deliver culturally-safe and strengths-based curricula in medicine, nursing, allied health and public health university education programs.

Image: Renee Brown, Alison Nelson and Dr Leanne Coombe from UQ's Indigenous Health Education and Workforce Development team.

Staff conference presentations and events

- UQ NAIDOC Week Event Student Panel featuring Shea Spierings Lee Shepherd and Janet Stajic
- WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (GCM/NCD) NCD Voices in the Decade of Action – *The value of linking COVID-19 and NCDs to 'build back better'*. 18 June 2020. Prof James Ward and Dr Mark Wenitong
- Queensland Branch of the Public Health Association of Australia Inc. (PHAA) COVID-19 Responses 14 September 2020
- South Australian Vaccinology Conference keynote speaker, 5 November 2020
- Cairns Hospital Hinterland and Health Service Research and Innovation Symposium 2020, 13 November 2020
- RACP Online Congress First Nations Health session Invited speaker, 29 October 2020

Financials

2020 income

Research income	1,209,748
Donation income	900,000
Other income	15,387
Internal contributions	141,948
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Total income	2,267,083

2020 expenditure

Salaries	855,672
Non-salary expenditure	87,584
Collaborative projects	209,518
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Total expenditure	1,152,774

Our people

Board



**Professor Bruce Abernethy
(Chair)**

Executive Dean, UQ Faculty of
Health and Behavioural Sciences



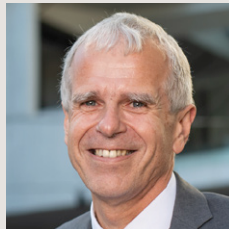
Professor Tom Calma AO

Co-Chair Reconciliation Australia



Mr Adrian Carson

IUIH Chief Executive Officer



Professor Geoff McColl

Executive Dean,
UQ Faculty of Medicine



**Professor Bronwyn
Fredericks**

UQ Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Indigenous Engagement)



Professor James Ward

Director, UQ Poche Centre



Professor Maher Gandhi

Executive Director and
Director of Clinical Research,
Mater Research Institute-UQ



Ms Britt Walker

Staff



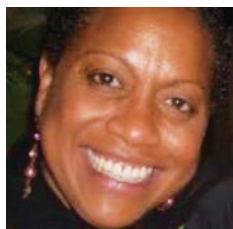
Professor James Ward

Director, UQ Poche Centre

Professor James Ward is a Pitjantjatjara and Narungga man, an infectious diseases epidemiologist and a national leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. He is currently the Director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Professor within the School of Public Health at the University of Queensland.

Holding various roles over the last 25 years in Aboriginal public health policy for both government and non-government organisations, in urban regional and remote communities he has built a national program of research in the epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases, with a particular focus on STIs, HIV and viral hepatitis in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Professor Ward has previously worked at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, Baker IDI in Alice Springs and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. He has served on numerous national and international committees including currently the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia, the Australian National Council on Alcohol and Drugs, the CDNA COVID-19 Working Group and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander COVID-19 Taskforce. He has over 120 publications and leads several large scale public health and infectious diseases studies.



Dr Carmen Parter

Senior Research Fellow

Carmen is a proud descendent of the Darumbal and Juru clans of the Birra Gubba Nation of Queensland with South Sea Islander heritage – Tanna Island of Vanuatu.

She has worked with and for communities, starting her professional career as a Registered Nurse, a Registered Midwife and a Woman's Health Nurse Practitioner that eventually led to working in policy areas of government. She has been a volunteer, a community worker, clinician, educator, researcher, policy advisor, project officer, manager and senior executive spanning a public servant career of over 30 years including Director Aboriginal Health Branch in NSW Health.

Carmen commenced an academic career at the Sydney Poche Centre for Indigenous Health from 2016. Commencing her PhD exploring how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture can be implemented and incorporated in a public health policy instrument like the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Implementation Plans. Her PhD has been submitted and presently under examination.

Carmen wears many hats including the inaugural Co-chair of the Indigenous Working Group of the World Federation of Public Health Association, a community member with Lowitja Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research, and an ambassador for the Mayi Kuwayu longitudinal study that is quantifying the association of cultural factors to the health and wellbeing outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

Carmen is a grandmother to three beautiful girls and Auntie to many. She lives on the beautiful Bundjalung country in Northern NSW just across the Queensland border with her partner.



Dr Leanne Coombe

Program Leader, Education and Research

Leanne is an academic specialising in Indigenous public health. She has a strong background as a health practitioner, executive manager in both the Australian Government and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and as an international public health consultant. In her current position at the University of Queensland (UQ) she is responsible for coordinating teaching and learning activities identified through the UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, and supporting Indigenous health curriculum development and delivery across the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. She has extensive experience teaching using a strengths-based approach as opposed to the deficit model, and supports other staff to utilise culturally-safe teaching practices across medicine, dentistry, nursing, allied health and public health programs at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level. She brings this knowledge and experience to her role as a member of the World Federation of Public Health Associations' Public Health Professionals' Education and Training Working Group, which has recently published the results of a curriculum mapping project benchmarked against the Global Charter for the Public's Health. Earlier this year, Leanne and the Indigenous Health Education and Workforce Development team from UQ and the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health were awarded the Universities Australia Award for Programs that Enhance Learning.



Jamie Hagan

Operations Manager

Jamie Hagan is a proud Bundjalung man and who was born in Rockhampton (supports the maroons).

Jamie has worked with remote, regional and urban Aboriginal communities with a focus on Education and Employment pathways and has a strong interest in Health. Jamie is currently studying the MBA at UQ, and aspires to continue to work alongside Aboriginal communities with a community first approach to improve Health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

As Operations Manager of the Poche Centre Jamie looks forward to supporting the new Strategic Plan to see Poche UQ become a leader in Urban Indigenous health and looks forward to working with our academics, professional staff and community partners.

Jamie has an obsession with basketball, NBA and the Indiana Pacers and also follows the West Tigers and is still celebrating the 2005 premiership.

Staff



Emily Hall

Learning Designer/ Research Assistant

Emily Hall is a proud Wiradjuri woman, who was raised on and attended school on Yugambah country. Emily has always had a passion for health through sport exercise and tying these aspects into achieving a higher quality of life.

Emily is a recent alumnus of UQ, graduating from a bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science. Throughout her degree, she has gained field experience working with multiple high-performance sporting organisations and hands-on internships. Emily has joined the Poche Centre in a role that will see her both assisting in research as well as designing learning activities delivered throughout the university, a role in which she is excited to extend her involvement in and aims to produce a positive impact regarding Indigenous affairs throughout tertiary education.

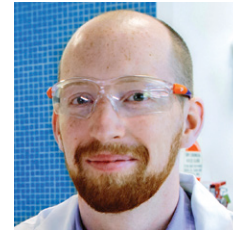


Cam Mulholland

Administrative Assistant

Camsia Mulholland is a Taepadhighi and Malu Kiwai woman from Far North Queensland, born on Thursday Island. Cam has lived on Thursday and Horn Island in the Torres Strait and Tresco Island in the Isles of Scilly, UK.

Cam has a Bachelor of Business Management from QUT and previously worked as Communication Assistant at the University of Queensland Press. As Administrative Assistant of the Poche Centre, Cam is thrilled to have an opportunity to support the Poche team to grow into the industry leader in Urban Indigenous Health.



Dr Alistair Mallard

BPhEd (Hons1), PhD

Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Attending the University of Otago in New Zealand, Alistair completed a two-year honours degree in Sport and Exercises Sciences concurrently with his undergraduate degree specialising in whey protein supplementation. Following this, with a passion for research, Alistair completed a PhD at the University of Queensland in the Human Movement and Nutrition Sciences School under the supervision of Professor Jeff Coombes in 2019. Alistair's program of research primarily involved exercise biochemistry and physiology for both healthy and chronic disease populations. He has substantial experience in designing and conducting large scale, multi-site, international clinical trials, including nutraceutical supplementation studies, genetic and protein work in muscle tissue and blood samples. Alistair's interests in research cross many different areas involved in both exercise and non-exercise disciplines.

Currently, Alistair's research is investigating biomarkers of disease, oxidative stress, redox health, blood flow restriction training, nutraceutical interventions, genetic markers of disease, muscle cell respiration, point of care device reliability, and the impact of exercise intensity on biomarkers of disease. Recently, he was invited to spend time as an invited researcher at the University of Freiburg, Germany to investigate collagen peptides and resistance exercise.

Alistair's latest position is as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Queensland. His area of focus is the effects of COVID-19 in national and international Indigenous communities as well as urban Indigenous health.

Students

In 2019, the UQ Poche Centre welcomed a further three higher degree by research candidates on Poche scholarships bringing the total number of Poche Scholars to nine.



Tracy Hardy
PhD Candidate

Project Title: Exploring the impact of government nutrition-related policies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in urban, regional and remote areas

Supervisory team: Professor Amanda Lee, Professor Bronwyn Fredericks and Dr Katherine Cullerton



Janet Stajic
PhD Candidate

Project Title: Recognition of the work and understanding concepts of “health” and “health care” of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners in urban South East Queensland

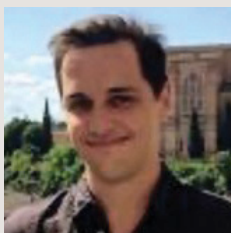
Supervisory team: A/Prof Deborah Askew, A/Prof Chelsea Bond, Dr Bryan Mukandi



Trudie Broderick
PhD Candidate

Project Title: A Place at the Table: Queer Indigenous Women in Australian Health Law and Policy

Supervisory team: Professor Heather Douglas and Dr Allison Fish

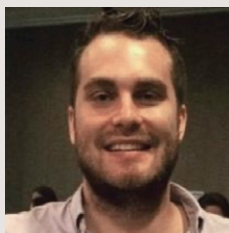


Max Brierty
PhD Candidate

Project Title: ‘Impossible to detain them without chains’: Unearthing the History of Chains in Australian Colonialism

Supervisory team: Dr Morgan Brigg and A/Prof John Willis

Language group: Wakka Wakka

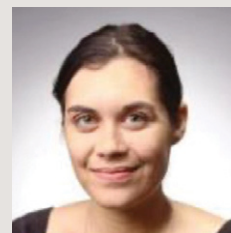


Mitch Rom
PhD Candidate

Project Title: Navigating the Cultural Interface: An insight into the experiences of academics working with pre-service teachers in Indigenous Australian Education

Supervisory team: A/Prof Liz Mackinlay, Dr Katelyn Barney and Prof Tracey Bunda

Language group: Quandamooka



Amy McQuie
PhD Candidate

Project Title: The Silence Everyone Talks About: Media representations of violence against Aboriginal women

Supervisory team: A/Prof Chelsea Bond and Dr Alissa Macoun

Language group: Darumbal



Kate Thompson
PhD Candidate

Project Title: The Factors Affecting the Availability and Sustainability of Kinship Placements

Supervisory team: Prof Karen Healy and Dr Jemma Venables

Language group: Gooreng Gooreng



Lee Shepard
PhD Candidate

Project Title: Sport for development programmes: Privatised aid and Indigenous sport in Australia

Supervisory team: Dr Steven Rynne and A/Prof Jon Willis

Language group: Djirribal



Shea Spierings
PhD Candidate

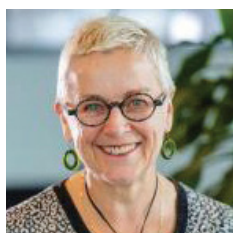
Project Title: Aboriginal perspectives on selfhood and criminalisation

Supervisory team: A/Prof Morgan Brigg and A/Prof Jon Willis

Language group: Ghangulu

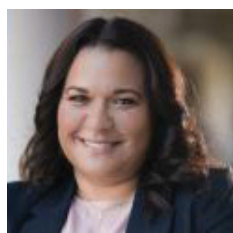
UQ Poche Centre affiliates

The Centre has continued to expand the network of expertise and depth in Indigenous health and wellbeing through the formal appointment of 15 Affiliates at the University, as well as Adjunct and Honorary Staff.



Associate Professor Deborah Askew

Conjoint Associate Professor in GP Primary Care Clinical Unit
Faculty of Medicine
Affiliate Associate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Associate Professor Chelsea Bond

Principal Research Fellow
School of Social Science
Affiliate Associate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Associate Professor Morgan Brigg

School of Political Science and International Studies
Affiliate Associate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Professor Luke Connelly

Professor of Health Economics, Centre for the Business and Economics of Health
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Dr Emma Crawford

Lecturer in Occupational Therapy
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Affiliate Lecturer
UQ Poche Centre



Dr Katherine Cullerton

Research Fellow
School of Public Health
Affiliate Lecturer
UQ Poche Centre



Professor Heather Douglas

Deputy Dean (Research)
TC Beirne School of Law
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Professor Bronwyn Fredericks

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement), Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement)
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Professor Charles Gilks

Head of School & HIV/STI Prof
Chair, School of Public Health
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Dr Anne Hill

Senior Lecturer in Speech
Pathology
School of Health and
Rehabilitation Sciences
Affiliate Senior Lecturer
UQ Poche Centre



Professor Amanda Lee

Professor in Public Health
Policy
School of Public Health
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Dr Bryan Mukandi

Lecturer
St Lucia Clinical Unit
Faculty of Medicine
Affiliate Lecturer
UQ Poche Centre



**Associate Professor
Gary Osmond**

ARC Future Fellow
School of Human Movement
and Nutrition Sciences
Affiliate Associate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



**Professor Murray
Phillips**

Professor
School of Human Movement
and Nutrition Sciences
Affiliate Professor
UQ Poche Centre



Dr Steven Rynne

Senior Lecturer in Sports
Coaching
School of Human Movement
and Nutrition Sciences
Affiliate Senior Lecturer
UQ Poche Centre

Publications

1. Koehn, K., Cassidy-Matthews, C., Pearce, M., Aspin, C., Pruden, H., **Ward, J.**, Hogg, R. and Nicholson, V., (2020). Rates and trends of HIV diagnoses among Indigenous peoples in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States from 2009 to 2017. *Journal of the International Aids Society*, 23, pp.125-125.
2. Lobo Roanna, D'Costa Belinda, Forbes Linda, **Ward James** (2020) *Young Deadly Free: impact evaluation of a sexual health youth peer education program in remote Australian communities*. *Sexual Health* 17, 397-404. <https://doi.org/10.1071/SH20069>
3. Gray RT, Callander D, Hocking JS, McGregor S, McManus H, Dyda A, Moreira C, Braat S, Hengel B, **Ward J**, Wilson DP, Donovan B, Kaldor JM, Guy RJ. *Population-level diagnosis and care cascade for chlamydia in Australia*. *Sex Transm Infect*. 2020 Mar;96(2):131-136. doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2018-053801. Epub 2019 Jun 5. PMID: 31167824.
4. Reilly R, Gendera S, Treloar C, Roe Y, Conigrave K, Azzopardi P, **Ward J**. *Identifying risk and protective factors, including culture and identity, for methamphetamine use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities: Relevance of the 'communities that care' model*. *Soc Sci Med*. 2020 Oct 17;266:113451. doi: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2020.113451. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33126097.
5. Bell S, Aggleton P, **Ward J**, Murray W, Silver B, Lockyer A, Ferguson T, Fairley CK, Whitley D, Ryder N, Donovan B, Guy R, Kaldor J, Maher L. *Young Aboriginal people's engagement with STI testing in the Northern Territory, Australia*. *BMC Public Health*. 2020 Apr 6;20(1):459. doi: 10.1186/s12889-020-08565-0. PMID: 32252712; PMCID: PMC7137447.
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7. Reilly R, Stephens J, Micklem J, Tufanaru C, Harfield S, Fisher I, Pearson O, **Ward J**. *Use and uptake of web-based therapeutic interventions amongst Indigenous populations in Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America and Canada: a scoping review*. *Syst Rev*. 2020 May 31;9(1):123. doi: 10.1186/s13643-020-01374-x. PMID: 32475342; PMCID: PMC7262751.
8. Bradley C, Hengel B, Crawford K, Elliott S, Donovan B, Mak DB, Nattabi B, Johnson D, Guy R, Fairley CK, Wand H, **Ward J**; and the Centre of Research Excellence in Aboriginal Sexual Health investigator group. *Establishment of a sentinel surveillance network for sexually transmissible infections and blood borne viruses in Aboriginal primary care services across Australia: the ATLAS project*. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2020 Aug 20;20(1):769. doi: 10.1186/s12913-020-05388-y. PMID: 32819360; PMCID: PMC7439717.
9. **Ward, James S.**, Hengel, Belinda, Ah Chee, Donna, Havnen, Olga and Boffa, John D. (2020). *Setting the record straight: sexually transmissible infections and sexual abuse in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities*. *Medical Journal of Australia*, doi:10.5694/mja2.50492.
10. Snijder, Mieke; Stapinski, Lexine, Lees, Briana; **Ward, James**; Conrod, Patricia; Mushquash, Christopher; Belone, Lorenda; Champion, Katrina; Chapman, Cath; Teesson, Maree and Newton, Nicola (2020) *Preventing substance use among indigenous adolescents in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand: a systematic review of the literature*. *Prevention Science*, 21 1: 65-85. doi:10.1007/s11121-019-01038-w
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12. Bell S; Ward J; Aggleton P; Murray W; Silver B; Lockyer A; Ferguson T; Fairley C K ; Whitley D; Ryder N; Donovan B; Guy R; Kaldor J; Maher L. *Young Aboriginal people's sexual health risk reduction strategies: a qualitative study in remote Australia* **Sexual health**. 2020, Vol.17 (4), p.303-310
13. Bell, Stephen; Aggleton, Peter; Lockyer, Andrew; Ferguson, Tellisa; Murray, Walbira; Silver, Bronwyn; Kaldor, John; Maher, Lisa; and **Ward, James**; on behalf of the MOST study investigators *Working with Aboriginal young people in sexual health research: a peer research methodology in remote Australia* *Qualitative health research*, 2020-10-03, p.1049732320961348-1049732320961348
14. Moodie N, **Ward J**, Dudgeon P, Adams K, Altman J, Casey D, Cripps K, Davis M, Derry K, Eades S, Faulkner S, Hunt J, Klein E, McDonnell S, Ring I, Sutherland S, Yap M. Roadmap to recovery: Reporting on a research taskforce supporting Indigenous responses to COVID-19 in Australia. **Aust J Soc Issues**. 2020 Sep 22;10.1002/ajs4.133. doi: 10.1002/ajs4.133. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33041398; PMCID: PMC7537170.
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