

# Conducting translational research with Aboriginal communities or people

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*The background artwork is called  
'Baalee'. It is inspired by the original  
artwork of Aboriginal artist Tanya Taylor  
and designed by the National Aboriginal  
Design Agency.*



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# Aboriginal Health Plan 2013 - 2023

1. Building trust through partnerships
2. **Implementing what works and building the evidence**
3. Ensuring integrated planning and service delivery
4. Strengthening the Aboriginal workforce
5. Providing culturally safe work environments and health services
6. Strengthening performance monitoring, management and accountability



# Mid-term evaluation objectives



## Mid-Term Evaluation of the NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH PLAN 2013-2023

**MAIN REPORT**  
May 2019



- Breadth and effectiveness
- Key achievements
- Areas that require additional focus
- **Full report available on line**



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# Results – Implementing what works and building the evidence

- Many evaluations are informing practice at a state-wide level
- Fewer evaluations on impacts of mainstream initiatives on health outcomes of Aboriginal people

## AH&MRC staff

- // Do more to share findings
- // Do more to acknowledge contributions of Aboriginal organisations

## LHD staff

- // Could do more to support high quality evaluations of local Aboriginal health programs

# Summary of recommendations

5. Strengthen the capability of researchers to conduct Aboriginal health research and evaluation in line with established principles, guidelines and cultural protocols (MoH)
6. Explore mechanisms for ensuring engagement of ACCHSs, the AH&MRC and Aboriginal communities in the design and implementation of state-wide Aboriginal health research and evaluation (NSW Health)
7. Identify and build opportunities to foster knowledge translation through improved engagement of both clinical and policy staff in ACCHSs and NSW Health in all phases of research and evaluation studies (NSW Health)



# Conducting translational research with Aboriginal communities or people



Conducting Translational  
Research in Aboriginal  
Communities or People

# 1. Conceptualising the research question

**Do Aboriginal people require a specific focus in my research project?**

- Follow NHMRC Guidelines
- Engage Aboriginal people at the outset of the study design process
- Consider community priorities – be prepared to modify proposals
- Prioritise employment and training opportunities



## 2. Seeking advice

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### **Consult with Aboriginal people and those experienced in Aboriginal research**

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services
- AH&MRC
- Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Aboriginal Health Units in LHDs/SHNs
- Local Aboriginal Land Councils



# 3. Complete an AHIS

**Apply an 'Aboriginal health lens' to your research by considering:**

- Health context for Aboriginal people
- Potential impact of your research on Aboriginal people
- Level and nature of engagement with Aboriginal people necessary

**Requirement for all full TRGS applications**



# 4. Engaging the community

**Engagement ensures Aboriginal people's community control and ownership of the research**

- Consider lead time required
- Modality of engagement – face-to-face is preferred
- Establish governance models
- Establish research agreements or letters of support from community organisations

# 5. Aboriginal expertise in research projects

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**Aboriginal people should be involved in research leadership and governance structures**

- Consider your own cultural competence
- Aboriginal supervisors/co-investigators
- Aboriginal research assistants
- Mentors or other knowledge holders
- Aboriginal health workers, liaison officers, cultural workers and managers

# 6. Data sovereignty and research integrity

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**Data is a cultural, strategic, and economic asset for Aboriginal peoples**

- Aboriginal data sovereignty – the right to decide how Aboriginal data may reflect Aboriginal people's priorities, values, cultures, worldviews and diversity
- Establish data governance arrangements – research data management plan
- Maintain research integrity

# 7. Ethical considerations

## Respect the shared values of Aboriginal people and communities

- Submit to AH&MRC Human Research Ethics Committee for ethics approval if:
  - Experience of Aboriginal people is an explicit focus
  - Data collection is explicitly directed at Aboriginal peoples
  - Aboriginal peoples as a group are to be examined in the results
  - Information impacts on one or more Aboriginal communities, or
  - Aboriginal health funds are a source of funding





# NH&MRC Six Core Values



# Quick Guide on Undertaking Appropriate Aboriginal Health Research

- For NSW Health employees
- Increase awareness of appropriate principles, approaches and processes
- Clarifies AH&MRC Ethics Committee review process and importance



Quick Guide on Undertaking  
Appropriate Aboriginal  
Health Research



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# For more information and questions

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