In celebrating the opening of ‘Kambri’, we, the Traditional Custodians of the ACT and Region, present to the Australian National University, this Kambri Map. It expresses of what Kambri represents to us - depicting the culture of our home country, special places and stories. May ‘Kambri’ become an enduring gift of mutual respect, learning and engagement, of which we are all the custodians.

Wally Bell, Ngunawal Elder    Carl Brown, Ngunnawal Elder    Matilda House, Ngambri Elder

11 February 2019
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Wally Bell, Ngunawal Elder; Carl Brown, Ngunnawal Elder; Matilda House, Ngambri Elder

11 February 2019
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

For tens of thousands of years, hundreds of generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived in Australia. They are the traditional owners and custodians of Australia. They have developed complex societies with many languages, cultural practices and religious and spiritual traditions which have been passed down from generation to generation.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy a close spiritual and cultural connection to their lands, waters, territories and natural resources. They have developed societies, laws, rules and cultural institutions that give validity to the special relationships peoples hold with both material and non-material aspects of the world.

The arrival of Europeans in Australia has led to two centuries of major impact, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples suffering erosion of their languages, cultures and ways of life. Connections to Country and kin were often damaged, sometimes irrevocably, and identities shattered. Through deliberate government policy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were isolated and marginalised within their own Country, resulting in significant economic and social disadvantage. Despite these losses, they have shown exceptional resilience and fortitude.

Current generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples bear these histories into institutions like ANU, which benefit enormously from the opportunity to learn from them. The past two centuries of dispossession and racism have profoundly impacted all aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life, including access to institutions like ANU. This is the legacy that ANU recognises, acknowledges and accepts.
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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the updated *ANU Indigenous Research Compendium – Your Goals, Our Strengths*.

The pages of this Compendium illustrate the vibrancy of our Indigenous research and showcase the depth of the work that has been undertaken at the ANU over the last decade.

Our commitment to partnering with Indigenous Australia in our research is central to our ambition to have a positive impact on the issues that are most important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

This year, the Indigenous Research Forum will serve as a platform for both our ‘Grand Challenges–Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Initiative’ as well as an Indigenous Elders Forum. Both will give our Indigenous community leaders and researchers an opportunity to discuss, debate and share our activities in the Indigenous space.

I look forward to the outcomes and ideas that come out of the Forum and our teams’ continued pursuit of meaningful and impactful research in partnership with our Indigenous communities.

*Professor Brian P. Schmidt, AC FAA FRS*  
Vice Chancellor and President
ANU College of Science
The ANU College of Science includes eight Research Schools and Centres, covering areas of academic endeavour in the physical, mathematical and life sciences.

The ANU College of Science is committed to conducting Indigenous research with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A synthesis of the College’s Indigenous research is outlined below.

Health and Wellbeing

A research program mapping problem gambling in the Northern Territory uses Geographic Information Systems to map gambling and relate it to police records of crime and anti-social behaviour. This work feeds into a larger project (run by the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research) that shows that pubs and clubs are important foci for remote communities, but that the provision of electronic gaming machines results in significant gambling-related harm to the communities. The project aims to address the issues by working with the Indigenous communities to reverse the trend. Each community develops their own educational material, and each project is a completely localised initiative.

**Impacts:** These projects have been driven by the communities themselves. The rock art dating project has had a lasting impact with the Rangers stating (on their website) that they are grateful for the collaboration that helped them with their rock art work because it has allowed them to develop an integrated management system for their rock art sites. The dating of the Kurnu-Barkindji human remains was done at the request of the community elders. In all these projects, Indigenous communities benefit from the knowledge gained about their history, a topic that is at the core of Indigenous cultural life.

Our staff and students conduct research projects in collaboration with Indigenous communities to raise awareness of the importance to the various local Indigenous communities of culturally significant species in both fresh and seawater ecosystems. This research highlights the connection between the availability and health of certain species of animals and the social and ecological health of Indigenous communities and country.

Such collaborations build trust and empower the Indigenous communities to assist in solving environmental issues that are key to their social wellbeing. Australia as a whole benefits from these collaborations by gaining Indigenous environmental management knowledge that helps restore or maintain ecosystem health.

Social and Cultural

Our staff and students are involved in multiple research projects that relate to Indigenous cultural and social issues and Indigenous history. One of our strengths is in dating historical and pre-historical events. There are projects on rock art dating in the Kimberley as well as in Gunbalanya, west Arnhem Land. The Gunbalaya project is run in collaboration with the Njanjna Rangers (Murruran, Manilikarr, Bunitj, Dunek and Mandjulngunj) and has resulted in greater knowledge of the rock art in various cultural heritage sites in Arnhem Land, and the urgent need for the development of effective management and protection of the rock art sites. There have also been several smaller, short-term projects involved in dating particular events in Indigenous history such as migration dates and settlement patterns. Radiocarbon analysis has been used to date human remains found by the Indigenous community of Kurnu-Barkindji in New South Wales; and the migration patterns of prehistoric populations through direct dating and isotopic tracking of their mobility patterns have been studied.

A linguistics project being conducted in collaboration with the University of Queensland aims to understand the forces shaping language change in the Indigenous community of the Gurindji people of the Northern Territory. We are currently collaborating with colleagues from the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific to develop an ARC proposal using 3-D mapping/visualisation to record and make accessible via virtual exploration, specific cultural sites that are threatened by climate change, sea level rise or other threatening processes. This has been in conjunction with the Djelk Rangers of Maningrida in Arnhem Land.

All three of these projects aim to have positive impacts on the Indigenous communities by providing information that will allow for more effective management of their cultural, social and historical assets.
Land and Water Management; Economic Development

Staff in the ANU College of Science run several programs relating to Indigenous land use, monitoring and management. One long-term program is run in close collaboration with the Yawuru people of Broome, Western Australia. This partnership focuses on developing practical uses of GIS to support Native Title decision making and is providing the community with strategic intelligence for post-native-title governance. The study is grounded in respectful co-research between the ANU and the Nyamba Buru Yawuru. The project was co-designed and the community is involved in problem definition, data collection and modelling of the data.

**Impact:** This project has a direct and long-term benefit to the Yawuru people and their Native Title application. We have an on-going land management and biodiversity collaboration with Indigenous Ranger groups in the Kimberley (Balanggarra Aboriginal Corporation and the Miriuwung and Gajerrong Corporation in Kununurra) and the Top End of northern Australia (The Yugul Mangi Rangers from Ngukkur and the Yirrkala Rangers from the Layna homelands) to improve knowledge of biodiversity across Indigenous Protected Areas.

The discovery and mapping of biodiversity value on Indigenous Protected Areas contributes to decision making by Indigenous communities on how and where to focus their ecological management. Where we have discovered unique species or genetic diversity, this can bolster their arguments for further funding of Ranger programs or support to protect key landscape features, which often also have high cultural value.

Education

Staff in the College run three educational programs in Indigenous communities, covering the fields of seismology, rock art dating, biodiversity and land management and mathematics. We have a long-term commitment and strong support from all three communities: the traditional owners of the Maniliakarn Clan Estate (and the associated Njanjna Ranger Group) in Gunbalanya in west Arnhem Land; the Kukatj, Gkuthaarn and Kurtijar peoples of Normanton in the Gulf Coast of northern Queensland; and the communities of Maralinga Tjarutja Lands in South Australia.

All three programs have a positive impact on the Indigenous communities as evidenced by the strong and ongoing community support. They all involve training, capacity building for Rangers and youth programs, and a two-way exchange of information (the melding of scientific and traditional knowledge). One of the main objectives of these programs is to promote science as a way of complimenting traditional knowledge, and to show students pathways to careers in science. Since the programs are co-designed (by ANU staff together with community leaders) and are run in close collaboration with the communities, they have the added benefit of helping to promote knowledge exchange and the development of a professional and respectful relationship between the communities and the ANU.

**Impact:** All three educational programs have been designed to have a long-term positive impact on Indigenous people. The evidence that they are doing this comes from the ongoing and strong community support and involvement in the teaching and organisation of the programs.

North Australia Strategies

Staff and students from the ANU College of Science do a great deal of research in North Australia. Of the twelve Indigenous-focused research programs outlined above, nine are based in northern Australia; from northern WA, the top end of the NT and the north of Queensland. The majority of the work is based in the Northern Territory, with a strong focus on Arnhem Land.

We also have research programs that are not specifically focused on Indigenous Australians but are run in northern Australia. We have a long-running (18 years) research program on animal behaviour and ecology based at NAPU, Darwin. We also have a long-running conservation program in Cape York, northern Queensland that has looked at the conservation of dugongs, Eclectus parrots and palm cockatoos. There is a long-running conservation program in Kakadu National Park that looks at fire, grazing, exotic species and climate change.
### RESEARCH PROJECTS

**ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society**

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<td><strong>Garuwanga: Forming a competent authority to protect Indigenous knowledge</strong></td>
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#### Integrating social-ecological values into aquatic spatial planning: A GIS approach

**Noble, Mae**

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<td>Noble, Mae</td>
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| Contributing researcher: Martin, Fiona |
| Lead organisation: The Australian National University |
| Participating organisation: New South Wales Department of Industries |
| Project start date: 2016 |
| Project end date: 2020 |
| Summary of findings: This PhD explores a range of applied spatial management options for marine conservation that could protect and enhance the social and ecological values and resilience of these ecosystems. Using ArcGIS software, Mae has been developing a spatial understanding of how stakeholders use and value these areas and how it relates to or conflicts with ecological assets. This research project is assessing Aboriginal uses and values of these marine environments alongside other stakeholders to get a better understanding of the potential differences and marginalisation that may be occurring. Working in New South Wales Port Stephens–Great Lakes Marine Park, which is one of the first contact zones of colonisation, is providing unique insights into potential mismatches of current management and areas of conflict with other stakeholders. |
| Impact: The intended outcome for this PhD is to work with the Worimi People in the Port Stephens–Great Lakes area to develop a spatial understanding of uses, values, social-ecological concerns, and preferences in order to propose a more culturally appropriate marine spatial management plan. This research may show ways that we can spatially design areas to support the sovereignty of Aboriginal People over these areas; and in the process cultivate the respect of the other stakeholders for the cultural importance of sea country to Aboriginal People. |

#### Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:

Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council; Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council.

| Funding source: Leslie Research Scholarship in Landscape Conservation and Ecology, Australian National University. |

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<tr>
<td>Marshall, Virginia</td>
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| Lead organisation: The Australian National University |
| Project start date: 2016 |
| Project end date: Ongoing |
| Summary of findings: This research will identify and critically analyse international water rights regimes to develop an Australian legal framework for Indigenous water rights in economic, cultural and tenure-based water use, and undertakes an international comparative analysis of selected nation states which have competing water use regimes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. The aim of this research is to respond to the future challenges of global and domestic water scarcity, of which particularly affect Indigenous communities in Australia. |

| Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage Grant. |
Impact: This research also aims to provide avenues to address the continuing gaps in Aboriginal health, wellbeing and wealth status through a water rights paradigm in the development of consistent legal and institutional frameworks which facilitate the incorporation of the First Peoples of Australia as a distinct, First Nation right within Australia's national water framework, the National Water Initiative.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Social and ecological relevance of Murray crayfish (Euastacus armatus) for freshwater conservation and management

Noble, Mae

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations; National Centre of Maori Environmental Research; Tipa and Associates Ltd; Australian National Cultural Flows Program; New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2015

Summary of findings: Mae’s master’s research project explored the importance of certain freshwater species in supporting social-ecological aspects in our societies. Using Murray crayfish (Euastacus armatus) as a case study, Mae used social and ecological research methods to assess how natural resource management could focus on protecting particular social-ecological keystone species that play significant roles in our societies and support ecosystem functions. The study included a wide range of stakeholders, in particular, Aboriginal Traditional Owners were interviewed to better understand the cultural significance of this species and preferred management approaches. The research project found that freshwater species management in colonised countries regularly overlooks and rarely supports the cultural relevance of these species. Through a unique opportunity at a conference, this outcome was further explored by publishing a co-authored review paper with eight Traditional Owners/Elders across North America, New Zealand, and Australia.

Impact: The master’s research project produced two publications that are intended to inform how the current western styles of freshwater species management have historically supported only one type of stakeholder in our societies (for example, non-Indigenous fishers) and rarely prioritised in western management. In this paper, suggestions are made about how the process of developing co-management strategies for these species could be used to support sovereignty and reconciliation. The New Zealand co-authors have used this paper to support recent grant applications and project proposals with the New Zealand government to start this process.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:
Paq’i nekek Mi’kmaq First Nations; Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation; Gamilaroi Traditional Owners.

Funding source: Joyce W. Vickery Research Award; Linnean Society of New South Wales; Barry Jonassen Research Award; Australian Society for Fish Biology.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Yawuru experimental environmental accounting

Doran, Bruce

Contributing researcher: Vardon, Michael

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: In an Australian context, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting does not currently include Indigenous cultural and natural resource values. Therefore, an overarching question for a workshop (run in April 2018) was to consider whether expanded environmental accounting can be used to measure the benefits of Native Title. Can it be applied in the Yawuru Cultural Framework of Mabu Liyan, Mabu Buru, Mabu Ngarrungunil?

Impact: In partnership with Nyamba Buru Yawuru, the Fenner School is developing some experimental accounts for Roebuck Plains Station. The accounts will be assessed as a decision support tool in 2019-2020.

Funding source: Fenner School Environmental Synthesis Program.
**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Yawuru geospatial partnership—GIS for native title**

*Doran, Bruce*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** This research involves GIS. Dr Doran started working with Nyamba Buru Yawuru (NBY) on mapping native title issues in 2011 when he coded elements of the Knowing our Community Demographic Survey. Since that time, he has worked closely with NBY staff to develop GIS approaches for different management priorities across the Yawuru estate. Students have worked collaboratively with the Yawuru Native Title Holders Aboriginal Corporation (Yawuru PBC) since this time.

**Impact:** To date, training and modelling has focused on mapping outputs for decision support across different parts of the Yawuru estate. Access to key services and cultural base-maps to assist with third party engagement are current priorities. The Yawuru PBC now use GIS for on-country cultural and land management and continue to refine and develop approaches.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** In Broome with Nyamba Buru Yawuru. Dr Doran has a long-term connection with the Yawuru people based on Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping.

**Funding source:** Funded through small consultancies and discretionary funds.

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**Research themes:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Governance; Social and Cultural

**Is there a role for storm water channels in a water sensitive world?**

*Harriden, Kate*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** The PhD project seeks to find interventions to retrofit storm water channels, so that they may contribute positively to water-sensitive water management practices. As part of this project, I am looking at Indigenous science (in Australia and Thailand) for potential in-channel interventions to be trialled. Further, Indigenous science is a potential source of river management, particularly in water-scarce climates, more broadly.

**Impact:** This research seeks to provide storm water management tools at scales and sites not normally considered within water sensitive urban design, and similar nature-based approaches to water management. Specifically, the impact of the Indigenous science component is expected to include:

- Identifying knowledge and practices ignored by western/modern science.
- Showcasing the depth of Indigenous water and river management knowledge.
- Highlighting the adaptability of Indigenous science in contemporary water management.
- Recording aspects of the river and water management knowledge of the Wiradjuri community.
- Retaining water management knowledge that has proven successful for Indigenous peoples.

**Funding source:** Aspi Baria Scholarship.

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**Research themes:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies

**Indigenous social-ecological systems in a changing climate: Supporting the persistence and sustainable adaptation of freshwater customary harvesting practices in coastal floodplain country (Northern Territory Australia)**

*Ligtermoet, Emma*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** Freshwater coastal systems and remote Indigenous communities in northern Australia face many ecological and social stressors. Climate change impacts will include a loss of coastal freshwater wetlands to saltwater inundation, with implications for the important connections Aboriginal people maintain with freshwater country, including through freshwater subsistence practices. This research sought the perspectives of local First Nations people on the major drivers of change and adaptive responses shaping freshwater customary harvesting practices, in lived experience. Research methods included semi-directed interviews, learning on country, cultural resource mapping, archival work and qualitative
modelling. Major ecological drivers included invasive species and the shifts in the saltwater crocodile population following commercial hunting, demonstrating examples of solastalgia and gendered experiences of environmental change. Major determinants of adaptive capacity included mobility on country, health and wellbeing, knowledge transmission and social networks. Experience with saltwater intrusion, facilitated by feral buffalo in Kakadu, was examined through the lens of social learning, as a historical analogue for future sea level rise.

Impact: This research contributed to addressing research deficits in the climate adaptation literature particularly for remote Indigenous communities of northern Australia. It contributed a case study to the international literature on local and Indigenous people’s perspectives of social-ecological change influencing freshwater resource use, the persistence of customary harvesting and the management of floodplain regions, in the context of climate change adaptation. The research drew on disciplines of human geography, environmental history and sustainability science, making a contribution to multidisciplinary approaches in addressing climate adaptation. Locally, this study contributed to the growing understanding and discussions of climate change. Research discussions on potential changes to phenology elicited Indigenous ecological knowledge contributing to the production of the Kunwinjku Seasonal Calendar, valued by Indigenous knowledge holders and the local community more broadly. This research aimed to support the inclusion of local Indigenous perspectives in climate adaptation planning for the floodplain regions of Kakadu National Park and neighbouring West Arnhem Land, and for marginal social-ecological systems more broadly.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Regions: Gunbalanya (West Arnhem Land) and Kakadu National Park. Engagement with Aboriginal rangers from Ardjumarrl; Njanjma ranger groups; and Kakadu National Park. Engagement with Injalak Art Centre (Gunbalanya, West Arnhem Land) staff and artists. One research output, the Kunwinjku seasonal calendar, is used by Gunbalanya School, local ranger groups and broaden Gunbalanya community.

Funding source: APA, Northern Territory Innovation Grant, Northern Territory history, CSIRO PhD top-up scholarship, CSIRO ORCA-NERP, NERP.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

(Re)mapping the mother: Building Yuin cultural-spatial models using fuzzy logic

Provost, Sam

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS)

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: Maps have the power to shape understandings and interactions between people and landscapes. The cadastral spatial model that underpins Western cartography fails to represent Aboriginal ontologies that centre around continuity, fluidity, and the contingency of relationships between people and Country. Fuzzy logic represents this fluidity through its capacity to assign values in the spaces between zero and one, as opposed to the binary Boolean logic associated with more traditional cartography. This paper will build on Sandra Potter’s work with the Yawuru community in Broome which has found that GIS mapping can empower Indigenous people to manage landscapes in line with their cultural relationships to Country (2016). This paper aims to apply GIS and fuzzy logic to produce maps that will improve management in the Aboriginal-owned and jointly-managed Gulaga National Park. Applying Indigenous methodologies, I will work with the Elders and Traditional Owners to develop a cultural-spatial model that is designed and owned by the community. This research will serve as a proof of concept for the development of Indigenous...
built and owned cultural datasets across Australia. This holds implications for Native Title claims by Aboriginal people in Australia and has relevance internationally for Indigenous peoples in land management.

Impact: A cutting-edge cartographic database built around Yuin ontologies and drawing on Indigenous data sovereignty has the capacity to empower traditional owners to further assert their rights through demonstrating the importance of cultural spatial relationships in a way that may better interface with the Western lens. If meaningful relationships and genuine mutual understanding are the foci of research in the cultural mapping space, real gains can arguably be made in the pursuit of sustainable development, self-determination and (re)conciliation.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Yuin people; Wallaga Lake community; Katungul Aboriginal Medical Service.

Funding source: JCS HDR Indigenous Student fund.

Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: This study is an interdisciplinary collaboration between biologists, linguists and members of an Indigenous community. Led by Felicity Meakins (University of Queensland), we are adapting analytical tools developed in evolutionary biology to study the forces shaping language change in the Gurindji community. This study focuses on the rapid birth of a new language in Australia, Gurindji Kriol, from the admixture of Gurindji (Pama-Nyungan language family) and Kriol. We have a unique database, constructed by Meakins and co-workers, including members of the community. We show that the adoption of variants into Gurindji Kriol was not random but biased towards Kriol variants and Innovations. However, contrary to common belief, this bias is not explained by simplification, because there is no preferential adoption of less complex variants into the contact language. We also show that individuals’ language is shaped by factors such as exposure to Gurindji and number of years in formal (English language) education.

Impact: Understanding of the forces shaping language change in an Indigenous community.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Collaboration with community members (including co-authorship on research publication).

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Biodiversity discovery in northern Australia

Moritz, Craig

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Various Ranger groups; NLC, KLC, and state conservation agencies as appropriate. Also, various state museums.

Project start date: 2012

Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Fauna assessment in Indigenous Protected Areas have revealed new species and biodiversity hotspots. New species include several reptiles (geckos and skinks) and a rock wallaby. Newly discovered hotspots include E Arnhem islands (Marthakal) and south Kimberley limestones (Bunuba; near Fitzroy Crossing). Our work also confirms highly unique biodiversity in the Arnhem Plateau and west Kimberley. Other key areas with high priority for conservation are around Kununurra (Miniwung-Gajerong). Training is provided to Rangers and youth; engagement with Traditional Owners.

Impact: Local engagement and both-ways learning; results returned to communities to support ongoing efforts to support Ranger groups and for planning of future activities.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Local engagement with Ranger groups in Arnhem Land and Kimberley.
Research theme: Education

Both-ways learning and research on biodiversity in remote Arnhem Land communities
Moritz, Craig; Backwell, Patricia; Bromham, Lindell

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA); Charles Darwin University; selected ranger groups.

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: In consultation with Njanjma Rangers to plan scope and objectives of project.

Impact: Training and capacity building for rangers and youth in remote communities; exposure of Australian National University students to Indigenous Land Management and Traditional ecological knowledge.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Njanjma Rangers, Gunbalanya, Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

Funding source: National Institutes Grant.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

An amino acid approach to radiocarbon dating degraded bones
Wood, Rachael

Contribution researcher: Flood, Josephine
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Melbourne Museum

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Radiocarbon dates form the basis of many archaeological chronologies that span the last 50,000 years. This project tested whether a method involving the chemical ninhydrin which selects amino acids, the building blocks of proteins, can recover sufficient carbon from extremely degraded protein in Australian bones for radiocarbon dating.

Impact: Acted as a proof of concept study.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Maralinga Tjarutja and ALP lands.

Funding source: Ian Potter Foundation.

Anu Research School of Earth Sciences

Research theme: Social and Cultural

A reliable absolute chronology for the Aboriginal rock art in the Kimberley, Western Australia (transferred to University of Wollongong)
Aubert, Maxime

Contribution researcher: O’Connor, Susan
Lead organisation: University of Wollongong
Participating organisation: Australian National University

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings: Rock art is one of the most intimate and potentially informative archives of the past and the Kimberley region of Western Australia has one of the greatest concentrations in the world. This archive is of international importance and of particular concern to local Aboriginal people. Given the number and variety of Kimberley rock art styles, the possible time-depth they represent, their potential association with occupation deposits and the amount of ethnographic information available, the region is an ideal place to apply new methods for studying rock art and to develop new techniques for determining its age. This project employs uranium series (U-series) methods to date mineral coatings (calcite coatings and amorphous silica skins) that have naturally formed in direct association with rock art.

Impact: Provide, for the first time, a robust chronology for a number of Australian rock art traditions. Integrate the chronology of art traditions with existing regional archaeological and palaeoclimatic information, including the arrival of the first humans, their settlement and subsistence patterns and climatic events such as sea level and faunal changes that have influenced human lifeways. Provide a framework for sustainable management and conservation strategies.

Funding source: Fund received from Australian Research Council.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Radiocarbon Dating
Fallon, Stewart; Wood, Rachel

Lead organisation: Various
Participating organisation: Various
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: We are involved in radiocarbon dating of Australian archaeological sites. We are working with field archaeologists, Indigenous communities and occasionally the
AFP (where isolated skeletal remains are found and age of death needs to be determined). Currently, we accept the samples into the laboratories and provide the data. In the future, for some of the projects we are more closely involved with (including through the CABAH Center of Excellence), we will encourage communities to visit and help in the preparation of their samples for dating. Sample types range from charcoal and faunal bones to human bone and hair, and samples can be just a few 100 years to 50,000 years old.

Impact: Research impact varies between projects. The majority are written up in academic articles by our collaborators and communicated back to the communities involved. We are involved in the publication of most, and lead a few (normally where there is some radiocarbon methodological issue). They range from lower impact journals (for example, Australian Archaeology) to high impact articles (Scientific reports, PLOS). In some cases, there is substantial media interest (for example, Catalyst filmed work on dating an individual found in northern New South Wales).

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Often this is led by our collaborators. In the future we aim to encourage communities to visit the laboratory and help in preparation of their samples.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

From ancient to modern environments in south eastern Australia: evidence from the unique
Pillans, Bradley

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Geoscience Australia; University of Wollongong; Tobiway Crushing Pty Ltd; University of Sydney; Currandooley Pty Ltd; Grantham Park Holdings Pty Ltd.
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2019
Summary of findings: Lake George is an outstanding natural archive—it contains the longest continuous sedimentary record of any Australian lake and has a long, unresolved human occupation history. It also supplies 80 per cent of sand used in the Canberra region construction industry. This multidisciplinary study will determine the sedimentary, vegetation, climatic, hydrological, tectonic and archaeological history of the area, including application of cutting-edge dating methods.
Impact: Increased knowledge of landscape evolution and human history in eastern Australia from improved understanding of the responses of Lake George to past and future climate change and human impact.
Funding source: Australian Research Council.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

MV18 Grinding Grooves
Pillans, Bradley

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Australian Capital Territory Heritage Council.
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012
Summary of findings: Grinding grooves are where Aboriginal people shaped and sharpened stone axes by grinding them against an outcrop of stone. This grinding action left shallow, oval-shaped grooves indented into the surface of the outcrop. The grooves are often in clusters of two or more and range from 50 to nearly 80 mm in width. They can be over 200 mm in length and 100 mm deep. Regardless of the ability of these sites to provide archaeological knowledge, they are an evocative monument to past Aboriginal people.
Impact: The site’s existence demonstrates past knowledge of the land and uptake of technological processes. They provide a link between the current generation of Aboriginal people and their ancestors, which unequivocally demonstrates that their ancestors sat in a place and spent time creating tools crucial to their survival.
Funding source: Australian Capital Territory Land Development Agency.

Research theme: Education

Australian seismometers in Schools
Pukatja–Education and outreach and continental earth imaging APY lands
Salmon, Michelle

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: AuScope, Adelaide University; OPM Consulting.
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: This education outreach project brings interactive science to rural communities. Indigenous perspectives on the changing landforms of Australia and Indigenous experience with earthquakes, and aims to provide a community seismic monitor.
Impact: Provide a way for the APY Lands communities to monitor seismic activity, provide a science education tool.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Maralinga Tjarutja and ALP lands.
Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Landscape archaeology at Lake Mungo
McClusky, Simon

Lead organisation: LaTrobe University
Participating organisation: Australian National University; La Trobe University; University of Wollongong.

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: The southern tip of the Mungo lunette (crescent shaped dune) is an icon of Australia’s Indigenous past. Despite its international significance, the archaeological traces have disintegrated as the lunette has eroded over the past 30 years. In this interdisciplinary project, we will collaborate with Elders from the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area to reconstruct the history of environmental changes and the life-ways of the first humans to settle in this region. Our focus will be on stitching together the patchwork of archaeological traces scattered through space and time, and on measuring processes of modern sediment erosion and deposition to develop management strategies for the future protection of this unique archive of Australia’s past.

Impact: Lake Mungo preserves Australia’s most important archaeological sites and is the jewel of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. These sites contain some of the earliest evidence for human settlement of the continent and are of immense cultural significance to all Australians. Recording and protecting these iconic traces of Indigenous heritage will be an educational asset, provide an economic stimulus for cultural tourism and improve our understanding of this fragile, outback landscape.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Education

Indigenous mathematical transforms
Ball, Rowena

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Wayfaring by a star map was achieved using a mathematical transform and its inverse, analogous to the Fourier transform.

Impact: Likely to stimulate further research on Indigenous mathematics.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Lecture on this research to second-year maths Fourier Transform students. Speech at Parliament House AMT Maths & Science Olympiads event.
Research themes: Social and Cultural; Education

**STEM the gap: Science belongs to us mob, too**

**Ball, Rowena**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2015  
**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** In Australia, Indigenous people are under-represented in science education and research and in STEM (Science Technology Mathematics and Engineering) related careers, to an extent that could amount to a violation of human rights under Articles 27 and 15. This article deconstructs some of the myths and attitudes that may contribute to the perpetuation of this situation and outline a way forward.

**Impact:** This research examined and deconstructed some assertions about the relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with STEM, and found that:

- STEM education and research are all people’s business, not whitefeller business.
- The history and development of STEM are not all white Western.
- STEM research is increasingly done by non-Westerners.
- Indigenous people are talented in these areas.
SYNOPSIS

All research undertaken in the ANU College of Health and Medicine (CHM) is defined by the central tenet of wellbeing, and Indigenous research is no different.

The vast majority of research conducted in the College that impacts upon Indigenous people, communities or their livelihoods crosses at least one of the thematic boundaries provided. With this in mind, this synthesis document showcases specific research area strengths, listing relevant themes at the end of each section. The College possesses diverse and rich experience in establishing national-scale, longitudinal studies that pull together data in a way that positively and effectively influences policy by filling ‘evidence gaps’ in regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. One of the key similarities in all of the studies undertaken by the College is the holistic manner of the investigation. Another is the fact that research questions are formulated in consultation with communities, making them relevant not only to the researchers, but also to the communities involved.

Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Researchers in the College lead a large-scale, national longitudinal study called ‘Mayi Kuwayu’, which seeks to fill gaps in the scientific evidence about the maintenance of culture to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The study highlights that ‘culture’ is composed of many elements, including language, dance, knowledge about how to live on Country, being on and caring for Country, fire rituals, kinship, community ties and spirituality. A majority of the research group members are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and the group has consulted with community groups across Australia to develop relevant questions that clarify the connection between immersion in or active engagement with traditional culture and wellbeing.

Implications: This study will create a national-scale evidence base that highlights the positive connection between culture and wellbeing, and that can be used to inform the development of policies and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A new ethnographic research project called RIFTk is underway investigating the utilisation of traditional food knowledge and practice. The project aims to shed light on the expected positive effects on the physical, social and mental wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.

Implications: It is expected that this project will demonstrate that retaining, passing on and incorporating traditional food knowledge in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can help to combat physical health problems such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, it will assist in supporting local and wider recognition and valuing of traditional practices.

Child and Adolescent Health

The College excels in research that examines various factors affecting the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adolescents. ANU College of Health and Medicine researchers hold key roles in the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children that commenced in 2008 as an initiative of the Australian Federal Government and are conducting the nation’s largest long-term study of urban Aboriginal children’s wellbeing – the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH).

Other research projects have included:

> A study that clarified the problem of being overweight/obesity commencing in very early childhood in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations. Possible lifestyle changes that could improve this measure were revealed.

> A study of injury prevalence and environmental factors amongst urban Aboriginal children. This study identified that there is a high incidence of injury amongst this cohort, and that good caregiver health and wellbeing was a significant factor in preventing injuries.

Implications: The depth and breadth of research conducted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child health and wellbeing, including the emphasis on national-scale studies that fill in evidence gaps, allows the College to positively influence the creation of government policies and programs that effectively target barriers to good health. Furthermore, the studies highlight areas of strength in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that should be championed and may require further funding.
Another strength of the College is in evaluating and quantifying the risk of, or factors influencing, diseases common to the general population, and how those diseases present specifically in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Research projects include:

Research that evaluated the risk of cardiovascular disease demonstrated that general Australian guidelines are not adequate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, leading to extensive under-treatment across the population and particularly for people under the age of 35.

**Impact:** A number of national policy and practice initiatives, and state-level programs, have been implemented to address the shortcomings identified by this research.

Researchers in the College have conducted work assessing the prevalence of smoking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and have demonstrated that there has been a large reduction in numbers of smokers since the early 2000s. Nevertheless, the research showed that the stage of the smoking epidemic is such that a continuation of current stop-smoking measures, combined with further Indigenous-specific tobacco reduction initiatives, are required to maintain the downward trend.

**Impact:** The research has created an evidence base that can inform tobacco reduction policies and initiatives, and provide a baseline from which future assessments can be conducted. This will ensure continuing positive impacts on the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians through further reductions in levels of smoking.

**Education**

Education through research about matters that affect the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people and communities is provided to College students. The Indigenous Health Stream (IHS) within the Medical School gives a small cohort of committed Indigenous and non-Indigenous students the opportunity to undertake targeted research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing. The research topics are broad-ranging and have included: climate change and its effect on the wellbeing of Indigenous people on country; specific health issues such as transmission of scabies; and issues of social identity and self-image. In many cases students work in collaboration with Indigenous communities to advance research projects.

**Impact:** The vision of the IHS is to prepare a medical workforce skilled in delivering Indigenous health. This works towards closing the gap between the health of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The IHS research projects have previously translated into obtaining funding and medical equipment for local Aboriginal Medical Services and local hospitals.

**National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG)**

The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) is a body within the Australian National University established by the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics Statute 2016 that works with Indigenous communities under Indigenous governance to create an enduring source of genomic information to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Centre was established to manage a collection of biological samples that were obtained from Indigenous Australians between the 1960s to the 1990s for use in medical research. The collection now also includes the results of NCIG’s more recent work, including newly collected samples and records, interviews with participants and, most importantly, genome sequence data from the original sample donors and newly recruited participants. Samples, records and data continue to be added to the collection to increase its value and utility over time.

Under the Statute, the ANU Council delegates the custodianship of the collection to the Board. As custodian, the Board is responsible for the management and use of the Collection, and for the appropriate addition of material to the Collection in accordance with international standards. The Board oversees the operations of the Centre, approves policies related to the Collection and engagement with Indigenous communities, provides advice to the ANU Council and Vice Chancellor about the collection, promotes the collection as a national and international resource, seeks funding for the Centre, and promotes the use of the Collection.

By ensuring that the interests of Indigenous communities are paramount, the Board provides an assurance to participants and their communities that, in participating in NCIG, they will be treated respectfully. The enthusiasm with which communities are participating in NCIG, when many other research initiatives struggle to achieve effective community participation, is powerful evidence that this approach works. Over 500 people have consented to participate; over 150 genomes have been sequenced; and preliminary data analysis is well underway.

A particularly important achievement has been the creation of two draft de novo long read genome assemblies from Indigenous participants, with a third in progress. These genome assemblies will greatly enhance the quality and accuracy of genome sequence data. The Centre has developed a strong network of collaborating institutions and researchers, and raised funds to support its work. Importantly, it is working with other research groups to obtain consent from their participants to deposit genomic data in the NCIG collection. Fostering these relationships is an essential part of the long-term approach that the Centre has adopted.

There is a strong commitment by individual researchers, their Schools and the College to continue the positive, respectful and professional relationships we have developed with Indigenous communities and their leaders.

The working relationships we have forged with communities are based on personal engagement and mutual trust. An essential component of this relationship is a commitment to long-term, sustained engagement.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

ANU Medical School

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Student perceptions of prejudice in using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status as a tool in medical diagnosis

Knight, Winifred

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2019
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: The project will examine student perceptions of prejudice in using Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status as a tool in medical diagnosis. We will be giving first and second-year students questionnaires to fill out with a doctor's hypothetical diagnosis either using or not using status to form the diagnosis.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Factors associated with sugar-sweetened beverage consumption in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants

Long, Johanna

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018

Summary of findings: The objective is to quantify the associations between infant intake of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) and a range of socio-demographic factors, measures of life circumstances, and health/wellbeing factors in a cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. It was examined whether each exposure was related to infant SSB consumption using multilevel Poisson models (robust variance) across eleven Australian diverse settings. Subjects included Australian Indigenous infants and their caregivers (N 933) participating in the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children.

Results found that over half (51.6 per cent, n 481/933) of caregivers reported their infant had consumed SSB. Infant SSB consumption was significantly associated with: child age group, remoteness, mother's age at child's birth, caregiver employment status, family financial strain, family concern about money, humbugging in the last year, home visits from a health professional after birth, maternal smoking during pregnancy, current caregiver smoking status, caregiver general health and unmet needs for child to see a doctor.

Consistent with findings from other studies, this study provides evidence that SSB consumption is common among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from the first year of life. Given the lack of nutritional benefit of SSBs, this is an important target for intervention to promote healthy nutrition across the life course. The present study suggests factors influencing infant SSB consumption are complex and intrinsically tied to the circumstances of their family and broader community. Observed patterns of behaviour which were protective from high SSB consumption found in this study could be used to inform future policy in this area.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing

Food Trade/Human Rights

Mahesh, Rewena

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This paper sought to understand the contemporary patterns of population nutrition consumption and patterns of dietary inequalities between and within countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Results showed that there is a differential pattern of consumption between and within countries, with countries in the higher income bracket and higher income households within countries moving towards a 'convergence consumption' with higher consumption of animal products and sugary products while those in lower income households spend a significant proportion on food out of total household expenditure and on staple foods.

Impact: The convergence consumption pattern has implications for the double burden of malnutrition and dietary inequalities in the Asia Pacific region and this will remain a key challenge for policy makers to ensure that policies ensure food security for all.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Gynaecology; Sexual Health; Mental Health

McArthur, Hillary

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: The objective of this study was to investigate the strengths of current adolescent sexual health programs and the barriers to accessing high-quality sexual and reproductive health information. The cross-sectional pilot study
was conducted in the Australian Capital Territory between April and June of 2017. Five registered nurses and two midwives, referred to collectively as Nurses and Midwives (NAM) in this study, who provide care for adolescents across the Canberra region in a primary care setting. Main outcome measures included general health concerns, barriers to sexual health care for both the general population and Indigenous Australians, contraception choices offered, and contraception programs for post-pregnancy.

Results found that mental illness, as a general health concern, was a significant finding with 71.4 per cent of NAM rating it in the major concern category. The barriers to sexual health care placed in the highest priority category were lack of transport and expense by 100% of NAM. For Indigenous Australians, only 28.6% of NAM stated they were aware of cultural barriers but lack of trust with healthcare workers was a common issue. Most (42.9 per cent) of NAM indicated they provided varied contraception.

Impact: In this cohort, many general health concerns and barriers are consistently present throughout Indigenous and non-Indigenous adolescents. Many of these can be overcome with Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), improved awareness of parent resources and better use of validated screening tools. For pregnant adolescents, increased availability and referral to specifically designed programs are needed.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Characteristics of evaluations of Indigenous maternal and child health interventions, and variation by remoteness

McMahon, Kathryn

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: This study explored the characteristics of published evaluations of maternal and child health interventions for Indigenous Australians and to examine variations between remote, urban/regional, and nationwide/statewide evaluations. Thirty-three evaluation studies focused on maternal and child health interventions were identified. Evaluation of Indigenous Australian maternal and child health interventions revealed a large disparity between where the Indigenous Australian population resides and where peer reviewed evaluations of maternal and child health interventions are conducted. Non-experimental methods are commonly used to evaluate maternal and child health interventions and the majority of researchers plan their evaluations before interventions have commenced. Urban and regional studies were most likely to use ACCHOs to deliver and evaluate interventions, demonstrating their perceived importance in these areas. Despite this, remote studies still managed to involve far greater numbers of participants in both their interventions and evaluations.

Impact: To have a greater understanding of what works to improve maternal and child health among Indigenous people we need rigorous intervention evaluations that conducted in varied settings and locations across Australia.
juice also analysed independently) and dental caries amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants. Descriptive analyses were performed on data from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) which recruits participants from across Australia. Findings suggest that dental caries among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in this sample is associated with previous SSB consumption, current SSB intake, and age.

Impact: A future multivariate model investigating the direct relationship between SSB consumption and carcinogenesis in this sample would need to control for both age and current SSB intake, but will not necessarily need to include sex, remoteness nor toothbrushing frequency. Quantification of these associations may inform strength-based approaches to better support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Investigate the strengths of current adolescent sexual health programs and the barriers to accessing high quality sexual and reproductive health information

Pollard, Stephanie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018

Summary of findings: The objective of this study is to investigate the strengths of current adolescent sexual health programs and the barriers to accessing high-quality sexual and reproductive health information. The cross-sectional pilot study was conducted in the Australian Capital Territory between April and June of 2018. Five registered nurses and two midwives, referred to collectively as Nurses and Midwives (NAM) in this study, who provide care for adolescents across the Canberra region in a primary care setting.

Main outcome measures included general health concerns, barriers to sexual health care for both the general population and Indigenous Australians, contraception choices offered, and contraception programs for post-pregnancy. Results found that mental illness, as a general health concern, was a significant finding with 71.4 per cent of NAM rating it in the major concern category. The barriers to sexual health care placed in the highest priority category were lack of transport and expense by 100 per cent of NAM. For Indigenous Australians, only 28.6 per cent of NAM stated they were aware of cultural barriers but lack of trust with healthcare workers was a common issue.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Barriers to the continuum of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with otitis media and sequelae

Quinn, Lucas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The objective of this study was to assess the referral process for the sequelae of otitis media in a large Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and to describe where there was disruption in the continuum of care. A retrospective audit of the primary health care records was conducted. Setting: Primary health care in Yarrabah, North Queensland.
Participants included 141 children (median age 7.2 years), who were represented by 353 episodes of care. Main outcome measures: Data was collected on diagnoses, referrals to audiology and ear nose and throat (ENT) specialists, time taken to appointments, and missed appointments.

Results found that for audiology, 27.6 per cent of clinic referrals led to appointments. 70.3 per cent of audiology appointments came from sources other than the clinic. 44.7 per cent of these appointments were within the recommended three months. Of the 94 ENT referrals, 69 eventuated in booked appointments documented by Gurriny Yealamucka. Of these 69 booked appointments, 26 were attended. It was found that low attendance rates and long waiting times for appointments are likely contributors to poor outcomes for children with otitis media and sequelae in our study population.

Impact: It was found that low attendance rates and long waiting times for appointments are likely contributors to poor outcomes for children with otitis media and sequelae in our study population.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:
Setting: Primary health care in Yarrabah, North Queensland.

Impact:

Orthopaedic engagement with the Aboriginal liaison officers at Canberra Hospital: A qualitative study
Slockee, Harrison

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: At The Canberra Hospital (TCH) the Aboriginal Liaison Officer (ALO) role was introduced in 1994. ALOs provide services and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and their families. The ALO reports low levels of engagement with the orthopaedic unit despite being one of the busiest clinical units at TCH. Qualitative research was conducted to investigate this low level of engagement and to better understand the attitudes of staff to the ALO.

Results found that participants believed that communication was the ALO’s primary role. Procedural differences between the orthopaedic department and the ALO was an apparent theme. The ALO’s operating hours had restricted engagement with orthopaedics on occasion. Knowledge was another common theme that emerged during analysis of the interviews.

Impact: Enablers included the ALO’s proactive approach to identifying patients. Among the enablers was how easy orthopaedic staff found contacting the ALO. Education about the ALO and their provided services may be useful to address issues identified by this research. Sharing of stories of cases where the ALO has had a very positive involvement may solidify the role that the ALO plays in the patient journey.
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<th>Research theme: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Food security and climate change in the Canadian north</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reclaiming Indigenous Food Traditions and knowledges (RIFTk)</strong></td>
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<td>Sutherland, Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contributing researchers:</strong> Bobiwash, Kyle; Stevenson, Tim; King, Alex; King, Malcolm.</td>
<td><strong>Lead organisation:</strong> The Australian National University and First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba.</td>
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<td><strong>Lead organisation:</strong> University of Manitoba; University of Saskatchewan; Australian National University; First Nation Health; Social Secretariat Manitoba.</td>
<td><strong>Participating organisations:</strong> Narooma; Orange; Brewarrina; Australian Capital Territory; Queenbeyan; Manitoba; Fox Lake; Nelson House; Grant Rapids; University of Manitoba; University of Calgary.</td>
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<td><strong>Contributing researchers:</strong> Bobiwash, Kyle; Stevenson, Tim; King, Alex; King, Malcolm.</td>
<td><strong>Project start date:</strong> Ongoing</td>
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<td><strong>Project start date:</strong> 2018</td>
<td><strong>Project end date:</strong> Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of findings:</strong> Revitalizing Indigenous Food Traditions and Knowledge (RIFTk): Examining traditional food practices and social emotional wellbeing.</td>
<td><strong>Summary of findings:</strong> This project is an ethnographic research project investigating the utilisation of traditional food knowledge and practice. Understanding traditional food knowledge, retained by Elders, that Young Adults have acquired within communities, within communities and how this is put into practice may prove to be a useful mode to positively affect not only physical health outcomes (Obesity and Type2 Diabetes) but also social and emotional wellbeing of individuals and communities.</td>
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<td><strong>Impact:</strong> Ongoing—positive cultural and health outcomes expected.</td>
<td><strong>Impact:</strong> It is expected that this project will identify that retaining, passing-on and incorporating traditional food knowledge in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities can help to combat physical health problems such as obesity and type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, it will assist in supporting local and wider recognition and valuing of traditional practices.</td>
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<td><strong>Community partnerships:</strong> Collaboration with Canadian Indigenous population.</td>
<td><strong>Funding source:</strong> Canadian Institute Health Research.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indigenous Knowledge Development Centres with a Focus on Wellness – miyo-pimâtisiwin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sutherland, Stewart</td>
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<td><strong>Contributing researchers:</strong> King Malcolm; King, Malcolm; Danielle, Stewart; Smith, Walter; Stewart, Kehinde; Priyadarshini, Shah; Subhashini, Iyer.</td>
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<td><strong>Lead organisation:</strong> University of Saskatchewan; Indigenous Wellness Centre Canada; Australian National University.</td>
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<td><strong>Participating organisation:</strong> Australian National University</td>
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<td><strong>Project start date:</strong> 2018</td>
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<td><strong>Summary of findings:</strong> The goal is to establish an Indigenous Wellness Environment Research Network. The proposed focus of this network is on wellness-promoting, maintaining, and regaining wellness in First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples.</td>
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<td><strong>Impact:</strong> Indigenous approaches to prevention, and upstream cultural approaches to obtaining and maintaining good health have both population level and health system benefits over the longer term.</td>
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<td><strong>Funding source:</strong> Canadian Institute Health Research.</td>
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<td><strong>Participating organisation:</strong> Indigenous Wellness Centre Canada</td>
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A preliminary Service Mapping Protocol was developed and subsequently modified in response to application in a NSW community. The updated protocol was then applied to a second community, in the Northern Territory, resulting in further refinements to give rise to the final Service Mapping Protocol.

The final Service Mapping Protocol is presented in a paper. The protocol describes a three-step process for service mapping. The first step is to define inclusion criteria for services to be included in the community service inventory. The second step is to conduct a systematic online search for services, while step three involves contacting local service providers to clarify information obtained online. Testing of the Service Mapping Protocol in the first community resulted in generation of a service inventory containing 26 services, while 76 services were included for the second community.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Indigenous wellbeing and climate change on Country: Ltyentye Apurte community member’s perspectives
Thomson, Madeline

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2016
Summary of findings: This study built upon the 2014 CSIRO research conducted in the Ltyentye Apurte community. It is complementary to the observational climate change data previously recorded and additionally seeks information about Indigenous perceptions of health impacts from climate change due to environmental degradation.

Community partnerships: Central Land Council, Community Ranger Programme.
Funding source: RACGP Indigenous Health Award.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Risk of developmental and behavioural problems in Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Kindergarten Children: Prevalence and Distribution
Wijaya, Eunike

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Summary of findings: This study aims to estimate the prevalence of risk for developmental and behavioural problems in Australian Capital Territory (ACT) kindergarten children based on the Parents’ Evaluation of Developmental Status (Peds) questionnaire on the Kindergarten Health Check and to identify association with gender, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status and socioeconomic status. Data for 20,262 out of 22,445 (90.3 per cent) children starting kindergarten in the ACT over the period 2014 to 2017 was available for analysis. One third of the children in analysis had significant parental concerns on Peds with 4,433 children (21.9 per cent) categorised as moderate developmental risk and 2,105 children (10.4 per cent) categorized as high developmental risk. Increased prevalence of moderate and high developmental risk was significantly associated with being male, identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and lower school socioeconomic status.

The higher developmental vulnerability in male and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children suggests that increased awareness of parents and professionals interacting with these children and earlier screening may be beneficial. The higher developmental vulnerability in children who attend schools with lower socioeconomic status suggest that allocating more resources to these schools and offering schools-based interventions may be an effective means of targeting these children.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Case note review of the ABCD2 score to assess stroke risk in Transient Ischaemic Attack patients presenting to The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department
Wood, Hannah

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2017
Summary of findings: The study aimed to examine difference in risk factors, presentation and management of Transient Ischaemic Attack (TIA) in The Canberra Hospital (TCH) Emergency Department. Predominantly between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous patients. Analysis utilised the ABCD2 score, the key tool for stratifying patients at risk of suffering a stroke following TIA presentation. It concluded that the TCH study matches literature indicating the higher stroke risk for patients who present with high ABCD2 score.

Impact: A larger prospective study would be needed to identify if patients with multiple TIs are at an increased risk for stroke beyond the ABCD2 score.

Community partnerships: ACT (Australian Capital Territory) Health.
**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**Queanbeyan Deadly Runners: ‘An Indigenous community come together’**

Woodman, Brendan

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** In 2016 there remains approximately a 10-year gap in life expectancy between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations of Australia. This is a multifactorial problem with physical inactivity being one of the contributing factors. Furthermore, participation in physical activity is lacking amongst Indigenous females more than in males. Despite this trend, the Queanbeyan Deadly Runners (QDR) have been successful in getting Indigenous people, and women in particular, involved in regular physical activity. The goal of this project was to investigate the positive and negative aspects of participation and motivational factors to better understand the success of the group.

**Impact:** A model of participation has been proposed that can be used to help identify key factors contributing to the group’s success that others wishing to implement similar groups could use.

**Community partnerships:** Queanbeyan Deadly Runners.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Evidence for action to improve the health of urban Aboriginal children and adolescents: The SEARCH Study**

Banks, Emily; Craig, Jonathan; Redman, Sally; Bailey, Sandra; Eades, Sandra; Williamson, Anna; Gunasekera, Hasantha; Clapham, Kathleen; Purcell, Alison; Wooldenden, Susan

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Wollongong; Baker IDI; University of Sydney; Sax Institute, Sydney Children’s Hospital; Newcastle University; Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council.

**Project start date:** 2006

**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** The Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) is a cohort study of more than 1600 children and their families based on a long-standing ACCHSs and research partnership involving over ten organisations. The project aims to improve urban Aboriginal child and adolescent health by using data from participants to identify opportunities for intervention and developing data-driven multicomponent interventions to improve health services.

**Impact:** Service, policy and research partnerships and data on exceptionally high levels of clinical need from SEARCH formed the basis for the Hearing, Ear health and Language Services initiative (HEALS), whereby federal and state funding were secured and over 6700 occasions of care delivered for speech and language and ENT problems for affected children at ACCHSs. SEARCH has also been critical in quantifying health issues relating to housing, to bring about application of housing improvement programs to the urban Aboriginal setting, with increased resources, and to mental health, through expansion and evaluation of an ACCHS-designed and led mental health program for young people: Rites of Passage.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** SEARCH (an initiative of the Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health); Sax Institute; Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council; AHandMRC; communities through AHandMRC, ACCHSs and Aboriginal researchers.

**Funding source:** Multiple NHMRC project and CRE grants.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Absolute risk assessment of cardiovascular disease for aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people**

Banks, Emily; Lovett, Raymond; Agostino, Jason; Paige, Ellie; Wade, Vicki; Korda, Rosemary; Greaves, Kim; Douglas, Kirsty; Phillips, Christine; Anderson, Katrina; Day, Cathy

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Australian National University, Sunshine Coast University, NSW (New South Wales) Health, Sydney South West Area Health Service

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** The program of work aims to contribute to reducing primary and secondary cardiovascular disease (CVD) events (including heart attacks, strokes, heart failure and peripheral vascular disease) in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through increasing absolute CVD risk assessment and management in the priority areas of: guideline updating; realignment of Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item
The program will also support the overall aim through providing advice to staff at the Department of Health. **Impact:** The project has had a number of impacts including having brought together key stakeholders in guideline development and presented to the Primary Care Working Group and the Indigenous Reference Group of the MBS Review. Expected impacts include supporting CVD guideline alignment and MBS revisions.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Aboriginal leaders; an Aboriginal Reference Group guiding Epidemiology for Policy and Practice Group (EPP Group); National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO); multiple Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, leaders and organisations, including through stakeholder and guideline development workshops, individual meetings and co-authorship of outputs.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Multifactorial, multidisciplinary nurse-led Aboriginal dementia prevention through cardio-metabolic risk reduction, behaviour change and other strategies: a pragmatic RCT**

Eades, Sandra; Banks, Emily; Anstey, Kaarin; Carrington, Melinda; McAullay, Daniel; Kalter-Leibovici, Ofra; Joshy, Grace; Nelson, Lesley; Agostino, Jason; Paige, Ellie.

**Lead organisation:** Baker IDI Heart; Diabetes Institute

**Participating organisations:** Australian National University, Sheba Medical Centre, Edith Cowan University, South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

**Project start date:** 2018
**Project end date:** 2022

**Summary of findings:** Effective, pragmatic and scalable interventions are required urgently to address the disproportionate burden of dementia in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This project aims to establish an integrated research partnership based within the ACCHS to develop, implement and quantify the acceptability, feasibility and effectiveness of a multifaceted, multidisciplinary nurse-led program to reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia in Aboriginal people, targeting individuals at high risk.

**Impact:** The findings of this study will allow the development of a locally adapted disease prevention program that is expected to significantly improve outcomes for Aboriginal people at high risk of cognitive impairment and developing dementia in the future. The partnership with SWAMS and other Aboriginal community-controlled health services was crucial to ensuring that the results are sustainable and transferable to other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in Australia.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Aims to partner with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS); the South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS); Aboriginal communities and families.

**Funding source:** National Health and Medical Research Council—Targeted Call for Research into Dementia in Indigenous Australia.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Investigating the impact of the Brighter Futures program on unintentional injuries in vulnerable children**

Falster, Kathleen

**Lead organisation:** University of New South Wales

**Participating organisation:** Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2015
**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** There is limited evidence internationally of the effectiveness of broad-scope early intervention and home visiting programs to reduce child unintentional injuries at a population level. This project set out to examine:

- The scope to reduce child injury via an existing early intervention and home visiting program (Brighter Futures) for vulnerable children and families in New South Wales (NSW).
- The capacity to assess the impact of the Brighter Futures program on child outcomes, including injuries during early childhood, using a cross-sectoral population-level data resource. The project was conducted in collaboration with the NSW Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), with input from service providers, Aboriginal community organisations and researchers, and NSW Health.

**Impact:** The research demonstrated scope to reduce early childhood unintentional injuries among vulnerable children whose families participated in the Brighter Futures program in NSW. Through the use of quasi-experimental methods, including the application of propensity score matching to identify comparison...
groups, the study revealed some key data collection gaps that need to be addressed by policy agencies if quality population-level program evaluation capabilities are to be increased in NSW. These findings were discussed with FACS personnel from the information management sections through to the highest managerial levels, as well as with NSW Health. The findings have led to recommendations in the new data collection system at FACS (Child Story) and discussions regarding future ‘best practice’ evaluations.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:
Please refer to the Reference Group described under the Seeding Success study.

Funding source: NSW Ministry of Health.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Western Australia Continuous Care Improvement Project
Gardner, Karen

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Charles Darwin University
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2015
Funding source: Grant received from Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia/Contract Research

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

The health of urban Aboriginal children: investigation of common high-morbidity conditions.
Falster, Kathleen

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Sax Institute Grant: NHMRC Early Career Fellowship.

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: Research aims were to: investigate ear health; investigate how early life characteristics of children and families relate to the child’s later health and development outcomes; and investigate childhood hospitalisations, in Aboriginal children, using baseline survey and clinical data from the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH) and linked population data. Because of an unanticipated and significant delay in the availability of the SEARCH baseline survey and clinical data, as well as the linked population data, there was a need to adapt the specific aims of the research within each of the broad aims listed above, as well as the data sources used, early in the Fellowship. Consistent with the aims of the original proposal, the research undertaken focused on the health, development and wellbeing of Aboriginal children using a new cross-sectoral population-level data resource (the Seeding Success study; funded and created during the Fellowship), as well as the SEARCH data in more recent years.

Impact: Research focused on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal children. The Seeding Success study is the largest of these grants and the impacts of this project have been described above. Furthermore, this researcher has contributed to a SEARCH study.

Community partnerships: Research was undertaken with the SEARCH and Seeding Success studies.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery
Guthrie, Jillian

Lead organisation: University of New South Wales
Participating organisation: Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This funding, which was part of a larger grant that was administered through the University of New South Wales, was a capacity building grant that contributed towards two projects that explored the notion of investing in communities and individuals with the emphasis on avoiding the over-involvement of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. In the first project, citizen juries were held in Sydney, Canberra and Perth which sought the views of participants on alternatives to imprisonment. In the second project, members of the Cowra community were invited to explore how Justice Reinvestment (JR) could be implemented in their community.

Impact: The first project showed that, given sufficient information, diverse sections of the community are open to the idea of alternatives to imprisonment. They identified three core principles: equity and fairness; focus on prevention, and community involvement.

In the second project, a Resolution was passed by Cowra Shire Council which supported the concept of JR and determined that Council would advocate the merits of JR to policymakers and funders and seek intergovernmental collaboration to establish a JR pilot in Cowra.

Funding source: National Health and Medical Research Council/Capacity Building in Population.
**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Reducing incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study.**

Guthrie, Jillian

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of New South Wales; Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

**Project start date:** 2013

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This project tested the research methodology and theory of Justice Reinvestment (JR)—a framework for rethinking the criminal justice system in terms of value for money invested—in the New South Wales town of Cowra. Within a JR approach, taxpayer money is not spent imprisoning people for low-level criminal activity; instead, that money is reinvested into the community where those people live. JR requires a shift in policy and social outlook from one of incarceration to one of non-incarceration and investing in the people and in people. It requires involvement by governments at all levels (federal, state and local, as well as Indigenous governance), non-government organisations, service providers, the business sector, the education, employment and health sectors, the police and the judiciary.

**Impact:** The research culminated in community decisions on how to reinvest monies currently spent on incarcerating Cowra citizens for low-level criminal activities which the community ranked as ‘JR-amenable’. Another important outcome was a Resolution passed by the Cowra Shire Council which supported the concept of JR and determined that Council would advocate the merits of JR to policymakers and funders and seek intergovernmental collaboration to establish a JR pilot in Cowra.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous.

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**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Seeding success: identifying factors that contribute to positive early childhood health and development in Aboriginal children**

Jorm, Louisa; Falster, Kathleen; Eades, Sandra; Lynch, John; Banks, Emily; Brownell, Marni; Craven, Rhonda; Einarsdottir, Kristjana; Randall, Deborah.

**Lead organisation:** University of New South Wales

**Participating organisation:** Commonwealth Department of Social Services Grant: Department of Social Services

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** This study set out to identify the key drivers of positive early childhood health and development in Aboriginal children and the features of local communities and early childhood service provision that make a tangible difference, using a large population-based cohort of children in NSW. It aimed to apply novel methods for using linked population data
that can be used to inform program planning and evaluation nationally, and will advance theory, research and practice to seed success for Aboriginal children.

**Impact:** This study has demonstrated the value of linkage of cross-sectoral population data sources to inform and evaluate policy and programs that impact child health and wellbeing, with a focus on Aboriginal children. It has coincided with a period of growing interest, and now rapidly increasing investment, in the use of cross-sectoral population data within government. Accordingly, this research has been of high interest and relevance to policy agencies in NSW and nationally.

**Community partnerships:** AHandMRC; service provider representatives from the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Services and Brighter Futures; Centre for Big Data Research in Health Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Maternal and Child Reference Group; Paul Gray (Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat NSW (AbSec)); Kalinda Griffiths (UNSW).

**Funding source:** National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

**Indigenous health program evaluation design and methods in Australia: A systematic review of the evidence**

Lokuge, Kamalini

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2012

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** High-quality evaluation of Indigenous health programs is required to inform health and health services improvement. The aim was to assess the number and quality of Australian Indigenous health program evaluations published in the peer-reviewed literature from 2009-2014. 118 papers were identified, describing evaluations of 109 interventions; 72.0% were university/research institution-led, 82.2 per cent of evaluations included a quantitative component; 33.1% used both quantitative and qualitative data. Most common were before/after comparisons (30.5). Only 9 of the studies used an experimental design. More than half (56.8%) did not report on health or health risk factor-related outcomes.

Conclusions: Few evaluations are published in the peer-reviewed literature and, of these, few use optimal methodologies. There is a real need to increase high-quality, accessible evaluation in Indigenous health, including supporting partnership and capacity building for evaluations lead by community health services.

**Impact:** The findings of this evaluation were followed up by conducting workshops with community controlled Indigenous health services to build their capacity to commission and conduct high quality evaluations in areas they and their patients identify as priorities.

**Community partnerships:** This review was conducted in partnership with Indigenous researchers. It involved secondary analysis of previously published evaluations so did not have direct community engagement.

**Funding source:** Australian National University Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

**‘Mayi Kuwayu’—A large-scale longitudinal study of culture in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing**

Lovett, Raymond

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Wollongong; Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute; University of Adelaide; Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; James Cook University.

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** The project is the first stage in the development of a large-scale national longitudinal study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, examining the interrelationship between culture and health and wellbeing outcomes. This stage includes development of the study governance structures and socio-cultural indicators and pilot testing of recruitment. It will be an Aboriginal-controlled research resource conducted in accordance with ethical and community standards.

**Impact:** Understanding and quantifying the associations between cultural practice and expression and positive health and wellbeing outcomes, could inform policy, for example, by supporting program development that appropriately accounts for and promotes cultural engagement, in order to promote wellbeing. This evidence could also inform individual behaviour.

**Community partnerships:** Central Land Council (CLC); Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre Inc.; Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council; Tangentyere Council, Alice Springs; Southwest Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre, James Cook University, Cairns; Thursday Island; Palngun Wurnangat Aboriginal Corporation; Wadeye, NT; Winnunga Aboriginal Medical Service; Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Law and Culture Pty Ltd (APY); Deniliquin Aboriginal Land Council; Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation – Deniliquin; Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service.

**Funding source:** The Lowitja Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health CRC.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Addressing family violence in Indigenous communities: principles, practice and evaluation
Lovett, Raymond

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service; James Cook University; La Trobe University; Lower Lachlan Community Services, University of New South Wales.
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: The project aims to develop a best practice evaluative model for Indigenous led interventions that include individual, family and community outcomes contributing to the ongoing development and evaluation of holistic Indigenous-led family violence interventions. The project will include: delivery and evaluation of the new FWB interventions in communities and the development of new evidence and evaluation tools for other Indigenous family violence programs.

Impact: The project was discontinued by mutual agreement.

Funding source: Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety (ANROWS)/ANROWS Perpetrator Intervention Research Stream Priority Grants.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Identifying the core elements of cultural determinants of health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
Lovett, Raymond

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: University of Adelaide
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The project will conduct two interrelated reviews:

> A systematic literature review (inclusive of grey literature) to gain an understanding of the national and international concepts of Indigenous cultural determinants of health and wellbeing. To complement the review, focus groups will be conducted to describe cultural factors of importance to wellbeing. These focus groups will be undertaken with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in communities across Australia.

> A systematic literature review to assess current evidence about cultural determinants and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Impact: These reviews encourage future research to consider adopting mixed-methods approaches to investigate the complex, causal pathways through which culture influences health and wellbeing for Indigenous populations.

Community partnerships: Central Land Council (CLC); Cowra Information and Neighbourhood Centre Inc.; Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council; Tangentyere Council, Alice Springs; Southwest Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Centre, James Cook University, Cairns; Thursday Island; Paingun Wumangat Aboriginal Corporation; Wadeye, NT; Winnunga Aboriginal Medical Service, Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Law and Culture Pty Ltd (APY); Deniliquen Aboriginal Land Council; Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation – Deniliquen; Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service.

Funding source: The Lowitja Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health CRC.
The longitudinal study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ wellbeing (Mayi Kuwayu)

Lovett, Raymond

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Murray Local Land Services; Central Land Council.
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The ECF funding for Associate Professor Raymond Lovett assisted in the development stage of Mayi Kuwayu; a large-scale national longitudinal study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, examining the interrelationship between culture and health and wellbeing outcomes. This included development of the study governance structures and socio-cultural indicators as well as two pilot studies with Aboriginal Ranger groups in Central Australia. Mayi Kuwayu will be an Aboriginal-controlled research resource conducted in accordance with ethical and community standards.

Impact: Understanding and quantifying the associations between cultural practice and expression and positive health and wellbeing outcomes, could inform policy, for example, by supporting programme development that appropriately accounts for and promotes cultural engagement, in order to promote wellbeing. This evidence could also inform individual behaviour; for example, it might encourage cultural engagement and revitalisation by individuals and communities, which could in turn lead to an improvement in wellbeing.

Community partnerships: Understanding and quantifying the associations between cultural practice and expression and positive health and wellbeing outcomes, could inform policy, for example, by supporting programme development that appropriately accounts for and promotes cultural engagement, in order to promote wellbeing. This evidence could also inform individual behaviour; for example, it might encourage cultural engagement and revitalisation by individuals and communities, which could in turn lead to an improvement in wellbeing.

Funding source: National Health and Medical Research Council/2017 Project Grant.
Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Evaluating cultural participation in remote Northern Territory
Maher, Bobby

Lead organisation: Palngun Wurnangat Aboriginal Corporation (PWAC); Australian National University

Participating organisations: Thamarrurr Development Corporation; Australian Football League Northern Territory (AFLNT); Thamarrurr Youth Indigenous Corporation.

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: A process evaluation of the Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC) program was undertaken in partnership with ANU, PWAC, the KLNP committee and community. An epidemiological study was a component of the evaluation and included administering an adjusted survey instrument to collect baseline data on cultural participation. Community-based participatory research approaches were applied to the research project, including training community researchers. Building community relationships was key and required a number of field visits to the community where workshops were facilitated with the main stakeholders to ensure community voice remained at the centre of the study. Community input directed the study design, adaptation of the survey instrument, and development of the logic model and community researcher manual.

Impact: The pilot project will have collected baseline data to provide an understanding of how the SCfC program supports cultural participation and health and wellbeing. It is expected that the research will inform a summative evaluation in the future and a cohort study.

Community partnerships: Kardu Lurruth Ngala Purrungime (KLNP) committee.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Generating fine-grained evidence to drive Indigenous health policy
Thurber, Katherine

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2019
Project end date: 2022

Summary of findings: This Fellowship aims to improve understanding of the social patterning of premature mortality among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to identify pathways to improved health. Tobacco use and associated harms will be a key area of focus. The program of work will combine analysis of mature and new, unprecedented large-scale data resources, and will be conducted in partnership with community and with policymakers. The work will be conducted with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at the ANU. The program is Aboriginal-led; applies strength-based, participatory research methodologies; and is governed by principles of Indigenous data sovereignty.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Program of work not yet commenced.

Funding source: National Health and Medical Research Council Early Career Fellowship

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

One Health approach to animal health and management in a remote community
Riley, Tamara

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC); Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC).

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: Companion animals can play an important role in remote Aboriginal communities and are of public health importance. However, it can be complex to implement effective and sustainable animal health and management programs in remote communities due to distance, and limited access to supplies and veterinary care. A One Health and community-driven approach to this issue could improve animal health and management practices, as well as make a positive impact on human health and wellbeing. The evaluation will look at animal and human health outcomes to assess the impact of the program. The animal health and management data is collected through a companion animal census and the human health outcome will be assessed by analysing community dog bite data over the period of the program. Additionally, focus groups will be held with the local Rangers to explore community attitudes towards animal health and management, and assess how the program is meeting community needs.

Impact: The program aims to improve health and wellbeing for animals and the community and build local skills and knowledge around animal health care. The evaluation will look to show the importance of community-driven animal health and management programs, produce evidence to encourage future support for these programs, and inspire other communities to adopt similar programs.

Community partnerships: Thamarrurr Development Corporation (TDC), Wadeye, Northern Territory.
Growing up strong: Pathways to healthy Body Mass Index in the longitudinal study of Indigenous children
Thurber, Katherine

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Federal Department of Social Services Grant; Australian National University Research Scholarship
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2017
Summary of findings: This PhD research built the first national, large-scale quantitative evidence on key risk/protective factors and critical periods for obesity development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and on social, cultural, and environmental determinants of food security across urban to remote settings. Improving maternal health during pregnancy and improving nutrition in the first decade of life are likely to support healthy BMI trajectories for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. Improving nutrition will require both addressing the underlying determinants of nutrition and improving the food environment in urban, regional, and remote settings.
Impact: This program of work has attracted policy interest, including an invited public seminar at the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, internal use of research findings, and citations in key Indigenous health policy documents; for example: The Indigenous Health Division, Commonwealth Department of Health included this PhD conceptual framework in an internal policy paper, as a model to explain the layers of context influencing obesity risk. Publications from this program of research have been cited in multiple key, Federal Australian Government policy documents including the Overcoming Disadvantage Report (2014, 2016; Productivity Commission) and the Health Performance Framework (2014, 2017; Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet).
Community partnerships: This program of work was conducted in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community researchers from the Footprints in Time study (LSIC). Examples of engagement processes include annual knowledge exchange sessions with the community researchers and DSS staff, and research feedback sheets to participants in the Footprints in Time study.

Project title:
Combining ancient and emerging knowledge for discovery and development
Tongs, Julie; Dance, Phyll; Guthrie, Jillian; Brown, Roxanne

Lead organisation: Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (Winnunga).
Participating organisations: Australian National University
Project start date: 2008
Project end date: 2010
Summary of findings: Design and implementation of a culturally mediated case management model at Winnunga for Indigenous clients who consume alcohol at problematic levels.
Impact: Highlighted considerations for implementing a case management model in a dynamic health service environment; capacity building for Winnunga staff and an Aboriginal PhD scholar (now an ANU Associate Professor).
Funding source: Commonwealth Government Department of Health and Ageing—coordinated by National Drug Research Institute, Perth.

Research theme/s: Health and Wellbeing

Medical students’ judgements about asking patients if they identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander in a healthcare setting: prejudiced or not prejudiced?
Howard, Georgina

Contributing researchers: McArthur, H. M; Platow, M. J; Grace, D. M; van Rooy, D; Augoustinos, M.
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: Despite members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community reporting a desire to be identified as Indigenous in healthcare settings and current Best Practice Guidelines in Australia recommending doctors and other healthcare providers ask a standard Indigenous status question, doctors report barriers to asking patients about their Indigenous status. Specifically, many report they believe asking patients about their Indigenous status is offensive and confers
unfair or preferential treatment to Indigenous people. The present study therefore investigated medical students’ judgements of prejudice in a doctor-patient encounter that specifically either omitted or included the doctor asking the patient if he identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Results indicated that, contrary to the attitudes expressed by many healthcare providers, medical students considered not asking patients about their Indigenous status to be more prejudiced than asking.

Conclusions: Although medical students do not consider asking patients about their Indigenous status to be prejudiced, they also do not consider not asking to be prejudiced. The findings suggest medical students do not fully understand the views of the Indigenous community, as well as current best practice guidelines, on asking about Indigenous status and the importance of asking as a potential means of reifying the racism experienced by Indigenous people in healthcare settings. The findings of the present research can inform medical schools on specifically addressing this issue in their curricula.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Sentence production in free word order languages
Kidd, Evan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019
Summary of findings: Indigenous Australian languages appear to be processed very differently from the languages we currently have data on.
Community partnerships: Our experiments yield corpora that are deposited in archives and which can be used for the development of community language materials.
Funding source: CE140100041.

Research theme: Governance

Addressing Indigenous Incarceration: Efficacy, accessibility and adequacy of prison rehabilitation programs for Indigenous offenders across Australia and obstacles to parole and community corrections orders for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders
Jones, Clarke

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2018
Summary of findings: The research examines the barriers facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders when accessing parole, including many of the reasons for them returning to custody when on parole. It also examined why prisoners are more likely to not want to participate in community corrections orders, preferring to serve their sentences in prison. In meeting these two objectives, the report explores state and territory correctional initiatives that support the rehabilitation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and their reintegration back into the community. Another consideration in the report was to examine the availability of culturally appropriate community-based alternatives and culturally competent parole programs around Australia. Arguably, such programs have a greater impact on reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration rates. Research also shows that there is a need to ensure that
the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners are carefully considered in the planning and delivery of all programs, not only in prisons, but also in the community. Cultural practices and observances have been found to be on par with religious observances and should be respected in a similar way. Therefore, the research examines, where possible, whether further focus on coming back to culture and identity through tailored programs and services would have a more significant impact on program success.

ANU John Curtin School of Medical Research

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

National Centre for Indigenous Genomics

Easteal, Simon

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: The University of Melbourne; WEHI; UWA; Deakin University; University of Sydney; University of Adelaide; Griffith University; Telethon Institute; Murdoch Children's Research Institute; University of Queenslands; Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service.

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: If Indigenous Australians and other populations with comparatively poor health and poor access to health care are not included in genomics research, they will miss out on the ensuing health benefits; the health divide will become even wider than it now is. Including Indigenous Australians in genomics research presents substantial cultural and logistical challenges. It is made particularly difficult by a legacy of oppression, marginalisation, broken promises, and unmet expectations, including on the part of health and medical researchers. Australia has a national responsibility to overcome these challenges, to right the wrongs of the past, and to build lasting relationships based on respect and trust between researchers and Indigenous communities. The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics (NCIG) has developed a model for how this can be achieved, which it is successfully implementing in its work with Indigenous communities across Australia. The essential elements of this model are strong Indigenous governance, Indigenous involvement at all levels and deep engagement with Indigenous communities, combined with a commitment to scientific excellence.

Impact: NCIG's research engagement with Indigenous communities is a platform that will enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to be at the forefront of the Australian Government's Genomics Mission for Australia. NCIG's model, developed to address the particular challenges facing Indigenous Australians, provides a general framework for building the community trust and engagement that are essential for the broader integration of genomics into health care and clinical practice.

Community partnerships: Yarrabah; Cherbourg; Galwin’ku; Tiwi (Wurrumiyanga, Pirlangimpi, Milikapiti); Tjilijikala; Kimberley; One Arm Point; Lombadina; Beagle Bay; Fitzroy Crossing; Mowanjum; Bidyadanga; Northern Land Council; Kimberley Land Council; Tiwi Land Council; Lowitja Institute; Central Land Council; Yarrabah Shire Council; Gindajaa Treatment and Healing Centre; Gurrriny Yealamucka Health Service; Apunipima Cape York Health Council; Purple House Renal Dialysis Centre; Kimberley Law and Culture Centre; Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service; Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee; Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia; Nindilinjarri Cultural Health Service; Yalu Research Group; Ngalknbuy Health Services.

Funding source: Australian National University Strategic Funding (2011-22); Bioplatforms Australia (2014-15); Australian National Data Service (2014-15); Canberra Medical Society (2014, 2017); NHMRC Project Grant (2015-17); Australian Research Council Linkage (2014-15), National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant 1143734 (2018-20).

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

A retrospective cross-sectional study on mental health conditions in different cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk and age groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services

Alirani, Bahjat Kamel

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018

Summary of findings: Australians suffer a high burden of disease from cardiovascular disease and mental health conditions with Indigenous Australians being worse off than non-Indigenous Australians. The objectives of this study are to determine and compare the history of mental health conditions in different CVD risk and age groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services. Research was set in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service that provides primary health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the ACT and surrounding regions. The study found that a high proportion of mental health conditions, but no relationship between them and CVD risk or age, was found. The link between mental health conditions and CVD risk needs to be further studied in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Smoking and association with social and health-related factors among Australian Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal older adults in a population-based study

Kirk, Lucy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018

Summary of findings: Tobacco smoking is the leading contributor to the burden of disease among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Smoking prevalence is decreasing among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults but at 41.4 per cent is still high compared to 14.5 per cent in the total Australian population. To inform policy to support continued smoking prevalence reductions, we investigated factors associated with smoking prevalence among Aboriginal adults and in comparison with non-Aboriginal adults. This cross-sectional study used baseline data collected in 2006-2008 from the 45 and Up Study, a cohort study of adults 45 years and older living in New South Wales, Australia. Research found that smoking prevalence was up to 50 per cent lower among Aboriginal adults with higher socioeconomic position, and good physical and mental health. The increased smoking prevalence among Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal participants may be partially explained by lower prevalence of factors associated with being a non-smoker. Socio-economic and health status factors are potential targets for smoking prevention; these findings suggest that there are missed opportunities for smoking cessation support for those already in contact with healthcare providers. Cessation efforts must consider the social and cultural context and be developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Towards protective social and emotional wellbeing among Indigenous Australians

Lee, Greg

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017

Summary of findings: The relationship between child and carer mental health is well documented in the empirical literature, although few studies have focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (hereafter referred to as Indigenous) peoples of Australia. This is surprising given the disproportionate burden of poor mental health among Indigenous populations, and its central role in the intergenerational transfer of disadvantage. The objective of this study is to quantify relationships between the social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous children and factors which may offer protective benefits; to provide new insights into the determinants of Indigenous social and emotional wellbeing. We assess relationships between low-risk child social and emotional well-being and exposure variables present in the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children using data visualisation methods and Bayesian mixed-effects binomial regression. Random effects are used to account for variability between communities at the continent scale.

Results found significant protective effects for social and emotional wellbeing of Indigenous children are associated with good physical health, being female, improved social and emotional wellbeing of primary carers, increased levels of education among primary carers, high levels of parental warmth, fewer major life events in the preceding 12 months and lower levels of household financial strain.

Conclusion: Many small influences work in concert to influence child social and emotional well-being. Knowledge of the relative size of these influences enables prioritisation of protective strategies. Maximum protective benefit to the social and emotional well-being of Indigenous children corresponds to carers who have themselves achieved the best social and emotional well-being of which they are capable, in addition to optimal child physical health and factors which promote stable home environments.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Gender differences in experiences of violence in NSW Aboriginal communities

Milligan-Saville, Josie; Dance, Phyll; Hovane, Victoria

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2019

Summary of findings: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience higher rates of domestic violence than non-Indigenous women. A better understanding of gender differences in experiences of violence by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and how they impact upon wellbeing, mental health and substance use, is crucial in order to make decisions about how to improve services and programs related to family violence.

Methods:
The Family and Community Safety (FaCtS) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples study will work with 15-20 communities around Australia and will use a mixed-methods approach involving focus groups with community members,
semi-structured interviews with community members and service providers, and a community member survey and a service provider survey. Community members will be asked to complete a survey on experiences of violence, attitudes towards violence, wellbeing, mental health and substance use, among other variables. All questionnaires used are pre-existing, validated scales, with focus groups in a previous study having checked the utility and relevance of the questions.

Results: The data will be analysed using SPSS statistical software, version 24. Differences in demographics between male and female community members will be examined using Chi-square tests or t-tests. Multivariate logistic regression analyses will be used to assess associations between gender and experiences of violence and the outcomes of wellbeing, mental health and substance use.

Impact: Findings from the FaCtS study will be used to promote and improve safety for families within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

A semi-automated method for the quantification of intramuscular fat in cervical muscles from MR images

Jha, Nikhil

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Muscle-fat infiltrates have been consistently linked with chronic pain. Current methods of quantification rely on manual segmentation of the infiltrates. This however, is time consuming and impractical for large studies and clinical application. In this paper, we present and validate an automated bi-modal thresholding algorithm for the quantification of muscle-fat infiltrates in magnetic resonance images. T1 images from 17 volunteers were taken using a 3.0T magnetic resonance imaging device. Images were segmented for a region of interest containing the left deep extensors of the cervical spine. The region was analysed using in-house software that applied Otsu's thresholding to the selected area. Analysis was also done using accepted manual methods for quantification. The results from the automated method was compared with those from accepted manual methods to assess validity. The automated method was found to be within levels of agreement using a Bland-Altman analysis. Interclass correlation was also performed between all methods and was found to be between 0.89 and 0.98 within a 95 per cent confidence interval.

Impact: An automated quantification method would allow for the quantification of a larger number of studies thus enabling the quantification of muscle-fat infiltration to be used for the diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain.

Community partnerships: ACT (Australian Capital Territory) Health.

Funding source: This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.
ANU College of Business and Economics
SYNOPSIS

The College of Business and Economics has a small, but steadily growing, body of research on Indigenous issues. The majority of the research has been undertaken by the College’s doctoral students in a variety of areas from understanding accountability and accounting practices in Indigenous corporations, to increasing the accuracy by which we can estimate Indigenous life expectancies. Current research is being undertaken within the College around understanding and improving the pathways by which Indigenous Australians secure professional accreditation in accounting. The College also has a range of Indigenous research projects underway that are being supported through our internal College Indigenous Research Grant Scheme.

In terms of work undertaken by previous Higher Degree by Research students, doctoral candidate Peter Radoll explored explanations for Indigenous households’ relatively low uptake of information and communication Technologies (ICTs). This work culminated in the development of a theoretical framework of ICT adoption in Indigenous communities. This framework had the potential for significant policy and practical impact.

A second HDR student, Peni Fukofuka, focused on understanding accountability and accounting practices in Indigenous corporations. In particular, the candidate explored how these practices are influenced by societal and organisational norms. Understanding these dynamics is crucial to ensuring appropriate governance of Indigenous businesses.

A third PhD student, Lulu Fu, focused on increasing the reliability of Indigenous life expectancy estimates. The candidate proposed a new, more flexible estimation model that allows for complexities including misclassification of Indigenous status. While computationally intensive, this model overcomes weaknesses in approaches previously used by organisations including the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Supervisor attrition means it is unclear whether the new model has been implemented by these organisations.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

ANU Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies & Statistics

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Statistical and computational issues in fitting a new model for Indigenous life expectancy

Fu, Lulu

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: Life expectancy is an important proxy for population health. Notwithstanding this, correctly identifying Australians’ Indigenous status makes estimating Indigenous life expectancy difficult. This study proposes a new, more flexible life expectancy estimation model that allows for complexities including misclassification of Indigenous status. While computationally intensive, this model overcomes weaknesses in approaches previously used by organisations including the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Impact: The study proposes a new, more robust method of estimating Indigenous life expectancy and, therefore, the effectiveness of initiatives designed to improve Indigenous Australians’ health.

ANU Research School of Accounting

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Aboriginal accountants: Pathways to professional status

Hayes, Colleen

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: The study explores the work-study pathways that Australian Indigenous accountants took in gaining membership of Australian professional accounting bodies, what attracted them to a career in accounting, the nature of their experiences working in accounting, and factors that they consider would lead to an increase in the number of Indigenous individuals entering the accounting profession.

Impact: By increasing our understanding of why Indigenous Australians chose to become accountants, and the obstacles they had to overcome, this study will ensure appropriate support for future accounting students and, ultimately, increase Indigenous participation in the profession.

Funding source: ANU College of Business and Economics’ Indigenous Research Scheme.

Aboriginal accountants: Governance in Indigenous corporations in Australia

Fukofuka, Peni

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings: This study explores accountability and accounting practices in Indigenous corporations. In particular, it investigates how both accountability and accounting practices are influenced by societal and organisational norms. Understanding these interrelationships is crucial to the design, implementation and operation of effective governance structures in Indigenous businesses.

Impact: By understanding the dynamics of accounting and accountability, this study makes an important contribution to effective governance of Indigenous businesses.
ANU Research School of Management

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Stone chips to silicon chips: A grounded theory of Information and Communication Technology adoption in Australian Indigenous households—rural, urban and remote**

**Radoll, Peter**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2003

**Project end date:** 2011

**Summary of findings:** The project investigates why Indigenous households display a relatively low rate of uptake of information and communication Technologies (ICTs). To do this, it explores commonalities and differences in ICT adoption and non-adoption in culturally and geographically diverse locations across Australia. Thereafter, it develops a theoretical framework of ICT adoption in Indigenous communities.

**Impact:** The study develops a theoretical framework of Indigenous household adoption.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Indigenous Discovery.
SYNOPSIS

The ANU College of Law supports Indigenous research across a broad range of legal, social, historical and economic issues. Our research takes seriously Australia’s colonial legal history, and the on-going challenges of decolonisation. Our pioneering collection of posters, prints and photographs traces Indigenous legal issues over the past fifty years and provides innovative resources through which to research expressions of Indigenous culture, activism, and law. A key finding of research within the College insists on the crucial importance of cultural media, both within Indigenous and settler societies, in radically rethinking the relationship between culture, law and politics.

This research aims to enrich and creatively transform the dialogue about law and justice between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

This summary presents a short synthesis of ANU College of Law research addressing the central themes of this Compendium. It then presents snapshots of ANU College of Law projects, arranged under each of these themes.

Health and Wellbeing

ANU College of Law researchers have undertaken a range of projects that examine the obstacles facing vulnerable people, including Indigenous women and children, seeking access to justice and health services. Key findings: It is critically important to build and maintain trust and longevity of relationships with Indigenous communities. It is also essential to understand culture, family and Elder connectedness and disconnectedness, in order to improve health and legal service delivery and engagement, thus increasing safety and wellbeing. Partnerships: These projects have involved collaborations with a range of partners, including the ACT Legal Service; the Albury-Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service; the Hume Riverina Legal Service; the Redfern Legal Service; and South West Sydney Drug Health Services. Implications: The results of this research has the potential to improve access to justice and health for vulnerable Indigenous people.

Social and Cultural

ANU College of Law research projects have examined a variety of cultural, social and historical issues, including improving the rehabilitation options for Aboriginal people who are found guilty of crimes and face sentencing, and exploring Tasmanian colonial artwork that provides a rare visual record of the unique cultural practices of Tasmanian Aboriginal people’s ancestors. Key findings: Traditional sentencing practices in criminal trials do not adequately take into account the context and background of Indigenous offenders. There is a need to develop more nuanced, responsive sentencing practices. Partnerships: Lajamanu Kurduju (Law and Justice) Committee, Ali Curung Kurduju Committee, Yuendumu Justice Mediation Group. Implications: Our Indigenous sentencing research aims to promote a revision of the practice of sentencing law.

Education

The ANU College of Law supports a range of educational programs designed to strengthen the Indigenous cultural competency of students, academics and the broader community. Key findings: Indigenous cultural competency is low among the general population. There is a need to improve the Indigenous cultural competency of members of our university research and education communities in order to strengthen their capacity to promote reconciliation, rights and fairness. Partnerships: Aboriginal Legal Service ACT and NSW; Council of Australian Law Deans; University of New England; University of Technology Sydney; The University of Melbourne; Queensland University of Technology. Implications: By strengthening Indigenous cultural competency, this project will strengthen the capacity of lawyers and legal academics to promote reconciliation, rights and fairness.

Land and Water Management and Economic Development

ANU College of Law research projects have examined the historical and contemporary experiences of Indigenous people in relation to labour, land and the economy. Key findings: Australia’s history presents troubling examples of dubious labour practices in relation to the treatment and remuneration of Indigenous employees. A key question is how reparations might be granted
to those who were not paid a fair wage for their labour. In the contemporary context, the introduction of Cashless Debit Cards for welfare payments in the Kimberley region disproportionately impacted Indigenous people, increasing material hardship and disempowerment. Partnerships: These projects have involved collaborations with the East Kimberley Legal Services Forum; the Kimberley Community Legal Service; and The University of Melbourne. Impact/Implications: The lessons identified by this research demonstrate the need for more responsive government policy that promotes reconciliation rather than exacerbating Indigenous marginalisation and disempowerment.

Governance

ANU College of Law researchers are engaged in a variety of projects examining issues of law, governance and policy. These include: strengthening judicial decision-making through the incorporation of Indigenous voices into judgments; developing global Indigenous rights; and re-conceptualising and strengthening institutional approaches to the ‘civil law legal needs’ of indigenous people in the Kimberley region. Key findings: There is deep suspicion in Indigenous communities about Australia’s laws and the legal system. This suspicion originates from historically destructive Government policies and administration, resulting in dispossession of traditional lands, the Stolen Generations, deaths in custody, and poor departmental practices. There is a strong need to make Australia’s laws and legal system more responsive and sensitive to Indigenous concerns and experiences. Impact/Implications: This research contributes to a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of Indigenous rights regimes as mechanisms of recognition and emancipation in a variety of national, regional and international contexts. The research will strengthen the social fabric by contributing to the creation of an inclusive national story that celebrates Indigenous people’s contributions to the development of Australian law.
ANU College of Law – Projects summaries
ANU School of Legal Practice

RESEARCH PROJECTS

ANU School of Legal Practice

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education

Research and evaluation of the ‘Invisible Hurdles Project’

Curran, Liz

Contributing researcher: Taylor-Barnett, Pamela
Lead organisation: Hume Riverina Community Legal Service and Australian National University
Participating organisations: Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre; North East Support and Action for Youth Inc.; Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service.
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2018
Summary of findings: This evaluation and research report examined the impact of a service project, ‘The Invisible Hurdles Project’ an integrated multi-disciplinary practice including a legal service in a Health Justice Partnership, which aims to identify the hurdles that prevent young people from accessing legal assistance, and to develop service delivery models that most effectively overcome those hurdles by increasing the capacity of young people to engage with the legal system. It seeks to access vulnerable youth, especially Aboriginal young mums and pregnant teenagers and those most at risk of family violence. Through early intervention and integrated service delivery, it is envisaged that young people will experience reduced occurrences of family violence and associated legal problems. It is a project of Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) working with three partners and is funded by the Victorian Legal Services Board Grants program, for a period from the end of December 2015 until June 2018.
Impact: This report summarises a longitudinal study over three years, including quantitative and qualitative data using a multi-pronged data collection approach and participatory evaluation processes. The report makes findings around this project’s effectiveness, Health Justice Partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration, youth engagement and factors that lead to better justice outcomes for youth who would normally not be able to reach legal services. It contains a series of recommendations emerging from the social research relevant for replicable models, service delivery in general and policy makers. It was published on 8 November 2018.
Funding source: Upper Murray Family Care.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education

Health Justice Partnerships in Remote Communities

Harrison, Judy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Kimberley Community Legal Services.
Summary of findings: Starting in 2017 this research is exploring the relevance and potential of Health Justice Partnerships (HJPs) in remote areas, The research is applying a collaborative and fluid action research approach which has included a well-attended workshop presentation at the inaugural Health Justice Partnerships Australia conference in October 2017, supervising ANU law student research papers relating to HJP possibilities in the Kimberley and background research for a major grant application. The findings to date Indicate major potential for HJPs to improve health and legal service provision and positive impacts in remote Indigenous communities.
Impact: This research has helped develop a national network in the legal and health sectors focusing on the potential for HJPs to improve health and legal outcomes in remote Indigenous communities. It has also formed part of a rich, developing dialogue in relation to legal service provision in the Kimberley. In early 2019, background research and developmental work relating to the initiative was instrumental in Kimberley Community Legal Services being successful in a $1.3mill grant application to establish partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to improve responses to elder abuse in the East and West Kimberley.

Research themes: Governance; Health and Wellbeing; Education

Civil law legal needs in the Kimberley

Harrison, Judy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Kimberley Community Legal Service
Summary of findings: Research project with the Kimberley Community Legal Service (KCLS), started November 2016. Research initially focusing on possible ways to reconceptualise and strengthen institutional approaches to ‘civil law legal needs’ in the Kimberley. Over time, the research aims to support and incorporate deep dialogue at a local, service and program level.
Impact: Over forty research papers completed by Australian National University law students undertaking their Australian National University Law Internship course with Kimberley Community Legal Services in the Kimberley or based at the KCLS-Australian National University Hot desk in Canberra.
Another nine Australian National University students are currently completing this course. The KCLS-Australian National University Initiative was important to KCLS work in the Kimberley Inquest into Aboriginal Youth Suicide, the KCLS submission to the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into Indigenous Incarceration Rates, the KCLS petition to address the WA fine to prison pipeline, the KCLS submission to the Senate inquiry into the Commonwealth Redress Bills and to the WA Review of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme.

Research themes: Governance; Health and Wellbeing; Education

Kimberley mob making Kartiya civil law work for us
Harrison, Judy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Kimberley Community Legal Service and Australian National University

Summary of findings: New 2017 initiative. Practical measures to increase civil law legal help for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, facilitating involvement of Australian National University law students and Australian National University legal academics. Example: Australian National University law students have an opportunity to contribute as a para-legal in relation to client work or as research / project interns supervised by KCLS, but mainly based at the Australian National University in Canberra or other locations. This is an innovative and disruptive model, applying post-development theory, inversion, advances in technology and legal service provision. Includes modelling and evaluation framework.

Impact: Over 100 Australian National University law students have contributed time as paralegal volunteers or via law internships since commencement.

Research theme: Social and Cultural
Evaluating the Redfern Legal Centre Aboriginal Health Justice Partnership
Curran, Liz

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: South West Sydney Drug Health Services; Redfern Legal Centre; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: Respondents to the evaluation survey indicated that there was a significant improvement in outcomes as a result of the Partnership. These outcomes impacted individuals through providing effective early legal intervention to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who would not otherwise access legal advice, and by improving health outcomes for clients of the legal service. Training of health professionals to help identify legal issues that built capacity in this area, which in turn helps them provide a better level of service to their clients.

Research theme: Education
Australian National University Indigenous Justice Project
Foley, Tony; Hopkins, Anthony; Lalor, Michael

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Aboriginal Legal Service Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales.

Summary of findings: Pilot—Indigenous justice project.

Impact: This was a feasibility report, so no tangible impacts were planned. However, as an example of expected impacts, since the clinic itself commenced in 2015, successive pairs of students have worked on an 'Indigenous Licensing Scheme Proposal' (a major cause of Indigenous over-incarceration is unlicensed driving offences). Under the guidance of Aboriginal field officers, they worked up to the stage of a costed proposal and a presentation to the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government. In August 2018, the government reported that
a pilot of what they had proposed was to begin: Canberra Aboriginal driving program changing lives—and not just of the students.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Engaged with ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate; Indigenous justice services in the ACT; Australian National University law students.

**Funding source:** Australian National University Linkage for Teaching Grant.

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**Research theme:** Governance

**Cashless Debit Card/‘White Card’ in the Kimberley**

Klein, Elise; Razi, Sarouche; Bielefeld, Shelley; Altman, Jon; Sutherland, Peter; Harrison, Judy; and others

**Lead organisation:** Kimberley Community Legal Service and Melbourne University

**Participating organisation:** East Kimberley Legal Services Forum and others.

**Summary of findings:** Participatory action research project focusing on the experiences of Aboriginal people required to use the Cashless Debit Card (CDC) and the effects.

**Impact:** The findings challenge Government narratives relating to the effects of, and policy justifications for, the CDC. The project has had national media, made parliamentary submissions, conducted a symposium, contributed to strengthening the Accountable Income Management Network.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Numerous, mainly informal, includes non-government organisations and researcher networks.

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**Research theme:** Governance

**Indigenous stolen wages, settler colonialism and reparations**

Harrison, Judy

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** NGO collaborators, especially in Western Australia.

**Summary of findings:** Theoretically informed, action research focusing on problem representations by Aboriginal people, lawyers and the Western Australia (WA) government. While hundreds of Aboriginal people in the Kimberley were successful claimants to WA’s $2000 ‘Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme’, many who applied chose to put forward their life stories in protest. These stories and actions are a counter narrative, evidencing deep ontological, political and legal frustration. The key focus relates to how the stories operate in potentially actionable ways to deeply rework and reform Western Australian and Australian Indigenous reparational practices.

**Impact:** Media investigations including ABC State-wide WA, ABC Kimberley, ABC Background Briefing and ABC Late Line.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Informal at this stage.

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**Research themes:** Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies

**Legal concepts of culture and its impact on sentencing**

Spiers Williams, Mary

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2012

**Summary of findings:** Mary’s current major project is doctoral research examining a legal concept of culture in sentencing law and practice. This research is a multi-streamed analysis that draws upon theoretical perspectives of social field theory, colonisation, legal pluralism and legal orientalism. She uses this to analyse ethnographic fieldwork conducted in central Australian courts and communities. Here she observed and recorded otherwise unreported summary court cases, the jurisdiction which disposes of the vast majority of sentencing matters. In order to explore the concept of culture used in sentencing law, her thesis engages in a broader examination of the epistemology of sentencing law, examining gaps and opportunities to render it more coherent, and reimagines sentencing law in light of socio-legal perspectives.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:
Lajam Australian National University Kurduju (Law and Justice) Committee; Ali Curung Kurduju Committee; Yuendumu Justice Mediation Group.

Funding source: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Research Grant 2010.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Funding for a research assistant to work on a collection of critical race papers to be edited by Professor Larissa Behrendt and Asmi Wood

Wood, Asmi

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Summary of findings: Co-editing a book on critical race theory with Professor Larissa Behrendt from University of Technology Sydney.

Funding source: National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) Internal Grant.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Education

Indigenous nationhood in the absence of recognition: Self-governance insights and strategies from three Aboriginal communities

Wood, Asmi

Contributing researchers: Akama, Yoko; Behrendt, Larissa; Bell, Damien; Hartman, Timothy; Hemming, Steve; McMillan, Faye; McMillan, Mark; Rigney, Dayle.

Lead organisation: University of Technology Sydney

Participating organisation: RMIT University; University of Technology Sydney; Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation; Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority; Flinders University; Charles Sturt University; The University of Melbourne.

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Based on evidence that effective governance is a necessary precursor to Indigenous communities’ economic, social and cultural outcomes, this project aims to strengthen Australian Indigenous communities by learning and sharing lessons about sustainable and effective Indigenous governance. In collaboration with three Aboriginal communities in Victoria, South Australia and NSW, the project will identify innovation in community governance, test the usefulness of Australian governance assessment tools, and foster an Indigenous Australian and global network to share successful strategies.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Three Indigenous nations and several universities.

Funding source: Australian Research Council—externally led Linkage project.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network

Wood, Asmi

Lead organisation: Queensland University of Technology

Participating organisation: Fifty CIs in network (all Indigenous)

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: The National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network is a multidisciplinary hub and spokes model network of Indigenous researchers at various stages of their career from over 20 collaborating universities, including the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies. The aim of the network is to establish a coterie of skilled, qualified Indigenous researchers, creating pathways from undergraduate to postgraduate studies to establish a regenerative pipeline of new researchers, across institutions and fields of critical research importance. The network will provide a platform for new Indigenous multi-disciplinary research and the establishment of a critical mass of multi-disciplinary, qualified Indigenous researchers to meet the compelling research needs of our communities.

Impact: Capacity building for Higher Degree Research (HDRs). Contribute towards completions of HDRs by providing training, master classes and conferences for presentation opportunities and critical friends who help improve writing/research, etc.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Several universities. Capacity building program for HDRs summary: several universities. Capacity building programme for HDRs.

Funding source: Australian Research Council—Special Research Initiatives Program.
The national picture: The art of Tasmania’s Black War — Art exhibition for the National Gallery of Australia
Bonyhady, Timothy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery; Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

Summary of findings: This exhibition is about Aboriginal people’s ancestors. Robinson’s journals offer written descriptions of activities, such as spear-making and throwing, kangaroo hunting and ceremonial dance, accompanied by some small sketches, which are vitally important first-hand observations. This exhibition has (or will) be shown at the National Gallery of Australia in Canberra, and two Tasmanian Galleries. A book from the exhibition has been published and is available from the National Gallery of Australia.

Funding source: National Gallery of Australia.

Connolly, Anthony

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: University of Pennsylvania Press

Project start date: Ongoing
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: This project explores the history, nature, and emancipatory potential of the global regime of Indigenous rights currently operative around the world.

Impact: The project will contribute to a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of Indigenous rights regimes as mechanisms of recognition and emancipation in a variety of national, regional and international contexts.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience court reports: Consultation report to the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Hopkins, Anthony

Lead organisation: Legal Aid ACT
Participating organisation: Australian National University

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012

Summary of findings: Drawing upon research publications advocating for this innovation, Hopkins has pursued reform in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and nationally. Following acceptance of relevant findings of an ACT Inquiry into Sentencing, the ACT government has announced a trial of Indigenous Experience Pre-Sentence Reports, called Ngattai (‘Listen’ in Ngunnawal) Reports.

Impact: Hopkins’ research, advocacy and expertise has made a substantial contribution to calls for Indigenous Experience Pre-Sentence Reports to be introduced into the sentencing process. Drawing upon research publications advocating for this innovation, Hopkins has pursued reform in the ACT and nationally. Following acceptance of relevant findings of an ACT Inquiry into Sentencing, the ACT government has announced a trial of Indigenous Experience Pre-Sentence Reports, called Ngattai (‘Listen’ in Ngunnawal) Reports. This will be an Australian first and has the potential to illuminate the experience of Indigenous offenders, connecting the individual story of the offender to that of their people, enabling this story to be heard and taken into account in the sentencing process.

Funding source: Legal Aid ACT.

Indigenous people and the law — course development
Wood, Asmi

Lead organisation: The Australian National University


Impact: Ongoing course, attended by approximately 50 law students per year.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: ANU College of Law.

Funding source: Australian National University internal grant — Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).
Research theme: Education

Indigenous Culture Cognition for Legal Academics program (ICCLAP)
Wood, Asmi; Levy, Ron

Lead organisation: The Australian National University, Office for Learning and Teaching, Innovation and Development.

Summary of findings: ICCLAP aims to build Indigenous cultural competency in legal academics through development and delivery of a program for embedding Indigenous knowledges in legal education. The project will operationalise Indigenous knowledges as identified in recommendations of the Behrendt Review, Universities Australia’s National Best Practice Framework for Indigenous Cultural Competency (2011a) and Guiding Principles for Developing Indigenous Cultural Competency in Australian Universities (2011b). The project will create an Indigenous Cultural Competency for Legal Academics Program which will be developed, piloted and evaluated across four universities.

Impact: ICCLAP aims to increase the inclusion of Indigenous cultural competency (ICC) in legal education. ICCLAP is a cross-institutional project involving five universities (University of New England, University of Technology Sydney, University of Melbourne, Australian National University, and Queensland University of Technology).

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: CALD and 30 Law Schools around Australia.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Education and Training.

Research theme: North Australia strategies

Northern Australia Water Resource Assessment - legal, regulatory and policy environment for development of water resources in northern Australia
Macintosh, Andrew; Jones, Judy; Waschka, Marie; Wood, Asmi

Lead organisation: Australian National University

Participating organisation: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This collaboration between ANU and CSIRO provided an assessment of the institutions and institutional barriers to water-related development in northern Australia, including those specific to Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners.

Impact: This is the largest and most comprehensive assessment of the water resources and policy frameworks of northern Australia ever done, and it is currently shaping industry and environment policy in relation to ‘northern development.’

Funding source: CSIRO

Research theme: Governance

Bringing Indigenous voices into judicial decision-making
Wood, Asmi

Lead organisation: University of Sydney

Participating organisation: University of Queensland

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2021

Summary of findings: This Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous Project will enhance the nation’s quality of life by strengthening judicial decision-making through the incorporation of Indigenous voices into judgments.

Impact: The project will add to our cultural life by generating new knowledge about significant test cases led by Indigenous people. It will also strengthen the social fabric by contributing to the creation of an inclusive national story that celebrates Indigenous people’s contributions to the development of Australian law.

Research theme: North Australia strategies

Indigenous involvement in water planning in northern Australia
Macintosh, Andrew; Waschka, Marie; Barber, Marcus; Petheram, Cuan; Robinson, Catherine

Lead organisation: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Participating organisation: Australian National University; National Indigenous Australians Agency

Project start date: 2019
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: This is a collaborative project between CSIRO and ANU on the institutions governing Indigenous engagement and participation in water planning and the issuance of water interests in northern Australia, for the Indigenous Reference Group (IRG) to the Ministerial Forum on Northern Development.

Impact: The objective of the project is to evaluate the existing frameworks for Indigenous participation in water planning in northern Australia, and to make recommendations on how to improve the existing institutions and processes to better empower Indigenous stakeholders.

Funding source: National Indigenous Australians Agency
Indigenous research is a critical strength of the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). Our research threads cross multiple disciplines and weave together to form overarching research programs within the College. Outlined are almost 300 research projects that have been conducted over the last ten years across all six ANU research priority areas.

The ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences seeks to demonstrate the Australian National University’s commitment to embedding Indigenous perspectives and knowledges in research, engagement and education, together with its aspirations for transformative reconciliation.

CASS Indigenous Researchers

In recent years, the College’s impact has expanded through the appointment of a number of Indigenous researchers. Within the last year the College has welcomed both Bhiamie Williams and Tony Dreise to the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). In addition, Indigenous composer Christopher Sainsbury has been appointed as a continuous senior lecturer in music.

Bhiamie Williams is an Indigenous PhD Scholar and a Euahlayi man from north-west NSW with family ties to north-west Queensland. Bhiamie’s key research areas include Indigenous Youth, Indigenous Governance, Cultural and Natural Resource Management and Indigenous Men and Masculinities.

Tony Dreise has been appointed as Professor of Indigenous Policy Research and Director of CAEPR as of 12 March 2019. Professor Dreise is a proud descendent of the Guumilaroi and Euahlayi First Nations of north-west New South Wales and south-west Queensland and is a nationally and internationally recognised as a First Nations leader in policy, evaluation and research in the field of education. He has had a long policy and research career having worked as a Principal Indigenous Research Fellow at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). He has recently been working as a Senior Fellow at CAEPR and as a ‘researcher—in-residence’ with Aboriginal Affairs NSW.

Christopher Sainsbury is an accomplished composer, academic, activist and member of the Dharug people. He has a sustained career in education and encouraging contemporary Indigenous music. In 2016 he spearheaded the founding of the Nganna-burria: First People’s Composers Program. He won the Australasian Performing Rights Association’s inaugural national Indigenous Composer Grant to help promote the work of Indigenous composers. His work and music draw on inspiration from Indigenous history, Country and stories.

Health and Wellbeing

Social determinants of health and wellbeing in Indigenous peoples and communities forms a large area of research within CASS. Areas of research focus include the cultural relevance of wellbeing indicators, addressing youth unemployment in Indigenous Australians and in remote areas as well as other barriers to employment and promotion, managing health and the challenges associated with language interpretation in this area and Indigenous populations and migration. Research outcomes have informed Indigenous community social and cultural development strategies, as well as informing government planning, policy and service delivery. This priority area also highlights the longstanding collaboration that CASS has with Indigenous communities, other ANU Colleges, local services and state and federal government.

Indicators of wellbeing may include employment status, housing, health status, social issues, education, personal security and the surrounding environment; but how relevant and appropriate are these western concepts within Indigenous communities; and how are they perceived by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people within such communities? Culturally appropriate methodology and indicators have allowed our researchers to partner with Indigenous organisations. This has enhanced our ability to support wellbeing initiatives. The importance of Indigenous participation in all aspects of the knowledge process ensure that research findings and outcomes are meaningful not only for policy makers but more importantly for Indigenous communities, to set their own development agenda and inform their own planning needs.
Social and Cultural

Social and cultural research forms the cornerstone of Indigenous research within CASS. Almost half of our research projects fall under this priority area, with many more having inclusive elements. The projects focus on Indigenous history, language, social organisation and interaction, art and music. The research elements and methods incorporate Indigenous culture, identity, values and interests in relation to wider society.

CASS has a rich program of research in the history of Australia's Indigenous people, undertaken by both Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers. Our research involves consultation and collaboration with Indigenous communities and organisations, with several projects having been developed in partnership with Indigenous historians. Many projects aim to empower Indigenous people to share, and benefit from sharing, their stories, cultural landscapes and material culture. Such research also informs understanding of the changing social, cultural, geopolitical and economic landscape that has occurred since colonisation, and is ongoing today.

Preserving heritage through recording language allows descendants of speakers to reclaim and revive their languages and knowledge of their past. Research into language both historical and current, also informs the broader community of the social and kinship relationships upon which Indigenous communities are built. Creating a spelling system, dictionaries, grammar and texts helps speakers maintain language, use it in schools, in place names and signs, refer to these effectively in land claims, and provide documentation for preservers of public heritage.

Public exhibitions and performances of Indigenous art, music and storytelling have enabled national and international audiences to experience and begin to understand the importance of these cultural elements as repositories of Indigenous heritage. Innovative research into these aspects of Indigenous society have informed many pressing issues for Indigenous cultural traditions within Australia and beyond. These cultural aspects also integrate into research projects that fall under other priority area such as health and wellbeing, education and employment.

Education

A central goal of the College is to continue to create and build long-term partnerships with Indigenous communities, with a view to supporting and working with key individuals and groups in the area of education research, the development of a culture of learning and support for school based cultural education projects. Our research in education overlaps on many fronts with our policy and governance research, as findings contribute to not only the ongoing work in schools and education at a local level, but inform government strategy and cultural policy. Taking the essential next step, our research also provides governments with community level perceptions and feedback on their programs and policies in education.

Within Indigenous communities, bringing linguistic research to bear on education concerns for Indigenous children for whom English is a second language, provides better quality education for these children, as well as informing education and social policy. In a similar vein, research into the typical paths of language acquisition for speakers of traditional and newer Indigenous languages, can provide insight and guidance for families and educators as well as other support structures within the local communities, such as health professionals.

Digital technologies and new media practices have been shown to impact the social, cultural and linguistic ecology of remote Indigenous Australia and are used to support youth engagement across many public domains. Research into the ways in which young Indigenous adults are using language and multimodal literacies in community learning environments has been shown to validate alternative forms of education in remote areas.

Within the broader national community, our research explores how reconciliation is taught in Australian schools looking at the policy, school and classroom levels, as well as through the perspectives of children. A number of recent policy reports have drawn attention to the need for better education of university graduates in relation to Indigenous cultures and histories, and the CASS Indigenous Studies major is an obvious site of this critical work. Teaching Indigenous languages at the ANU also provides access for Indigenous people to their heritage languages and promotes awareness of these languages more widely in the national and international community.

Land and Water Management and Economic Development

In relation to Indigenous water and land management, research within CASS has improved the capacity of Indigenous land owners and managers to respond to environmental management issues and meet broader social, cultural, economic, and political objectives. Informed governance of land and water management has improved resource management in local case study areas, as well as having important implications for wider departmental policy and program development.

As a timely response to more global issues, CASS researchers have partnered with Indigenous rangers to delve into the impacts of climate change on Indigenous people in Arnhem Land, and help enable Indigenous communities to leverage the growing renewable energy industry to achieve their own sustainable development goals. More specifically, our research has supported Torres Strait Islanders to regain control over their fisheries and marine territories, whilst also touching on more social and cultural aspects, by showing insights into the relationship that Torres Strait Islander women have with the sea as well as their fishing practices and knowledge. These later perspectives have tended to be overlooked in both research and policy, so our work strives to ensure that their voice is heard.
Crossing over both land and water management issues as well as governance and North Australia strategies, our research has contributed to developing a community approach to land use agreements by identifying how the broader community benefits from land rights and native title through innovative approaches to land benefit agreements. Adjacent research streams have also focused on describing and assessing future policy directions in native title and identifying emerging issues, areas of innovation and the complex drivers of native title policy with both the Indigenous community and policy makers.

In relation to economic development, a range of Commonwealth government strategies and programs for Indigenous employment and economic development have been examined, as well as the development and implementation of remote employment services. Linking into both social and cultural, and health and wellbeing priority areas, our research outcomes have highlighted the inappropriateness of some scheme elements within Indigenous communities and helped inform government as well as education and employment service providers, to develop training and skills development policies targeted to areas of need for Indigenous employment.

**Governance**

The College’s longstanding impact in the area of Indigenous policy is based on its multidisciplinary research across many Centres and Schools. We engage closely with Indigenous people to analyse the impacts on them of diverse government legislation, policies and the private sector, their organisations, their political representation and their country or lived localities (e.g. urban contexts). Our research contributes directly to, and in many cases partners with, federal and state governments to inform policy making and support policy reform in Indigenous Affairs.

Our research on Indigenous economic development, labour markets, employment programs and social security contributes to policies which will achieve better economic outcomes and reduce poverty. By focusing on identifying the positive and negative consequences of policy on Indigenous peoples, organisations and communities we generate new ideas and initiatives, as well as providing evidence for Indigenous people to use in their own development and advocacy work. The intended long-term impact of such research is to transform the relationship between Indigenous peoples and government, and implement policy that supports self-determination. People on country, natural resource management, cultural heritage and learning on country research generates support for Indigenous people to work and learn on their Country and to protect it.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

ANU Centre for Social Research & Methods

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Characteristics and mortality of those with a disability: A focus on the aged, Department of Social Services (with some Indigenous-relevant analysis)

Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: This research examined the size and spatial distribution of the people with a disability (the Australian population aged 65 and over, and the Indigenous population aged 50 and over), relevant to the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and delivery of services for Indigenous people who are ageing or have a disability.

Impact: Informs government policy in relation to delivery of aged care and disability services for Indigenous people.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Social Services/Social Policy Research Services Agreement.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Papers on Indigenous Wellbeing for Indigenous Observatory

Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012

Summary of findings: The first aim of the project was to summarise the empirical evidence on Indigenous wellbeing with a particular focus being an examination of the variation in measures on wellbeing across the life course and produce a paper targeted towards students and policy makers working on or researching Indigenous issues, as well as academics with an interest in Indigenous wellbeing. The second aim of the project is to summarise a set of interrelated research that looks at the health and wellbeing of the Australia urban Indigenous population and produce a paper which includes new results from the 2008 NATSISS and 2004/05 NATSIHS as well as the summary of previously published analysis.

Funding source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Research into the implementation of the NDIS in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, First Peoples Disability Network

Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012

Summary of findings: The project provided a detailed analysis of the demographic characteristics, and geographic location of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations with a disability; and data on where the market for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is and on effective service delivery in remote Australia.

Funding source: First Peoples Disability Network.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Understanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander decisions to exit the Australian Public Service
Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Australian Public Service Commission
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2016
Summary of findings: The research identified five key areas of difficulty for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the Australian Public Service (APS); a combination of one or more of these factors led to early exit from the APS. Next steps have been to continue research into Indigenous experiences of working for government bureaucracies.
Impact: Publications: Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research Working paper 110 has been most downloaded Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research publication since 2016; academic and policy impacts include 2 journal articles (Lahn 2018; Lahn and Ganter forthcoming); Two submissions to government (CTG Refresh, and invited submission to CDP Inquiry); presentations to government including the APS Indigenous Champions Network, Department of Employment SES Annual Forum, research findings utilised in Australian Public Service Commission publications.
Funding source: Australian Public Service Commission.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Service delivery models and data capture for Indigenous Australians, Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs
Biddle, Nicholas

Contributing researchers: Gray, Matthew; Taylor, John; Hunter, Boyd; Bray, Rob and Hogan, Anthony.
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012
Summary of findings: This project identified and assessed exiting and overseas (for example, Canada) service delivery models (including those operating in related domains such as disability, community care mental health, health and education), and identified, collated and analysed recent surveys/reports for Indigenous/mainstream disability data sets (from previous five years) to identify trends, issues, gaps in data collection to better understand the extent and nature of disability in Indigenous populations (in urban, regional and remote areas) which in turn will be incorporated as design considerations for a National Disability Insurance Scheme.
Impact: The project identified and recommended best practice service delivery options and strategies that will optimise outcomes for Indigenous Australians with a disability under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Social Services; Social Policy Research Services Agreement.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

The NSW Aboriginal Population in the 2011 Census
Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2013
Summary of findings: The aim of this project was to develop a report that provides discussion regarding the most recent data on Aboriginal populations in New South Wales as well as providing lifetime pathways analysis in relation to education attainment, employment and housing. The report summarised, compared and analysed Aboriginal populations’ census data (2006 and 2011 Census data) and identifies themes and lifetime pathways.
Funding source: New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council; consultancy.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Small area social indicators for the Indigenous population
Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: University of Canberra
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2012
Summary of findings: This project entailed delivering small area estimates of Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes and wellbeing using indicators and indexes derived by CAEPR at the ANU and the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM) at the University of Canberra using a framework specific to the Indigenous population.
Funding source: Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network.
**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Labour market discrimination**

**Biddle, Nicholas**

**Contributing researchers:** Howlett, Monica and Hunter, Boyd.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2013

**Summary of findings:** This research used self-reported data to illustrate how Indigenous Australians experience discrimination and how it is potentially associated with poor labour market outcomes. After giving consideration to what factors may lead people to report being discriminated against, an empirical analysis of self-reported discrimination is presented, utilising data from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Correlations between discrimination experienced in different settings are identified, and the association of discrimination with human capital and other characteristics is presented. The results suggested that the main process driving the reporting of discrimination is the extent to which an individual is exposed to situations in which they interact with potential discriminators. This could mean that some Indigenous Australians decrease their labour supply in order to avoid potentially adverse (discriminatory) situations. Implications for understanding Indigenous disadvantage are discussed along with recommendations for both addressing discrimination and enhancing the resilience of individuals facing discrimination.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Creative collaborations for robust analysis of administrative data**

**Biddle, Nicholas**

**Contributing researchers:** Gray, Matthew; Howlett, Monica; Hunter, Boyd and Stephenson, Nikki.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Indigenous participation in arts and cultural expression and the relationship with wellbeing**

**Biddle, Nicholas**

**Contributing researcher:** Crawford, Heather

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** The objective of the research project was to analyse data from the 2014-15 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and comparable data from the 2008 NATSISS about:

- First Nations peoples’ participation in their arts and culture.
- Changes over time, and demographic breakdowns of participants.
- The relationship between arts and cultural participation and wellbeing, and other socioeconomic outcomes.

**Funding source:** Australia Council.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Indigenous Wellbeing and Socioeconomic Indicators**

**Biddle, Nicholas**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** This research is exploring unique predictors of Indigenous wellbeing.

**Impact:** This research hopes to produce a greater understanding of population-level situation to inform policy.

**Community partnerships:** Seminars and reports to government departments.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Improved Indigenous population projections for policy and planning**

Biddle, Nicholas; Raymer, James

**Contributing researchers:** Wilson, Tom; Taylor, Andrew and Thapa, Prem.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Queensland; Charles Darwin University and Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

**Project start date:** 2013
**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This research presented internal migration patterns of Aboriginal communities and the potential policy implications. The way in which migration can be predicted to ensure appropriate policy is presented.


**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: LP130100735.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Indigenous population project (IPP)—Analysis following each Census exploring the dynamics and regional geography of Indigenous population and socio-economic change**

Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016
**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** There are numerous Census and working papers available on the ANU’s Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research website that inform government policy regarding a range of issues relating to Indigenous population change, education, employment, income and housing (just to name a few). This work has also fed into regular seminars delivered in the Commonwealth’s Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**Reconciliation in schools [Evaluation of Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning (2nd Phase)]**

Biddle, Nicholas; Priest, Naomi

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018
**Project end date:** 2020

**Funding source:** Reconciliation Australia; consultancy.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**LSIC measures on education**

Edwards, Ben; Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; North Australia Strategies

**Gambling in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory: Development and Pilot of a health promotion initiative**

Paterson (previously Fogarty), Marisa

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016
**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** Gambling is an issue that is increasingly reported, both anecdotally and through research, as having significant negative impacts on Indigenous individuals, families and communities in the Northern Territory. Rates of gambling problems are much higher in the Indigenous population compared to the non-Indigenous population. This pilot project addresses the negative impacts of gambling through the implementation of a health promotion framework to deliver gambling education and support services to rural and remote communities in the Northern Territory. The project is designed
collaboratively, implemented by Amity Community Services in three trial sites and evaluated by researchers at the Australian National University and Menzies School of Health Research.

**Funding source:** NT Chief Minister's Department/Gambling Research grants.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

### Economic and social benefits of closing the Indigenous employment gap

**Gray, Matthew; Hunter, Boyd and Biddle, Nick**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2013

**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** Relatively low rates of employment are one of the reasons for many of the poor economic and social outcomes experienced by Indigenous Australians. Increases in the rate of Indigenous employment would result in significant economic gains to the individuals who move into employment, and their families and communities, to the government who would receive higher tax revenues and have lower social security outlays, and the economy as a whole via the increases in the effective labour supply. The existing research found that there are health and social benefits that flow from paid employment. This research, using the latest available data and research, provides estimates of the likely economic and social benefits of increasing Indigenous employment to the same level as in the non-Indigenous population (that is, closing the employment gap).

### Family and community safety survey

**Gray, Matthew; Lovett, Ray; Hovane, Victoria; Guthrie, Jill; Dunbar, Terry; Banks, Emily and others**

**Lead organisations:** Australian National University and Charles Darwin University.

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** The objectives of the study are to find out:

- What services and supports are available to people and families affected by violence, and how these services and supports are valued by people in the community.
- What communities think is needed to improve safety in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- How violence affects relationships, health, wellbeing, education and employment.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

### Evaluation of income management in the Northern Territory

**Gray, Matthew; Bray, Rob**

**Contributing researchers:** Hand, Kelly; Katz, Ilan

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of New South Wales; Australian Institute of Family Studies.

**Project start date:** 2010

**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** The research was conducted in consultation with key stakeholders. Significant improvements at the community level were not evident, despite improvements being reported at the individual level, such as:

- Positive impacts for people on particular forms of compulsory income management, including child protection income management and social worker assessed vulnerable income management.
- Positive reports from people on voluntary income management.
- A number of people reported that income management makes their lives easier, makes it easier to manage money, makes them feel safer, and has improved the lives of both them and their children.
- Many people reported a reduction in humbugging.
- Some people reported an improvement in their health and wellbeing through having less cash available for alcohol or drugs.

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

### Longitudinal study of Indigenous children

**Hunter, Boyd**

**Contributing researcher:** Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2008

**Project end date:** 2012

**Summary of findings:** The research contributed to the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) Footprints in Time study. Footprints in Times is the most comprehensive source of longitudinal information on early childhood development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Boyd was a member of the Steering.
and Design Committees for the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Australia (organised through FaHCSIA) between 2003 and 2012.

Impact: One journal and one conference paper.
Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Communities and Indigenous Affairs.

Research themes: Governance

Methods for estimating the market value of Indigenous knowledge
Hunter, Boyd; Hunt, Janet; Woods Kaely; Blackwell, Boyd

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019
Summary of findings: This research was to develop an approach to the valuation of the potential market value of Indigenous knowledge (IK) including traditional knowledge and cultural expressions for IP Australia. The work had a particular focus on the current and potential future market value created through legislated protection measures including patent law, trade mark law, design legislation and plant breeder’s rights, which are the protective mechanisms (not including copyright law) that sit within IP Australia’s jurisdiction.
Funding source: IP Australia.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Routledge Handbook of Indigenous Wellbeing
Manning, Matthew

Contributing researchers: Fleming, Christopher
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2021
Summary of findings: The objective of the Routledge Handbook of Indigenous Wellbeing is to provide a reliable and convenient source of information for policy makers, academics and students on the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and communities across the world. The Handbook will allow readers to make informed choices when making decisions regarding the wellbeing of Indigenous populations. The Handbook will also assist non-government organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the World Bank, the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development to gain a global perspective of factors that are relevant to the development of stronger and more effective international policy aimed at improving the lives of Indigenous communities.
Funding source: University College London.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Governance

Evaluation, Aboriginal Children and Family Justice Project
Manning, Matthew

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2017
Summary of findings: The project provides an integrated and intensive support service to Aboriginal children aged 10–14 years who have current involvement with Victoria Police, and who are at high risk of further involvement in the criminal justice system. A key component of the evaluation methodology is an outcomes evaluation.
Funding source: Jesuit Social Services; Consultancy.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing, Social and Cultural

Gambling in Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory: Development and pilot of a health promotion initiative
Paterson, Marisa; Whitty, Megan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Amity Community Services; Menzies School of Health Research
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2020
Summary of findings: Gambling is an issue that is increasingly reported, both anecdotally and through research, as having significant negative impacts on Indigenous individuals, families and communities in the Northern Territory. Rates of gambling problems are much higher in the Indigenous population compared to the non-Indigenous population. This pilot project addresses the negative impacts of gambling through the implementation of a health promotion framework to deliver gambling education and support services to rural and remote communities in the Northern Territory. The project is designed collaboratively, implemented by Amity Community Services in three trial sites and evaluated by researchers at the Australian National University and Menzies School of Health Research.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Northern Territory remote communities – Tiwi Islands, Willowra, Ti Tree.
Funding source: Northern Territory Government.
**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing, Social and Cultural

**TAG: (Talking about Aboriginal Gambling)**

Paterson, Marisa; Whitty, Megan; Van Rooy, Dirk

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Think Place; Menzies School of Health Research

**Project start date:** 2019  
**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** Using technology to reduce gambling harm in NSW communities: An ICT health promotion randomized control trial 2019-2021.

**Funding source:** New South Wales Department of Education and Communities.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Indigenous peoples, social inclusion and social exclusion**

Hunter, Boyd; Jordan, Kirrily

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2008  
**Project end date:** 2010

**Summary of findings:** Some of the first research to consider Indigenous policy from the perspective of social exclusion and inclusion. Argues that a key concern is Indigenous autonomy, for instance, ‘What are people to be included in, and who decides?’

**Impact:** Three publications and two conference presentations.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Understanding Aboriginal identification in NSW**

Biddle, Nicholas

**Contributing researcher:** Crawford, Heather

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014  
**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** The aims of the project were to: analyse and report on data generated from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Australian Census Longitudinal Database (ACLD) as it throws light on the issue of people who have reported themselves as Aboriginal in the 2011 Census but not in 2006; validate data and answer research questions, where the data supports it; to provide an analysis of Aboriginal identification while answering research questions, where the data supports it.

**Funding source:** New South Wales Department of Education and Communities.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Work on the relationship between developmental risk factors, Early Childhood Education attendance, and outcomes in the first years of full-time schooling with some Indigenous-relevant analysis**

Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This study presents the most robust evidence to date of the importance of engaging Indigenous children in early childhood education and care (ECEC) programs to boost cognitive and developmental outcomes in the short term (2 years after ECEC participation) and longer term (3–5 years after ECEC participation). We highlight differences between whether a child attended preschool or childcare and explore how the number of hours attended affects cognitive and developmental outcomes. Preschool attendance was associated with better short-term cognitive outcomes, as well as better cognitive and developmental outcomes in the longer term. There were not, however, significant effects associated with the number of preschool hours attended. Child-care attendance was associated with longer term cognitive and developmental improvements, but there is also some evidence that spending too long at childcare can be detrimental to children’s developmental and cognitive outcomes.
**Research theme:** Education

**Evaluation of Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in schools and early learning**

Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014
**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** The project provided an independent monitoring analysis of the effectiveness of program outputs (Reconciliation Australia Schools Narragunnawali: On-line Reconciliation Action Plan Builder and Reconciliation Australia curriculum resources, the Reconciliation Australia Teacher Professional Learning model and the National School Awards for Reconciliation) and an independent evaluation of program outcomes against stated objectives (to support Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Schools to develop environments that foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions).

**Funding source:** Reconciliation Australia; consultancy.

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**Research themes:** Education; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Improving Indigenous participation in the labour force**

Gray, Matthew; Hunter, Boyd

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011
**Project end date:** 2011

**Summary of findings:** The research produced an Issues Paper that reviewed the quality and breadth of the available evidence on strategies for improving Indigenous participation in the labour force, evaluated the evidence base in relation to this, and identified any gaps in the available research.

**Funding source:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; consultancy.

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**Research themes:** Education; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Research and development of options for Congress policy position on employment**

Gray, Matthew; Hunter, Boyd; Biddle, Nick

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014
**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** The research investigated the following:
> Whether Indigenous people are more or less willing to move for mining jobs.
> What are the mobility drivers and pathways (e.g. FIFO, need to move to another region to avoid cultural pressures)?
> What are the factors that inhibit mobility (for example, does the welfare system influence mobility)?
> Is the level or periodicity of mobility gendered?

**Funding source:** Minerals Council of Australia.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Regional Employment Profile of South Australia’s far north**

Gray, Matthew; Jordan, Kirrily

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** South Australian centre for Economic Studies

**Project start date:** 2011
**Project end date:** 2011

**Summary of findings:** The project produced estimates of current employment patterns and provided projections of future labour demand in three regions within South Australia’s remote areas: The Port Augusta region; the Ceduna region; the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of Social Services/Consultancy.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Indigenous economic and frontier history**

Hunter, Boyd; Markham, Francis

**Lead organisation:** University of Melbourne

**Participating organisations:** University of Newcastle; Griffith University.

**Project start date:** 2013
**Project end date:** 2022

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Business-related studies and Indigenous Australian students**

Hunter, Boyd

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Canberra

**Project start date:** 2012
**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** This research provided recommendations on resourcing Indigenous support units to retain Indigenous students and provide numeracy skills required for business-related studies. Mainstream business and economics departments in universities have to take responsibility for an Indigenous-friendly study environment.

**Impact:** A Working Paper on business-related studies and Indigenous Australian students was developed to inform ATSIHEAC Business Roundtable and subsequent reports.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth government departments.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Factors influencing successful outcomes in Indigenous economic participation**

Hunter, Boyd

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute (ADSRI)

**Project start date:** 2010
**Project end date:** 2011

**Summary of findings:** The most significant insight provided by this research is that Indigenous people would probably be advantaged by a greater involvement in the mainstream economy, both through getting a job in the local economy or engaging in business enterprise. Racial discrimination in the labour market and product markets are likely to be important constraints on the ability to achieve this, but developing and encouraging the aspiration to work in similar jobs to that of other Australians is likely to reduce the marginality of the Indigenous population. Education is consistently identified as the most crucial condition for success as Indigenous workers and entrepreneurs need the set of competencies that allow them to work in a similar set of jobs to that of other Australians. Social networks and the ability to work and live in both the Indigenous and mainstream cultural milieu are other factors that need to be considered, even though they are probably less amenable to policy intervention.

**Impact:** Report produced to inform social policy.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.
Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Indigenous business**

**Hunter, Boyd**

**Project start date:** 2013  
**Project end date:** 2022  
**Summary of findings:** Indigenous business.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Indigenous business**

**Hunter, Boyd; Shirodkar, Siddharth**

**Lead organisations:** Australian National University; Charles Darwin University.

**Project start date:** 2019  
**Project end date:** 2019  
**Funding source:** Indigenous Business Australia.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Economic research to understand the pathways and barriers to Indigenous Australians starting a business [PhD]**

**Shirodkar, Siddharth**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Project start date:** 2018  
**Project end date:** 2021  
**Summary of findings:** Too few Indigenous Australians are finding pathways into formal business ownership compared to the rest of Australia. The rate of Indigenous business ownership is currently 3 per cent (of the working age population) compared to around 9 per cent for non-Indigenous Australians. The research asks: where are all the Indigenous entrepreneurs? The research will investigate factors that are limiting opportunities for potential Indigenous entrepreneurs to get into business, including measuring and understanding the impact of racial bias. Mapping the pathways into business will help identify potential barriers that limit Indigenous people from accessing the economy. Once identified, policy makers can design suitable approaches to address barriers, increasing the proportion of Indigenous Australians in business.

**Impact:** This research was cited in newspaper articles in the Fairfax press and the Courier Mail. Adele was interviewed by ABC Radio Brisbane. Adele was also formally called to a private hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse where she spoke to her research. Her opinion piece gained the attention of senior government bureaucrats which resulted in a series of meetings that led to significant policy change. In October 2017, the Queensland
Government announced a series of supportive initiatives, including ex-gratia payments, for former state wards who has been wrongfully admitted to adult psychiatric facilities.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** This work is an extension of Adele Chynoweth's work as curator of the National Museum of Australia's (NMA) exhibition *Inside: Life in Children's Homes and Institutions* which concerned the experiences of the Stolen Generations, Former Child Migrants and Forgotten Australians. As part of her research for this exhibition, Adele engaged with a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous women, who as children, were incarcerated in Wolston Park Hospital, an adult psychiatric facility. When Adele completed her work at the NMA, she continued to work, on her own, with this particular group of women. Adele aimed to draw attention to this particular living history because it had been excluded from the terms of reference of the 1999 Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions (known as the Forde Inquiry).

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Digital Futures: Cultural Sustainability in the post digital age**

*Edmundson, Anna*

**Contributing researchers:** James, Diana

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** The advent of new technologies and increased connectivity brings new opportunities and challenges to Indigenous communities. The researchers are gathering papers for a monograph examining how the uptake of social media and digital platforms are affecting communities both negatively and positively.

**Impact:** Through modelling and testing pathways, practices and protocols for creative re-use of traditional knowledge across geographic and organisational scales, this project will enhance innovation in creative industries development; Indigenous entrepreneurship through arts and culture; traditional knowledge transmission; and shape intellectual property policy implementation in the Pacific, Australia and related jurisdictions. It will result in cultural, social and economic benefits for end users including creative practitioners, policy makers, traditional knowledge custodians, and cultural and collecting organisations through generation of new knowledge, facilitating evidence-based policy and modelling creative practice innovation.

**Community partnerships:** Partnerships with Vanuatu Cultural Centre; Fondation Suzanne Bastien (Vanuatu); Further Arts (Vanuatu).

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Material culture museum collections: Mission influence curation of exhibitions fibre objects**

*Hamby, Louise*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Ailain Buumer: Erub arts**

*Hamby, Louise*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Impact:** Through modelling and testing pathways, practices and protocols for creative re-use of traditional knowledge across geographic and organisational scales, this project will enhance innovation in creative industries development; Indigenous entrepreneurship through arts and culture; traditional knowledge transmission; and shape intellectual property policy implementation in the Pacific, Australia and related jurisdictions. It will result in cultural, social and economic benefits for end users including creative practitioners, policy makers, traditional knowledge custodians, and cultural and collecting organisations through generation of new knowledge, facilitating evidence-based policy and modelling creative practice innovation.

**Community partnerships:** Partnerships with Vanuatu Cultural Centre; Fondation Suzanne Bastien (Vanuatu); Further Arts/ Nesar Studio (Vanuatu); LokolEyes (Vanuatu). Engagement with Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art; Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and other art and cultural organisations and practitioners in Australia and the Pacific region.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

Scaffolding Cultural CoCreativity
Haviland, Maya

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Vanuatu Cultural Centre; Fondation Suzanne Bastien (Vanuatu); Further Arts (Vanuatu); University of Brasilia.

Project start date: 2019
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: This research is investigating what practices, processes and skills are involved in enabling and sustaining culturally based collaborative creativity (co-creativity) across the overlapping domains of art, culture and education, and across local, organisational and regional scales. The project is researching how co-creative practices might vary across geographical, organisational and cultural contexts, and how different participants perceive, negotiate and access value from co-creative processes over time. Through collaborative action research case studies with partner organisations in Australia and internationally, and mixed-method qualitative research with cultural practitioners, the project is aiming to articulate and test a new conceptual framework for mapping cultural co-creativity and to identify, test and disseminate methodologies to scaffold sustained cultural co-creativity into a range of organisational and cultural settings.

Impact: The impact goal of this research is to support more effective creative collaboration across a range of cultural and disciplinary differences practice.

Community partnerships: The ANU Translational Fellowship Scheme. The project is partnering and engaging a range of cultural sector practitioners and organisations in Australia and internationally. Foundation partners include the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and The Vanuatu Cultural Centre. Engagement in this project is ongoing with a range of cultural organisations in Australia, including museums, funding bodies, cultural sector peak bodies, arts, culture and education institutions.

Funding source: Australian National University Translational Fellowship Scheme.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Engaging the Global legacy and impact of the Aboriginal Arts Agency
Morphy, Howard

Contributing researchers: Corn, Aaron; Myers, Fred

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: National Museum of Australia; Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre in Yirrkala

Project start date: 2018

Research theme: Social and Cultural

The unwired horizon: Clouded and mobile delivery platforms for early collections of Yolngu cultural heritage
Morphy, Howard

Lead researcher: Gumbula, Joseph (Yolngu Elder)

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: Led by the Yolngu Elder and researcher Joseph Gumbula, this project will develop a clouded database engine and networked applications for streaming digitised heritage resources in ways appropriate for Indigenous peoples, particularly those in remote communities. Trial content will be selected from records of Gumbula’s own heritage dating from 1924.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous: IN130100017

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Aboriginal children’s history of Australia
Morphy, Howard

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: National Museum of Australia; Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre in Yirrkala

Project start date: 2018
Summary of findings: A project to reunite children’s drawings from the 1970s with their original Yolngu artists involving Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre in Yirrkala and the National Museum of Australia. The drawings, done between 1975 and 1977, were collected to form part of a book called ‘The Aboriginal Children’s History of Australia: Written and Illustrated by Australia’s Aboriginal Children’, published in 1977. The National Museum of Australia, which has held the works since 1991, is digitising the drawings and hoping to reunite copies with the original artists. Many of the drawings are already accessible on the National Museum of Australia website.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Engaging the Global Legacy and Impact of the Aboriginal Arts Agency

Morphy, Howard

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Summary of findings: Project will be published as a monograph with Routledge in 2020. In relation to Indigenous culture and history the following sites were included in this project: Uluru, the First Australians gallery at the National Museum of Australia and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in the United States of America. The work looks at how museum visitors engage with distressing and contested colonial history—the findings indicate that most visitors will engage in an array of discursive and emotional strategies to preserve celebratory entrance narratives and concepts of national identity. Histories/interpretations that disrupt celebratory entrance narratives will be disregarded as visitors express fear of ambiguity and the possibility of feeling shame or guilt.

Impact: Potential impact on museum and heritage site interpretation and exhibition policies and practices.


Funding source: Australian Research Council Future: FT0992071.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Aboriginal land management in 1788, and lessons for today

Gammage, Bill

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: The research revealed the complex, country-wide systems of land management used by Aboriginal people. Across Australia, early Europeans commented again and again that the land looked like a park. With extensive grassy patches and pathways, open woodlands and abundant wildlife, it evoked a country estate in England. The research has discovered this was because Aboriginal people managed the land in a far more systematic and scientific fashion than we have ever realised and has uncovered an extraordinarily complex system of land management using fire, the life cycles of native plants, and the natural flow of water to ensure plentiful wildlife and plant foods throughout the year. We know Aboriginal people spent far less time and effort than Europeans in securing food and shelter, and now we know how they did it. With details of land-management strategies from around Australia, The Biggest Estate on Earth rewrites the history of this continent, with huge implications for us today. Once Aboriginal people were no longer able to tend their country, it became overgrown and vulnerable to the hugely damaging bushfires we now experience. And what we think of as virgin bush in a national park is nothing of the kind.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

The value of Aboriginal cultural heritage—Cultural production and regional economies in Eastern Arnhem Land

Morphy, Howard

Contributing researcher: Throsby, David
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Macquarie University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The project researched the ways in which the unique and dynamic character of Aboriginal knowledge systems and cultural production can be utilised and maintained within regional systems of economic development. The project focused on art and cultural tourism in two regions: Eastern Arnhem Land and the Western Desert.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery: DP120101387.

Impact: The Kimberley Schools Aboriginal Culture Mapping Project is contributing to the broader Kimberley Caring for Culture Planning Project, which is part of the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial, and being used by Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC) to inform the forthcoming Western Australian Government Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and the planned WA Government Aboriginal Cultural Policy.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project was commissioned by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and involved engagement with Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff of 28 of the 44 schools in the Kimberley region and a range of related community stakeholders across the Kimberley region.

Funding source: Commissioned by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and funded by the Western Australia Public Health Association and Aarnja Ltd.

Research theme: Education

Kimberley schools culture program’s mapping project

Haviland, Maya

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Western Australia Department of Education; Catholic Education Western Australia; 28 of the 44 schools in the Kimberley region.
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This research looked at the roles that schools are playing in fostering local Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices through school-based programs and activities in the Kimberley, with a survey and qualitative research in 2018/19. The research sought to understand the supporting and constraining factors for both school staff and administration and local Aboriginal community members in participating in school-based cultural education projects and activities and how these can be better supported in the future. It identified and gathered information on examples of school-based Aboriginal culture programs that are considered effective by schools and local community members, developing a series of best practice case studies, identifying gaps and opportunities for policy and practice to strengthen the school/culture interface in the Kimberley.

Impact: The Kimberley Schools Aboriginal Culture Mapping Project is contributing to the broader Kimberley Caring for Culture Planning Project, which is part of the Kimberley Suicide Prevention Trial, and being used by Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre (KALACC) to inform the forthcoming Western Australian Government Aboriginal Affairs Strategy and the planned WA Government Aboriginal Cultural Policy.

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Funding source: Commissioned by the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre and funded by the Western Australia Public Health Association and Aarnja Ltd.

Research theme: Governance

Political framing of Indigenous Affairs policy; Politics of Indigenous childhood

Lovell, Melissa

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

The capacity for community development to improve conditions in Australian Aboriginal communities

Jagger, David

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2011
The Australian National University

Engaging ‘disengaged’ Aboriginal youth: policy, practice and success in youth development programs [PhD]

Alexiou, Helen

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2015

Summary of findings: This thesis contributed to the limited research available within the field of Aboriginal education and policy specific to work with Indigenous youth. The statistical ‘gaps’ between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in regard to engagement in education and the attainment of qualifications, as well as in involvement in part-time or full-time employment, have been well documented. It is these statistical gaps that inform current policy thinking on the nature of the ‘Aboriginal education problem’, and what needs to be fixed. However, this policy approach is dominated by aggregate statistics and generalised discourse and tends to view the ‘Aboriginal education problem’ as representative of all Indigenous youth. Youth development programs have been a popular model for addressing the ‘Aboriginal education problem’ and have enjoyed years of positive and uncritical reflection on their approach. This research explored the compatibility of this current policy approach with the actuality of the social, local and historical contexts that many of the Indigenous youth come from and argues that it is poorly related to the reality of the lives of many youths who attend these programs. This thesis drew on data collected over 18 months during anthropological fieldwork with non-government organisations, corporate organisations, schools, Aboriginal organisations and young Aboriginal people, by following one national government-funded youth and career development program.

The evidence challenges the assumption that Indigenous youth necessarily have limited aspirations when it comes to education and employment or even a limited acceptance of the reasoning behind schooling, even in the case of youth from remote regions. The research outlined how the need of policy makers to demonstrate value, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability, imposes an increasingly hierarchical system in the delivery of youth work, creating a divide between managers and their staff. Consequently, organisations are becoming less responsive to the voices of those who work in the organisation, as well as to the young people they aim to serve. This project explores the consequences of this reshaping of the youth work environment on the youth workers themselves and on their professional and personal identity as Aboriginal. It is demonstrated how the discourse of the ‘disengaged young person’ and the popular operation of youth work within a functional model reshapes a youth work environment traditionally established to critique conventional approaches. The thesis ends with an assessment of whether the youth program at the heart of this study was a success.

The global in the local: Development and international NGO practice in central Australia

Anderson, Drew

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This thesis presents an ethnography of an international NGO that attempted to improve the health and educational outcomes of Indigenous children in Central Australia through a participatory and culturally respectful community development project. Originally setting out to answer the question of whether participatory practices derived from “international development” could be useful in the context of Indigenous Australia, this study instead deploys the ontological approaches of Annemarie Mol (2002) and Bruno Latour (2005) to return to the dichotomous way in which such questions are framed: as a “global” organisation interacting with a “local” community.

The distinction between the global and the local inhabits and structures other binaries that run throughout the thesis: between organisation and community, expertise and “cultural” knowledge, and between White and Indigenous, or in locally salient terms, Kardiya and Yapa. Drew asks after the effects of this framing: how do such dualisms define who participates in development, and in what ways? What forms of knowledge emerge as significant and important under these conditions? How do Indigenous people and White NGO staff negotiate the moral landscape of “helping”? What kinds of relationship are produced? And how does his ethnographic writing, as another knowledge practice, engage with development? Drew demonstrates the ways in which development is performed through an examination of the day-to-day practices of the NGO: drawing upon expertise and evidence to justify intervention, monitoring and evaluating project impacts, building “intercultural” relationships, ensuring participation, and marketing to raise project funds.

Drew argues that because NGO practice enacts the objects of development (Mol 2002), and is therefore entangled with them, participatory approaches that rely upon a boundary between the development agency and the targets of development are destabilised. The performance of this boundary is important however, as it serves as both the problem to be overcome and the crucial ethical through which well-meaning, settler-colonial NGO staff negotiate their work and professional identities in remote Indigenous Australia. Drew draws upon participant observation within the NGO to present an ethnographic account that unbinds development from its normative, instrumental representations, while eschewing denunciation as the necessarily alternative research position. Drew’s work brings the critical anthropology of development into conversation with an Indigenous Australian setting, and contributes to the growing field of NGO ethnography.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

An ethnography of emotion and morality: toward a local indigenous theory of value and social exchange on the Yolngu Homelands in remote North-East Arnhem Land [PhD]

Blakeman, Bree

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2015

Summary of findings: Drawing on the key body of terms and concepts associated with affect and emotion in Yolnu-matha, this thesis explored the way Yolnu people of North-East Arnhem Land consider morality and value in everyday relations. Material suggested that Yolnu conceive of and consider persons to be fundamentally and necessarily interdependent rather than intrinsically autonomous. On a socio-centric level the relationship between groups in referred to as raki’ (strings [of relatedness]). The normative ideal relationship between groups is when raki’ are manapan-mirri (Joined, connected, linked [together to each other]), and the groups thus wangany-ura (far) one. Proper practice and conduct are to malthum nhannu raki’ (follow [up] the string), while upset, disequilibrium, or conflict is aid to threaten to gulk’thun nhannu raki’ (cut or sever the string). This paralleled on an interpersonal level by nayanu (state or sense of feeling [among and between people]), the basic concept of affect/emotion and ground of moral evaluation. Balance and equilibrium are denoted by the normative ideal of nayanu wangany (one state or sense of feeling). Proper behaviour and moral conduct are said to be nayanu-yu (through nayanu), while moral transgressions register as nayanu-yu (through nayanu), while moral transgressions register as nayanu-yu (through nayanu), while moral transgressions register as nayanu-yu. This breadth of coverage enabled the researcher to undertake a comparison in respect to certain aspects of culture, social organisation and the relationship to land. There have previously been few detailed studies of these matters in the desert, and none in which two large scale groupings have been able to be compared in this way. Secondly, the thesis sets out to fill a ‘gap’ in the anthropological record, inasmuch as it provides the first detailed ethnography of the Ngaanyatjarra.

Dreamings and connections to country: among the Ngaanyatjarra and Pintupi of the Australian Western Desert [PhD]

Brooks, David William

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: This thesis had a two-fold aim. Firstly, it is a study of Aboriginal connectedness to Country over a large area of the Australian Western Desert, sufficiently large that it embraces the main Country of two recognised desert peoples, the Ngaanyatjarra and the Pintupi. This breadth of coverage enabled the researcher to undertake a comparison in respect to certain aspects of culture, social organisation and the relationship to land. There have previously been few detailed studies of these matters in the desert, and none in which two large scale groupings have been able to be compared in this way. Secondly, the thesis sets out to fill a ‘gap’ in the anthropological record, inasmuch as it provides the first detailed ethnography of the Ngaanyatjarra.

Contemporary ritual practice in an Aboriginal settlement: The Warlpiri Kurdijji ceremony [PhD]

Curran, Georgia

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2010

Summary of findings: Based on fieldwork undertaken in Yuendumu, Central Australia from 2005 to 2008, this thesis is an ethnography of the place of singing and ceremony in the contemporary Warlpiri world. Core to religious life, ‘traditional’ ceremonies and their associated songlines have always been an important aspect of Warlpiri identity as they link people to their kin, country and Dreamings. Over the last few decades there has
been a decline in the learning contexts and opportunities for the performance of many of these ceremonies, such that today most ceremonies do not hold the same relevance. This consideration is set against the backdrop of recent historical and demographic changes consequent on living in large settlements, dependent on welfare payments and store-bought food. While the numbers of people who attend individual performances and the scale of these ceremonies is increasing, it is in a vulnerable situation as the central songline that is core to its performance, and which guides the sequence of events for the entire night of its duration, is only known by a small group of older men. Once a domain in which people learned religious knowledge central to survival, Kurdji as one of the few ceremonies still held, is now more vital than ever, as through its performance core aspects of Warlpiri identity are maintained, particularly for younger generations.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Landscape archaeology at Lake Mungo
Denham, Tim

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: La Trobe University; University of Wollongong.

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: The southern tip of the Mungo lunette is an icon of Australia's Indigenous past. Despite its international significance, the archaeological traces have disintegrated as the lunette has eroded over the past 30 years. In this interdisciplinary project, collaboration with Elders from the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area is expected to reconstruct the history of environmental changes and the lifeways of the first humans to settle this region. The focus will be on stitching together the archaeological traces scattered through space and time, and on measuring processes of modern sediment erosion and deposition so as to develop management strategies for the future protection of this unique archive of Australia's past.

Impact: Lake Mungo preserves Australia's most important archaeological sites and is the jewel of the Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area. These sites contain some of the earliest evidence for human settlement of the continent and are of immense cultural significance to all Australians. Recording and protecting these iconic traces of Indigenous heritage will be an educational asset, provide an economic stimulus for cultural tourism and improve our understanding of this fragile, outback landscape.

Community partnerships: Willandra Lakes Region WHA 3TTG.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Divergent pathways to tropical agriculture in highland New Guinea, Wallacea and northern Australia during the Holocene
Denham, Tim

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: The project aims to address a major question in world archaeology: why did some people develop agriculture, while others did not? It plans to establish plant macrofossil and microfossil reference collections for three wet tropical regions: highland Papua New Guinea, Moluccas in eastern Indonesia, and western Arnhem Land in Australia. It then plans to use previously excavated archaeobotanical assemblages to establish robust plant-use chronologies for these regions. In this way, the project seeks to develop capacity for tropical archaeobotany within Australia and to revolutionise concepts of plant exploitation, domestication and cultivation in tropical Australasia and Wallacea during the Holocene (last c. 11,500 years).

Impact: The project seeks to raise Australia's capacity for tropical archaeobotany in Australasia and Wallacea. A collaborative network of Australian and English universities will assist research and training a new generation of archaeobotanists. Collaborations with institutions in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea will strengthen Australia's relations with its neighbours. The research is designed to be world-class, yield major publications and to effect knowledge transfer.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Njanjma Aboriginal Corporation.
Funding source: Australian Research Council Future: FT150100420.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Indigenous and non-Indigenous lives in Wilcannia
Finlayson, Julie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2021

Summary of findings: Sustaining livelihoods in remote towns, role of native title determination in relation to Darling River cultural and environmental flows; Indigenous livelihoods.

Funding source: Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department/Native Title Anthropologist Grants Program.
**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Alive with the Dreaming! Songlines of the Western Desert.**

James, Diana; Morphy, Howard

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** National Museum of Australia; AnanguKu Arts and Culture Aboriginal Corporation; Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council; Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (now DPMC); The Palya Fund; Kanyirinya Jukurrpa: Martu Cultural Knowledge Centre; AHMS Australian Heritage Management Systems; South Australian Museum (associate); Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Culture Organisation (associate); Martumili Artists (associate) and Maruku Arts, Ara Iritiţa (associate).

**Project start date:** 2012

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:**


Kuru Ala: Kungkarangkalpa Seven Sisters Songline, 2015, film produced by ANU and Ngaanyatjarra Council Land and Culture Program. The film is a powerful statement by the importance of Indigenous traditional knowledge to current cultural heritage management practices.

Songlines: Tracking the Seven Sisters, Sept 2017- Feb2018, exhibition at the National Museum of Australia. An innovative multi-media approach to presenting research results in an exhibition co-curated with Indigenous elders and co-researchers, weaving the interdisciplinary knowledge strands through the visual arts, film, oral and performative traditions. Activating the Songlines Archive is the ongoing collaborative research project enabling the Indigenous individuals and organisations participating in the Songlines project to continue working with the massive research data archive held in the national institutions of AIATSIS, ADA and the regional Indigenous archives of Ara Iritiţa, Martu and Ngaanyatjarra organisations. The aim is to pass knowledge onto future generations and share Australia’s Indigenous heritage with the wider public by interpreting and communicating the importance of Songlines as repositories of Indigenous heritage knowledge of places, ancestors, ecological and cultural landscapes across the continent of Australia.

**Impact:** The public exhibitions and performances of the Songlines of the Western Desert Project have enabled national and international audiences to experience and begin to understand the importance of Songlines as repositories of Indigenous heritage knowledge in Songlines across the Western Desert. The performance and exhibition of Kungkarangkalpa: The Seven Sisters Songline, at the National Museum of Australia, was the first time an Indigenous Songline of this magnitude and significance was performed and shared by Indigenous custodians in the National Capital. It was celebrated nationally and internationally by viewers of the live broadcast. The performance and exhibition have been celebrated as strong and powerful presentations of Australia’s Indigenous cultural traditions.

**Community partnerships:** Songlines of the Western Desert Project was a multi-partner collaborative project between the ANU, NIMA and Indigenous arts and culture organisations of the Martu and Ngaanyatjarra peoples of Western Australia and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) peoples of the Northern Territory and South Australia. The project engaged over two hundred Indigenous artists, singers and dancers from twelve community art centres across the Ngaanyatjarra, Martu and APY lands through their regional arts organisations. Successful partnerships were formed between the university, museums and Indigenous community art centres and regional councils that enabled truly collaborative cross-cultural research and exhibitions of local and national significance.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council; Arts South Australia; Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities; Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet: Indigenous Heritage Program; Australian Capital Territory Government: Centenary of Canberra.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Australian Aboriginal higher order social organisation and the late Holocene [PhD]**

Jefferies, Tony

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** The first generation of Australianist anthropologists described an over-arching level of social organisation they variously described as nations, confederacies or messmates. The existence of this level of social organisation received some support in the later work of Meggitt (1962) and Hiatt (1965) in respect of the Warlpiri of Central Australia and the Gidjingali of Annhem Land respectively, and also in the theoretical work of Sutton (1990). However, an insuperable
barrier to accepting its existence has been the lack of evidence for this institution from the field. This thesis argues that a level of higher order social organisation (as named by Sutton 2003) did exist and its absence in modern communities can be explained by them having been subsumed under the Australian nation state. To explain their purpose and structure, Tony reconstructs the demographic conditions of the Late Holocene. This, he argues, was a period of great vitality, of rapid population growth and a host of economic and technological advances. Historical linguistics provides evidence that goes beyond what can be learnt about the Late Holocene from archaeology to demonstrate that it was a time of broad and pervasive language expansion. This expansion was accomplished by demic migration, that is by the expansion of populations distinguished by common language and culture, into new territory both unoccupied and occupied. The latter implies that for the Late Holocene, there was conflict with the smaller populations in the path of expanding groups, and, at a later stage, between other expanding populations. These demographic pressures led to the innovation or modification of many of the social institutions and activities now recognised as features of classical Aboriginal culture and society. Areas affected include kinship, warfare, trade and initiation ceremony. The peak sociological transformation was the emergence of institutions of higher order social organization. These were regional alliances designed either to further, or mitigate, demic expansion. Tony dichotomises these alliances as those that were aggressive, and those that were defensive. The former are usually populations of the same language and culture in the act of demic expansion; the latter, composed of peoples not necessarily closely related linguistically or culturally, was more a contingent response to the aggressive expansion of others.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Mt Denison Station, Northern Territory
Kenny, Anna; Peterson Nicolas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Central Land Council
Summary of findings: Research on the ties of the Ngaliya and Anmatjerre people to this cattle station. Mapping the cultural landscape, family trees and histories of people linked to the area and information meeting the requirements of the act. Writing of a connection report.
Impact: Native title determined in favour of the claimants.
Funding source: Central Land Council.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

The impacts of prenatal and early life stress on the biological, cognitive and social outcomes of Indigenous Australian children from an evolutionary perspective
McFarlane, Lauren

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: The aim of this research is to better understand the early life environment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and to understand the relationships that may exist between their experience of stress and their health, learning, development and wellbeing. While exposure to stress may promote resilience, it may also result in poorer health and cognitive outcomes in some individuals or if experienced over a prolonged period. Considering this, the research also aims to understand how children may differ from one another in their experience of and response to stressful circumstances, including how different factors may either mediate or exacerbate experiences of stress. For example, several studies have shown that grandparental involvement in a child’s life leads to measurable improvements in the health and cognitive outcomes of both the child and the grandparent (Sear & Coall, 2011), and so another aspect of the research will be exploring the role that family and kin networks may play in promoting resilience and helping children grow up strong. As a result, the primary purpose of this research is to provide information that will help bridge this gap in the literature, with analysis of the data available (in this case, the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children, discussed below) being undertaken to answer causal questions. The research aims to make causal inferences regarding the relationship between exposure to early life adversity and stress, and observable change in outcomes over the lifespan. It also aims to make causal inferences about the role of family involvement as a potential mediating factor in this relationship.
Impact: The first study to investigate this topic from an evolutionary perspective, it allows an in-depth examination of the links between exposure to prenatal and early life stress and measurable changes to health and development outcomes later in life. Results may provide further support for the evolutionary theory prediction that early life exposure to stressful environments will lead to adaptations that are measurable through changes in events such as puberty, as well as cognitive and health outcomes. This will give us a better understanding of the links between the experience of early life stress and impacts on later life outcomes, as well as aid in the understanding of individual and cultural differences in stress response. It is hoped that they will contribute to an information and evidence base that may assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in advocating for or evaluating policies and programmes that meet their needs and aspirations.
**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Biography on the life and art of western Arnhem Land artist Bardayal Lofty Nadjamerrek [PhD]**

McKenzie, Robyn

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Inside Alice Springs: Diversity in a central Australian town**

Merlan, Francesca

**Contributing researchers:** Ase Ottosson (Senior Research Associated on an Australian Research Council Discovery Grant)

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2012
**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** Alice Springs, though relatively ‘remote’ (from the east coast), is a regional centre, increasingly ‘diverse’, and also notorious for tensions around what regularly are labelled social problems involving alcohol licensing, use and abuse, ‘social control’ (or lack of it, with respect to young people), and tension, widely understood as racially-based. The project aimed to capture how day to day Indigenous and non-Indigenous co-existence is lived and understood in town, and to alter the balance of emphases, which have tended to focus on Indigenous people and issues, by delving more deeply into the structures of power, institutions and inter-relationships in the town which link Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents and interests.

**Impact:** Three peer-reviewed papers were produced dealing with racial division, anti-social behaviour, and belonging to place; seven conference presentations and research seminars were organised (including in Alice Springs); and two media broadcasts. The research contributed to some other publications, and further publications directly stemming from the project are in train.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery: DP120100960.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Alice Springs Visitor Research Project**

Merlan, Francesca

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Central Australian Aboriginal Congress

**Summary of findings:** Given pressures on Alice Springs Indigenous households and town camps, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) commissioned Merlan and Durnan (a CAAC employee) to devise a survey, questionnaire and other interview material in order to develop data on patterns of Indigenous mobility to and from Alice Springs. Investigations focused on children, schooling, visitor stays and numbers, visitor locations and facilities, problems experienced on the part of visitors and town residents. Investigations were conducted with residents in town camps, town housing, and at town health, visitor and other institutions.

**Impact:** A final report (2014) was co-authored and submitted to the CAAC.

**Funding source:** Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC).

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Katherine area, Northern Territory**

Merlan, Francesca

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Northern Land Council

**Summary of findings:** On Indigenous relationships to areas in and around the town of Katherine, Northern Territory.

**Funding source:** Northern Land Council.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Connection report, native title, Katherine Matters**

Merlan, Francesca

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Northern Land Council

**Project start date:** 2016
**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** This project involved production of a connection report, The Katherine Matters, concerned with native title in and around the Northern Territory town of Katherine.

**Funder:** Northern Land Council.

**Funding source:** Northern Land Council.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

People and change in Indigenous Australia
Merlan, Francesca

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project began as a conference session and resulted in an edited volume, People and Change in Indigenous Australia (Hawaii, 2018). The chief concern was to update depictions and analyses of indigenous personhood, towards understanding how changes in indigenous life styles, relations to country, education, and other factors are reflected in changing bases of personhood. The volume focused on larger communities in relatively remote Australia, but with some attention to Australia’s south-east. A new second phase of this project is ongoing.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Dynamics of social and cultural change in Indigenous-non-indigenous relations
Merlan, Francesca

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project began as an invited lecture series and resulted in a single-authored book, Dynamics of Difference in Australia: Indigenous Past and Present in a Settler Country (University of Pennsylvania, 2018). Making use of both historical and ethnographic materials, this work demonstrates continuities in the relations between colonizers/settlers and Australia’s indigenous minority, in forms of interaction, understandings and practices relating to material possessions and structures, concepts and practices of work, identification, and especially interaction relating to changing indigenous and non-indigenous relations to country and land areas.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Transformations of Warlpiri social relations
Musharbash, Yasmine

Lead organisation: The University of Sydney

Participating organisations: Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, Freie Universität Berlin

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: By investigating the deterioration of social relations experienced by Warlpiri people at the settlement of Yuendumu, this project developed a paradigmatic case study contributing towards better understanding contemporary Aboriginal Australia. It explored on-the-ground realities and historical material to identify patterns underlying the transformations of social relations. It analysed these and their effects through an innovative conceptual framework integrating anthropological approaches with the interdisciplinary study of the emotions.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).

Impact: The outcomes further current developments in Australian anthropology and make a timely qualitative contribution to current public debates about Aboriginal policy. Yasmine has written about her research in the Conversation and has been interviewed on Counterpoint by Amanda Vanstone on Radio National and on Evenings with Christine Anu on ABC Radio. Publications are still forthcoming from this project. It also lead to a string of invitations to speak internationally, including as a keynote speaker at a symposium at UCL, London, and for a performance at Soundcheck im Eulensaal 59 in Kassel, Germany.

Funding source: Australian Research Council.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Monster anthropology
Musharbash, Yasmine and Geir Henning Presterudstuen

Lead organisation: The University of Sydney, The University of Western Sydney, and The Australian National University

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: ongoing

Summary of findings: This project began as a conference panel in 2012 and has snow-balled since. Taking the monster studies definition of monsters as ‘meaning machines’ seriously, it brings anthropology, and specifically ethnography, to this emergent and ever-growing interdisciplinary field. While comparative in nature, the project leans heavily towards ethnography from First Nations Australia, and so far has produced three edited volumes, two symposia, and a number of articles and book chapters.

Funding source: The ARC, The University of Sydney, The University of Western Sydney, The Australian National University.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

Animal-Human Relations at Yuendumu, NT

Musharbash, Yasmine

Lead organisation: The University of Sydney, The University of Western Sydney, and The Australian National University

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: ongoing

Summary of findings: This project currently is focussed on Warlpiri-dog and Warlpiri-bird relations but aims to broaden out further to include other species. Closely related to the Monster Anthropology and Transformations of Warlpiri Social Relations projects, it aims to explore human-other-than-human relations through a focus on different animal species.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).

Research theme: Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management

Anthropology of smoke

Musharbash, Yasmine and Simone Dennis

Lead organisation: The University of Sydney and The Australian National University

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project began as a conference panel and resulted in an edited Special Issue with Anthropological Forum (2018). It collated comparative ethnographies of people-smoke entanglements, including Aboriginal Australia generally, and at Yuendumu more specifically.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).

Research theme: Social and Cultural; Education

Learning in cross-cultural contexts

Musharbash, Yasmine

Lead organisation: The University of Sydney

Participating organisations: Kobe University, Tokyo University, Kyoto University.

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: Focussing on an innovative working hypothesis called the ‘learning hypothesis’, this multi-disciplinary and international project explored learning behaviours and childhood socialisation in prehistoric and modern societies across time and space.

Impact: The outcomes further understandings of childhood socialisation and socio-culturally distinct forms of learning, and as such are relevant to post-apology policy relating to Indigenous children.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).

Funding source: Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research in Japan.

Research theme: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing

Ideas and images of Home: Research with youths at Yuendumu, NT

Musharbash, Yasmine

Lead organisation: The University of Western Australia

Project start date: 2007
Project end date: 2008

Summary of findings: Using innovative and adaptive methodologies, this project explored the attitudes and emotions of Warlpiri youths towards their home communities, other communities, and towns. It investigated notions of belonging as well as exclusion, and the impact of neo-colonial governance on youths’ experience of the world.

Impact: The outcomes further developments in Australian anthropology, are relevant to policy, as well as suicide prevention programmes.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).

Funding source: The University of Western Australia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Research theme: Social and Cultural</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact:</strong> The outcomes furthered developments in Australian anthropology and made qualitative contributions to public debates about Aboriginal policy. Yasmine was widely interviewed by domestic and international media about this project.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:</strong> This project involved close working relationships with the Warlpiri community of Yuendumu (NT).</td>
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<td><strong>Funding source:</strong> The University of Western Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research theme:</strong> Social and Cultural</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vitality and change in Warlpiri songs at Yuendumu</strong></td>
<td>Peterson, Nicolas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contribution researchers:</strong> Barwick, Linda; Turpin, Myfany; Fisher, Simon and Martin, Valerie.</td>
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<td><strong>Lead organisation:</strong> University of Sydney</td>
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<td><strong>Participating organisation:</strong> Warlpiri Media Aboriginal Association; Kurra Aboriginal Corporation.</td>
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<td><strong>Project start date:</strong> 2016</td>
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<td><strong>Project end date:</strong> 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of findings:</strong> This project led by Professor Linda Barwick and Dr Myfany Turpin of the University of Sydney, aimed to understand the reasons behind the reported decline in knowledge of songs amongst younger generations at Yuendumu in the past 40-50 years, using a central Australian music archive. To enhance the inter-generational transmission and engagement with song it held a number of workshops at Yuendumu with Warlpiri women and their daughters to develop and implement community-based activities and strategies to achieve this. Much of the field work as carried by Dr Georgia Curran also of the University of Sydney.</td>
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<td><strong>Impact:</strong> The project has a number of papers in press, has held several well attended workshops at Yuendumu and made additional recordings of previously unrecorded song cycles.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:</strong> Warlpiri Media Aboriginal Association; Kurra Aboriginal Corporation.</td>
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<td><strong>Funding source:</strong> Australian Research Council Linkage: LP160100743.</td>
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<td><strong>Research theme:</strong> Social and Cultural</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Trade and exchange in central Australia</strong></td>
<td>Peterson, Nicolas</td>
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<td><strong>Lead organisation:</strong> University of Sydney</td>
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<td><strong>Project start date:</strong> 2018</td>
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<td><strong>Project end date:</strong> 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summary of findings:</strong> An analysis of the pervasiveness of the movement of things in central Australia together with a consideration of whether the motivation was utilitarian need or just ceremonial.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:</strong> Central Land Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Funding source:</strong> Central Land Council.</td>
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**Work of the British and Foreign Bible Society with Aboriginal people as part of Heritage in the limelight: the magic lantern In Australia and the world**

**Peterson, Nicolas; Jolly, Martyn**

**Contributing researchers:** Thomas, M., Lydon, J., Pickering, P. and Kember, J.  
**Lead organisation:** ANU, School of Art (Martyn Jolly lead researcher)  
**Project start date:** 2016  
**Project end date:** 2018  
**Summary of findings:** The British and Foreign Bible Society was enormously effective at raising money for the distribution of bibles to Aboriginal people even immediately after the WW2. It employed a highly positive and distinctive collaborative imagery in its magic lantern road shows through Victoria in 1948 and 1949.  
**Impact:**  
**Community partnerships:** Close collaboration with the Kintore and Kiwirrkura communities and Papunya Tula Artists Ltd.  
**Funding source:** Australian Research Council DP160102509.

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**Pintupi dialogues: Reconstructing memories of art, land and community through the visual record**

**Peterson, Nicolas; Deveson, Pip**

**Contributing researchers:** Myers, Fred (New York University); Thorley, Peter (National Museum of Australia).  
**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University  
**Participating organisations:** Papunya Tula Artists Pty Ltd.; National Museum of Australia; New York University.  
**Project start date:** 2011  
**Project end date:** 2016  
**Summary of findings:** To enable Pintupi people to fashion their own visual history by giving them control of the editing and use of thirteen unedited hours of film footage taken by Ian Dunlop at Yayayi outstation in 1974. In addition to creating a visual record through filming interviews with present day community members. This resulted in two films directed by Pip Deveson, Remembering Yayayi and Marlene’s story. A conference was also held on outstations as early experiments in self-determination focusing on the 1970s-1990s.  
**Impact:**  
**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** With Western Aranda and Loritja speakers in Alice Springs and Hermannsburg, the staff of the Central Land Council and Strehlow Research Centre  
**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: LP110200803.
**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Mt Doreen Station, Northern Territory**

**Peterson, Nicolas; Kenny, Anna**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Central Land Council

**Project start date:** 2010

**Project end date:** 2013

**Summary of findings:** Research on the ties of the Ngaliya people to this 7500 square kilometres cattle station that covers the heartland of their traditional Country. Mapping the cultural landscape, recording family trees and histories of people linked to the area and information required to make a claim under the Native Title Act.

**Impact:** Native title determined 3 July 2013.

**Community partnerships:** All research carried out with Ngaliya Warlpiri traditional owners.

**Funding source:** Central Land Council.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**That’s deadly! An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts studio in Cairns, Queensland [PhD]**

**Stolte, Gretchen**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2013

**Summary of findings:** This thesis was an ethnographic and historical account of art and identity production by Indigenous artists in far north Queensland, Australia. It explores how both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists understand and express their Indigeneity through artwork in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art studio in the Tropical North Queensland ANU College of Technical and Further Education (TNQT TAFE), Cairns. It examines how contemporary, urban Indigenous artists face a number of stereotypes and public expectations when producing artworks. These expectations create a range of tensions for artists that stem from both the success of works from the Northern Territory as well as the past policies of the Queensland government. In particular, it shows that the actions of the government body established in the 1950s to create a market for Aboriginal art, Queensland Aboriginal Creations (QAC), has left a mixed legacy for Queensland Indigenous artists. Their art styles have been misinterpreted as derivative copies of ‘true’ Indigenous works and the positive outcomes that have come from QAC’s engagement with communities and artist has not been fully recognised. The legacy of QAC continues on to today and the TNQT Cairns Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art studio reflects these tensions in Indigenous art.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Things that meet the eye: the materiality of Warlpiri dwelling**

**Thurman, Joanne**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** Ongoing

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Mission Modern: An Ethno-historical explanation of the origins and reception of the Cape York Welfare Reform Trial**

**Watt, Elizabeth**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2016

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Decentralised living and development dilemmas for Indigenous people on the Dampier Peninsula, Kimberley, Western Australia**

**Wohlan, Catherine**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Coral Sea connection: The Waiet archaeology project [Establishing the provenance of Torres Strait Islander remains genetics, craniometrics and isotopes]**

**Wright, Duncan**

**Contributing researchers:** Westaway, Michael; Lambert, David; Miller, Adrian; Fry, Brian; Sankarasubramanian, Subashchandran; Collard, Mark; Li, Ruiqiang and Willerslev, Eske.

**Lead organisation:** Griffith University
**Participating organisations:** Goemulgal (of Mabuiag) and Meriam (of Mer, Torres Strait); Novogene Bioinformatics Technology Co. Ltd; Centre for GeoGenetics, Natural History Museum of Denmark; Simon Fraser University, Canada; Charles Darwin University and University of the Sunshine Coast.

**Project start date:** 2016  
**Project end date:** ongoing

**Summary of findings:** Is it possible to cement linkages between remote Torres Strait Islander communities following traditional ancestor trackways? This community archaeology project, initiated by Cygnet Repu (Head of the Goemulgal kod) builds narratives of shared heritage through archaeology, museum studies, ethnography and contemporary art. It creates a model (and methods) that can be both relevant and usable for community and government organisations interested in moving away from static sacred places to sacred landscapes built on human relationships

**Impact:** This research project exists because remote communities are committed to breaking down barriers (see ongoing Sea claim, Torres Strait Regional Authority 2014-2019 plan) (TSRA). This project provides an opportunity for Goemulgal and Meriam to explore shared heritage (contemporary and past) and by doing so build histories focused on collaboration rather than assumed isolation. A community archaeology, multi-vocal project (initiated by Torres Strait Islanders), the project will assist under-resourced TSRA rangers fulfill their mandate, focusing on sites and stories that they themselves have chosen as most important to protect.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: LP140100387

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing

**Local archaeology: Historicising Canberra’s stories**

**Wright, Duncan**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2015

**Summary of findings:** This project historicises sites and stories that are significant to local Aboriginal (Ngunnawal/ Ngambri) Custodians and Canberra’s more recent (European) custodians. It combines oral histories with archaeological survey and excavation thereby exploring the pre and post contact history of this region. This has involved the search for Springbank Homestead (one of Canberra’s first residential properties and an important meeting place for local and non-local Aboriginal communities), Red Hill Camp in Griffith (recently heritage listed as “one of the last Ngunnawal campsites”). The latter was used pre and post development of Canberra as a camping place for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. This included the family of senior Traditional Custodian, Matilda House who was a partner for these excavations.

**Impact:** By combining European and Aboriginal stories it is possible to provide a more inclusive history for Canberra and surrounds. This project shifts the focus from recent, European histories to one that celebrates deep time, also the significant intersecting roles that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities played in present day ACT long after Canberra’s formation as the Nations capital. This project was proposed by local Traditional (but also European) Custodians who wanted to have their stories heard AND provides ANU students with an opportunity to focus on places that they may also call home.

The Springbank Archaeology Project was in ANUs top 5 Media Stories for 2016 and brought ANU academics, Traditional Custodians for all 4 families and European Custodians together (not least at a flagship event for the ACT Heritage Festival). We won the 2016 Award for Significant contribution to ACT Cultural Heritage (from the National Trust) in 2017. The Red Hill Archaeology Project was widely reported by media, resulting in the sites listing as a significant heritage place in 2018.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing

**History Places: Wellington Range rock art in a global context**

**Wright, Duncan**

**Contributing researchers:** Tacon, Paul; May, Sally; Brady, Liam; Goldhahn, Joakim and Domingo Sanz, Ines.

**Lead organisation:** Griffith University

**Participating organisations:** Monash University; University of Barcelona; Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies; Linnaeus University, Kalmar.

**Project start date:** 2016  
**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** The project explored the long term history of the Namunidjbuk estate in the Wellington Range region, Arnhem Land.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery: DP160101832
Research theme: Governance

The pulse of policy: Mapping movement in the Australian Indigenous policy world [PhD]
Checketts, Juliet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: This thesis explored aspects of the intercultural world of Australian Indigenous policy by locating and following its pulse (Stoler 2009). A policy’s pulse is defined as the ways and means by which that policy moves in and through the policy world assemblage. Juliet tracked this policy via an analysis of parliamentary articulations of Aboriginality and an examination of the self-governed presentations of three bureaucratic subjectivities who participate in Indigenous Affairs. The journey began in Canberra, Australia’s capital city, in the chambers of the House of Representatives and the Senate where she analysed the speech acts of parliamentarians. Juliet then identified the production of a particular Regime of Truth (Foucault [1977] 1980a) that frames Indigenous problems, articulated imagined solutions and presented the ideal Indigenous subjectivity. Significantly, the Regime of Truth is constructed through parliamentarians’ personal narratives about interactions with, and knowledge about, Indigenous people. The thesis then turns to investigate the routine, ordinary and everyday activities of three groups of bureaucrats: senior public servants of Commonwealth departments and agencies who appear before Senate Estimate committees; employees of the Commonwealth Ombudsman who investigate complaints about government administration and conduct outreach complaint clinics to remote Indigenous communities; and Resident Service Providers who are the street-level bureaucrats (Lipsky 1980) (teachers, police officers and nurses) working and residing in remote communities. Juliet argues that certain documents and discourses are vital to the way these bureaucrats present themselves in policy spaces, enact policy processes and interact with Indigenous people. Further, by following the pulse of Indigenous policy she demonstrates how the political and bureaucratic figures examined in this thesis interact with and perpetuate forms of knowledge about Aboriginal people. Each figure presents this knowledge in different ways which, to varying degrees, impacts upon wider policy processes. This variety of perspectives of knowledge is mobilised in the concluding chapter where Juliet draws the seemingly disparate political and bureaucratic actors and locations of the policy world together. Ultimately, I argue that tracing the pulse of policy from conception in Canberra through to application in remote Indigenous communities in the Northern Territory is a step towards understanding the cultural borderlands of the Indigenous policy world; the arenas of interaction and interchange between Indigenous people, politicians and bureaucrats (Cowlishaw 2003: 11) and the entanglements between forms of knowledge, truth and governance.

School of Art & Design

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Beyond Balawan: Aesthetic responses to the Bundian Way
Conroy, Rowan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Heart-in-hand, solo exhibition, Canberra Contemporary Art Space
Croft, Brenda

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Canberra Contemporary Art Space
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: Family history, Indigenous identity and the politics of assimilation.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Still in my mind: Gurindji location, experience and visuality (exhibition)
Croft, Brenda

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Karungkarni Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation, Kalkaringi, NT; UNSW Galleries, UNSW Art & Design, and UQ Art Museum, University of Queensland.
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2019

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**A change is gonna come: 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum and 25th anniversary of the Mabo decision**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Participating organisation:** National Museum of Australia
- **Project start date:** 2017
- **Project end date:** 2017
- **Summary of findings:** Examined political strategies and impact of historical claims for indigenous sovereignty.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Stop(the)gap: International Indigenous art in motion**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Contributing researchers:** Ash-Milby, Kathleen, Garneau, David and Tamati-Quennell, Megan.
- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Participating organisation:** Adelaide Film festival
- **Project start date:** 2011
- **Project end date:** 2011
- **Summary of findings:** Examined articulation of First Nations politics, history and identity within film.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Still in my mind: Gurindji location, experience and visuality (book chapter)**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Participating organisations:** University of NSW; Charles Darwin University.
- **Project start date:** 2017
- **Project end date:** 2019
- **Summary of findings:** Locality and visuality in formation of Indigenous identities.
- **Impact:** Best Indigenous Writing Award, Art Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual Conference, 2018.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Hindmarsh Prize, Canberra Glassworks, Toyama Museum of Glass, Toyama, Japan**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Participating organisation:** Canberra Glassworks
- **Project start date:** 2018
- **Project end date:** 2018
- **Summary of findings:** Fostering ACT-based glass artists, toured to Toyama Museum of Glass, Japan.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**How the city cares**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Participating organisations:** Customs House, Sydney
- **Project start date:** 2019
- **Project end date:** 2019
- **Summary of findings:** Group exhibition, Customs House.
- **Impact:** Including photographs from bicentennial protests, 1988.
- **Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Curated by Bec Dean, independent curator.
- **Funding source:** External funding.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**First Nations’ first person**

*Croft, Brenda*

- **Contributing researchers:** Deacon, Destiny; Fraser, Virginia; Cumpston, Nici; Boyd, Daniel and Albert, Tony
- **Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
- **Project start date:** 2019
- **Project end date:** Ongoing
- **Funding source:** CASS Workshop Grant Scheme; Visual Arts Endowment.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Corroboree Symposium**

Hansen, David

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars met to discuss the desirability, feasibility and possible shape of a project to research, document, and exhibit images of corroboree, and to develop an online database. A strong consensus for ongoing development was reached.

**Funding source:** ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Small Grants.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Corroboree Exhibition**

Hansen, David

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** Negotiations commenced with National Gallery of Australia regarding possible Australian Research Council Linkage exhibition project.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Social Practice—Encounters on Ngambri, Ngunnawal and Yuin Country**

Roe, Alex Martinis; Stuart, Amanda

**Contributing researchers:** House, Matilda; Hartshorn, Aidan and Jordan, Kirrily.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** Alex Martinis Roe (Sculpture) convened the panel Social Practice—Encounters on Ngambri, Ngunnawal and Yuin Country at the 2018 Art Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ) conference ‘Aesthetics, Politics and Histories: The Social Context of Art (5-7 December 2018)’. Presenters: Matilda House (Ngambri-Ngunnawal Elder), Aidan Hartshorn (Sculture), Kirrily Jordan (CAEPR), Alex Martinis Roe and Amanda Stuart (Sculpture). This panel was structured as a dialogue among the panelists, exploring the potential and conditions for art and art teaching projects to facilitate encounters on and with Country. The panel discussed transformative experiences of truth telling and knowledge sharing within social art projects on and with Ngambri, Ngunnawal and Yuin Countries and peoples they have engaged with, and shared practices and protocols that have been integral to their process and impact. The panel considered the usefulness of situating their practices within the broader field of ‘social art practice’, the reasons for and the implications of working within academic and contemporary art contexts with regard to authorship, funding, and institutional politics.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Bundian Way Art Exchange (BWAE)**

Stuart, Amanda; Zaraftis, Amelia

**Contributing researchers:** Lahy, Waratah; McConchie, Barabara.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Jigamy Farm & the Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu Keeping Place; LALC Eden; Twofold Corporation; National Museum of Australia; Edrom Lodge and the Bundian Way Steering Group.

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** The Bundian Way Arts Exchange (BWAE) is a creative participatory project focused on building positive, reciprocal relationships with local regional Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

**Impact:** Selected creative community members will foster mutually beneficial cultural relationships with local Yuin and Monaroo communities and creatively respond to the Bundian Way. An exhibition of work from participants and Yuin/Monaroo artists is planned for 2020.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Yuin and Monaroo Communities of far southeast coastal New South Wales associated with Jigamy Farm and the Keeping Place, Eden and Twofold Corporations, Eden.

**Funding source:** Supported by Arts Australian Capital Territory.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Education

**The Balawan elective (ARTV2921/6921)**

Stuart, Amanda; Zaraftis, Amelia

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Jigamy Farm & the Monaroo Bobberrer Gudu Keeping Place; LALC Eden; Twofold Corporation; National Museum of Australia; Edrom Lodge and Bundian Way Steering Group.

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** In 2015, the ANU School of Art Environment Studio launched a unique field-based pilot program called ‘The Balawan Elective’, named after one of the significant
mountains along the Bundian Way – Balawan (Mt Imlay). At its heart was grassroots community engagement and sharing of knowledge with local regional Indigenous communities – the Yuin people of southeast Australia. Initiated through the sustained efforts of local author (John Blay) and Art School alumni (Heike Qualitz, Amanda Stuart and Amelia Zarafis) the initial course realised a united vision to promote positive cultural exchange between respective communities. It continues to be reliant on the voluntary input of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities associated with the south east Australian region. The practical aim of the course is to equip students with the skills to develop concepts and associated artwork from field research, focusing on the environmental and cultural exigencies of specific field locations. Supported by lecturers, the students develop work from primary sensory experiences in the field, from expert and local community interactions and/ or from quantitative and qualitative data collected in the field. Fieldtrips are then augmented by seminars, class discussions and individual tutorials that tease out group experiences and individual work proposals. The Balawan Elective facilitates unique opportunities for students and staff to build relationships and gain first hand understandings with the local Aboriginal community, whilst working alongside Aboriginal artists from the region.

**Impact:** Deepen mutually beneficial cultural relationships between Yuin communities engaged with and the ANU School of Art & Design. The primary intent of this course is to facilitate a deeper understanding of Indigenous perspectives and relationships to Country for the student cohort to respond to in their studio practice. A yearly exhibition is held that encapsulates student, staff and community artworks.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Yuin and Monaro Communities of far southeast coastal New South Wales associated with Jigamy Farm and the Keeping Place, Eden; Twofold Corporation, Eden.

**Research themes:** Social and Cultural; Education

### Iltja Ntjarra/Many Hands – ANU School of Art and Design Print and Watercolour Workshop

**Alder, Alison; Namatjira, Lenie; Pannka, Gloria; McLean, Peter**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Iltja Ntjarra/Many Hands Art Centre

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** A two-way exchange of skills and concepts relating to visualising and remembering country through watercolour and intaglio print techniques.

**Impact:** Deepen mutually beneficial relationships between practitioners of differing modes of culture production. The results of this exchange were exhibited in the prestigious Telstra National Indigenous Art Awards in 2015 and ANU School of Art and Design Photospace Gallery.

**Research themes:** Social and Cultural

### Ask Us What We Want: Disrupting colonial narratives through Indigenous self-representation in art using the intergenerational power of protest placards

**Wing, Jason**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2020

**Research themes:** Social and Cultural

### HC Coombs Creative Arts Fellowship 50th anniversary knowledge sharing

**Alder, Alison; Maymuru White, Naminapu**

**Lead organisation:** Australian National University

**Participating Organisation:** Bukku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of finding:** New knowledge developed through culture and knowledge exchange in the creation of a new suite of screen prints.

**Impact:** Exhibited Garma Festival 2016

### ANU School of Demography

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

### Indigenous Demographic History (as component of book tentatively titled ‘A Demographic History of Australia’)

**Carmichael, Gordon**

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** Three draft book chapters; 4th in progress; paper ‘Indigenous Fertility in Australia: Updating Alan Gray’, currently in press.

**Impact:** Hopefully an interesting book targeting a general readership.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

**Indigenous identification: Why people change, how they identify and what it means for measuring progress [PhD]**

Carlton, Tim

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Project end date:** 2023

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

**Impact:** This PhD aims to examine the extent to which people have different propensities to identify as Indigenous in different circumstances, and the effect this has on measures of Indigenous outcomes, including the closing the gap measures.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Roundtable with Human Services Minister, Senator Marise Payne, on ‘Indigenous identification, health and mobility’**

Raymer, James

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Commonwealth Department of Social Services

**Project start date:** 2015

ANU School of History

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Henry Prinsep’s empire**

Allbrook, Malcolm

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** Henry Prinsep is known as Western Australia’s first Chief Protector of Aborigines in the colonial government of Sir John Forrest, a period which saw the introduction of oppressive laws that dominated the lives of Aboriginal people for most of the 20th century. This research traces Henry Prinsep’s life from India to Western Australia and shows how these texts and images illuminate not only Prinsep the man, but the affectionate bonds that endured despite the geographic bounds of empire, and the historical, social, geographic and economic origins of Aboriginal and colonial relationships which are important to this day.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**We’re telling you**

Allbrook, Malcolm

**Lead organisation:** Carlton, CA

**Participating organisations:** Carlton, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Dambimanguri (Kimberley)

**Project start date:** 2012

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** For countless generations, coastal country in the west Kimberley region of northwest Australia has been the home of Dambeemangaddee Traditional Owners. This project describes the deep history of this country and is based on the cultural knowledge and recollections of Janet Oobagoorna, Donny Woolagoodja and other Senior Dambeemangaddee People. The resulting book was compiled and written in collaboration with Dambeemangaddee People and contains an unprecedented level of detail regarding Dambeemangaddee history, culture and country.

**Funding source:** Grant

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Mission and Reserves mapping project**

Allbrook, Malcolm

**Contributing researchers:** Cadzow, Allison; Fernon, Christine

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** The project links biographical material on National Centre of Biography websites, of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and historical profiles, with a map developed by AIATSIS in 2017.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Hidden histories of the Pilbara**

Allbrook, Malcolm; Jebb, Mary Anne

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2008

**Summary of findings:** In collaboration with the Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal Language Centre in Port Hedland, Western Australia and with Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies research grants in 2008 and 2011, this
project prepared a historical report using archival evidence on nineteenth and early twentieth-century colonial contacts and recorded oral histories with Aboriginal people.

**Impact:** The project provided Aboriginal people throughout the region with an opportunity to record their rich histories for the benefit of their families and descendants, as well as to inform the public record of their experiences of colonisation.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Wangka Maya Pilbara Aboriginal language Centre.

**Funding source:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (2008, 2011).

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**NSW Aboriginal Protection Board**

**Bamblett, Lawrence**

**Contributing researchers:** Maynard, John; Haskins, Victoria; Barker, Lorina and Troy, Jakelin

**Lead organisation:** University of Newcastle

**Participating organisations:** University of New England, University of Sydney, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** From 1883 until 1969, the lives and affairs of Aboriginal people in New South Wales were utterly controlled by the Aborigines Protection/Welfare Board. This research project is a comprehensive investigation of the Board’s activities and subsequent effects on the lives and families of Aboriginal people in NSW including both archival and oral history research. The project involves a collection of personal oral histories and family/community recollections and records including retained letter, documents and photographs. The project aims to present Aboriginal stories and in doing so, shine light on the Board’s policies of segregation, assimilation, child removal and wage withholding that continued for decades.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** 65 Aboriginal communities; NSW Aboriginal Affairs and the NSW State Land Council; the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Museum Vic.; SLNSW; Queensland Museum.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery: DP150100247.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**From invasion to my generation—the lived experience of an Aboriginal family group over several generations**

**[PhD]**

**Bostock-Smith, Shauna**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** I have traced the history of my four Aboriginal grandparents’ family lines to as far back as we can go in the written historic record. Spanning five generations, this comprehensive study is supported by a stockpile of archives illuminating my ancestors’ lived experience; from being on country during white settlement, to segregation on reserves, to Aborigines Protection Board control, to the big city exodus, to urban radicalization, to fighting for Aboriginal advancement, to the present day. I have come to realise that Aboriginal family history research is not just a two-dimensional, horizontal, past-to-present chronology that is duly inserted into the context of Australian history. Rather, I have found it very valuable to frequently change the lens of the site. By pausing the past-to-present progress of the thesis to zoom in to the individual, micro and local history—before zooming out to the collective, macro, political and bigger histories—the use of multiple methodologies imbues research with an almost three dimensional solidity. Embracing biographical and affective history as scholarly research methodologies, and shifting from structural approaches of the past to placing human experience as the starting point of historical interpretation doesn’t diminish scholarship, in fact it enhances it.

**Funding source:** PhD

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**‘Serving our Country’: A history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia**

**Dodson, Mick; Beaumont, Joan; Furphy, Sam and Jebb, Mary Anne**

**Contributing researchers:** Riseman, Noah; Gray, Geoffrey; Maynard, John; Cadzow, Allison

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This project involved conducting nationwide research on Australian Indigenous people’s military service, supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, in
collaboration with ACH and the NCIS. It involved examining oral histories, photographs, artworks, objects, biographies, autobiographies published and unpublished materials and archival sources, to produce a critical literature review and an online database to encourage and support additional research. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence Service History Project explored the potential of private and family held collections to further understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives on military participation and the impacts it had on their lives and communities.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:**
Commonwealth Department of Defence; Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs; Australian War Memorial; National Film and Sound Archive; National Library of Australia; National Archives of Australia. The research team visited communities throughout Australia for community Yarn Ups to conduct oral and video recordings with Indigenous defence personnel and/or their families. They also researched national and personal archival records, photos and other materials, and the project culminated in the publication of a compendium style book of essays on involvement in the 20th century conflicts and thematic essays.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage LP120200327.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Free the blacks and smash the Act!: Aboriginal policy and resistance in Queensland between 1965 and 1975 [PhD]**

**Cooms, Valerie**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2012

**Summary of findings:** This thesis focused on both the State and Commonwealth governments’ involvement in Aboriginal affairs in Queensland from 1965 to 1975. It also examined the way in which the world anti-racism and decolonisation process was heavily influential not only upon the Australian Government’s policy but also upon Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people’s responses and methods of protest as well. Because Australia is a settler colony with an Aboriginal population estimated as only 1 per cent between 1965 and 1975, this thesis observes how the United Nations remained particularly watchful over Australia. This occurred at a time when Australia was attempting to convince the international community that it was condemning racism and treating Aboriginal minority populations properly within a post-colonial climate of expectation. However, whatever label either Commonwealth or State Governments placed on newly formed Aboriginal policies, this thesis argues that they were merely more acceptable up-to-date methods of colonisation aimed predominantly at averting criticism. The examination of activism and resistance provides not only an overview of the workings of organisations in relation to challenging both the State and Commonwealth Governments, but more importantly, the use of the enhanced Australian public opinion together with the United Nations and international community as effective leverage at a time when the Australian Government was attempting to convince the world that it was committed to protecting the rights of Australia’s Aboriginal peoples.

**Furphy, Samuel**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** This project is a comparative study of Protectors of Aborigines in early colonial Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and New Zealand. Appointed by Britain’s imperial government to shield Indigenous peoples ‘from cruelty, oppression and injustice,’ the protectors pioneered an ambiguous office, struggling to reconcile the conflicting aims of colonial ambition and humanitarian sentiment. Sitting at the nexus of imperial, settler, and Indigenous interests, and negotiating a convergence of philanthropic enthusiasm and a...
devastating boom in settlement, the lives of the protectors offer a unique insight into the human cost of colonial endeavour, its moral dilemmas, and its lasting legacies

**Impact:** To be published as ‘Aboriginal Protection and its Intermediaries in Britain’s Antipodean Colonies’. Edited by Samuel Furphy and Amanda Nettelbeck. (Routledge, forthcoming 2019).

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award: DE140100385.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Edward Curr and the Tide of History**

**Furphy, Samuel**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2010

**Project end date:** 2013

**Summary of findings:** Edward M. Curr (1820–89) was a pastoralist, horse trader, stock inspector, Aboriginal administrator, author and ethnologist. A prominent figure in the history of the Colony of Victoria, he rose to a senior position in the public service and authored several influential books and essays. He is best remembered for his nostalgic memoir, Recollections of Squatting in Victoria (1883), which has become a standard historical source. Based on Furphy’s PhD thesis, this book is the first comprehensive biography of Curr and explores both his life and legacy. In particular, it considers his posthumous influence on the Yorta Yorta native title case (1994–2001), when his written account of the Yorta Yorta ancestors played a key role in the failure of the claim.

**Impact:** By exploring Curr’s interactions with Aboriginal people—as a pastoralist and Aboriginal administrator—this book advocates a more nuanced, critical, and historically informed interpretation of Curr’s ethnological writings than was evident in the Yorta Yorta case. The book was shortlisted for the Victorian Community History Awards in 2013. Since publishing the book, Furphy has prepared a report for a law firm representing the Yorta Yorta people in its negotiations with the Victorian Government for official recognition.

**Summary of findings:** The project researches Indigenous biography through collaboration between Indigenous researchers and the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly underrepresented in the ADB. The project will work with Indigenous communities to produce the Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography, a supplementary volume of the ADB on 190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for use by scholars, students, and the public, and publish research articles that reframe Indigenous biographical practice. The project aims to foster reconciliation, national knowledge and pride in the ancient and modern contribution of Indigenous Australians to the nation, and to facilitate Indigenous participation at all levels of research and production.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous: IN170100012

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Telling absence [PhD]**

**Hansen, Christine**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** The ordinary stories of ordinary Aboriginal people are a necessary part of Australian history. Yet museums throughout Australia, and in particular the National Museum of Australia, which are charged with the task of telling these stories, struggle to find appropriate material means to do so: the history which shaped Australian museum collections and the history which shaped contemporary Aboriginal communities do not neatly converge. This research reflects on both.

The structure of this thesis is shaped around three distinct voices. The first of these is my own where I give an account of my engagement with the Ngarigo community from the Snowy Mountains region of New South Wales into whom contemporary reality and history I am drawn. This reflexive narrative also provides the means for consideration of the complex and sometimes confronting research process as it unfolds in the field. Stories rather than objects were central to the interests of museums throughout Australia, and in particular the National Museum of Australia, which are charged with the task of telling these stories, struggle to find appropriate material means to do so: the history which shaped Australian museum collections and the history which shaped contemporary Aboriginal communities do not neatly converge. This research reflects on both.

**Summary of findings:** The project researches Indigenous biography through collaboration between Indigenous researchers and the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly underrepresented in the ADB. The project will work with Indigenous communities to produce the Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography, a supplementary volume of the ADB on 190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for use by scholars, students, and the public, and publish research articles that reframe Indigenous biographical practice. The project aims to foster reconciliation, national knowledge and pride in the ancient and modern contribution of Indigenous Australians to the nation, and to facilitate Indigenous participation at all levels of research and production.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery Indigenous: IN170100012

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**An Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography (2017-2021)**

**Griffiths, Tom; Allbrook, Malcolm**

**Contributing researcher:** Konishi, Shino (DAATSIA)

**Lead organisation:** University of Western Australia

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** 2022

**Summary of findings:** The project researches Indigenous biography through collaboration between Indigenous researchers and the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are significantly underrepresented in the ADB. The project will work with Indigenous communities to produce the Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography, a supplementary volume of the ADB on 190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for use by scholars, students, and the public, and publish research articles that reframe Indigenous biographical practice. The project aims to foster reconciliation, national knowledge and pride in the ancient and modern contribution of Indigenous Australians to the nation, and to facilitate Indigenous participation at all levels of research and production.

**Funding source:** PhD
**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**At the heart of it... Place stories across Darug and Gundungurra lands**

**Hurst, Julia**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation; Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Aboriginal Reference Group; New South Wales Office for Environment and Heritage; Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; National Sound and Film Archive; Australian Government Research Council; The University of Sydney; Ronin Films; University of Western Sydney; Australian Government Director of National Parks and Northern Territory Government

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** The enhanced e-book was created in response to the needs and direction of Julia’s research partners, the Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation who directed her to provide a means of ‘getting to know’ the Darug people. It weaves together historical and contemporary film, arts practices and Aboriginal storytelling and was a component of her PhD thesis called ‘Re-imagining identities: Aboriginal people living on Darug and Gundungurra lands’.

**Impact:** Storytellers reported enhanced wellbeing. Some people have used edited material and participation in the project to support grant applications and it has been reported the project has raised local awareness of the Darug community.

**Community partnerships:** The researcher worked in partnership with individual storytellers across Darug and Gundungurra lands in association with Darug Tribal Aboriginal Corporation.

**Funding source:** PhD

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Hearing histories of the western Pilbara**

**Jebb, Mary Anne**

**Contributing researchers:** Treloyn, Sally; Thieberger, Nicholas; Christen, Kimberly and Dowding, Andrew.

**Lead organisation:** The University of Melbourne

**Participating organisations:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Washington State University and Tarruru Pty Ltd.

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** Hearing histories of the western Pilbara. This project aims to investigate Indigenous song traditions of the western Pilbara through current practice and legacy recordings.

It aims to show how public song traditions were used through the twentieth century as tools to manage environmental change. By recording and documenting songs and histories and curating and developing an online collection of song-based digital heritage items with a virtual landscape interface, the project is expected to produce knowledge about the role of digital collections and cultural mapping in supporting the sustainment of endangered song traditions. It also aims to develop tools for use by communities and researchers to secure legacy, crowd-sourced and newly created records of intangible cultural heritages for the future.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery: DP150100094.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Beyond the land of promises [PhD]**

**Kinnane, Stephen**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Kimberley Land Council and relevant Kimberley Aboriginal Resource Organisations.

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** This research project examines the history of intersections between Aboriginal Country, culture, community and development in the Kimberley region of Western Australia from 1990 to 2020. The study is framed with respect to historical regional declarations and visions for the future of the region and its peoples, the efforts on the part of stakeholders to achieve them and the changing social, cultural, geopolitical and economic landscape that manifested. Cradled within a regional history, the thesis utilises comparative historical analysis, oral history and the author’s own witness account and critical reflections to interrogate the interplay and intersections between ideals, visions, actions, outcomes for the peoples of the region and the Country that sustains them. The study prioritises Aboriginal agency while examining perspectives across the diversity of stakeholders with the aim of understanding how they have re-imagined and re-thought the Kimberley so as to change it for future generations.

**Impact:** The Kimberley region is experiencing a serious state of flux on many fronts causing uncertainty. The region has become the focus of federal and state government resource development pressures at a time when it is experiencing serious inter-generational, social and political transformation. In the short term the study seeks to document the 30-year history of Aboriginal agency founded in collective self-determination, cultural and regional governance and diversified small-scale development within the context of a shift to whole-of-government mainstreaming. In the long term the study seeks to understand how models of development transformed over time, what has been their impact of research at the regional; how have these models intersected with other models of development; and
what future choices are presenting for successive generations of peoples in the Kimberley. The project seeks to influence debates surrounding remote community reform, Aboriginal development initiatives and regional Aboriginal cultural governance.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre, Kimberley Land Council and relevant Kimberley Aboriginal Resource Organisations.

Funding source: PhD

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**A History of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies 1959 -1989: An analysis of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people achieved control of a national research institute [PhD]**

Lambert, Jacqueline

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: The Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS) was set up to record Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures before they disappeared forever. Proposed by Liberal parliamentarian WC Wentworth in 1959, the Commonwealth Government established it in 1961 and made it permanent through an Act of Parliament in 1964. This history focuses on its first thirty years, ending in 1989, the year the Institute came under a new Act, which introduced changes to its character and governance. In the 1960s, the Institute’s focus was on ‘traditional’ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and most research took place in remote Australia. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people had no input into the Institute’s activities other than as ‘informants’. It explains how a relatively powerless group of Aboriginal people (with the help of their non-Aboriginal supporters) managed, over time and in the face of the power of the Academy, to control the Institute.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**Entangled places: Interactional history in the western Simpson Desert, central Australia [PhD]**

MacFarlane, Ingereth

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: The Irwanyere Aboriginal Corporation

Project end date: 2010

Summary of findings: This work starts with a question: ‘what makes a place entangled’? Posing this question implies an understanding that places have qualities that are fruitfully understood in terms of the concept of ‘entanglement’. This thesis uses the term to express and explore the inextricably inter-woven temporal components of a place that emerge from stories of its history that were either direct accounts, traces in the patterned objects on the ground, or retrieved from archives. These qualities are interpreted as arising through interactions between people, objects and the physical and historical characteristics of a place through time. The aim is to make the missing stories of western Simpson people in place available, in a way where the place of the story retains its specifics but is simultaneously stretched into an expanded network of social and historical connections.

Funding source: The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), grant number G96/5214.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

**A wild history**

Lewis, Darrell

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: Monash University Press

Project end date: 2012

Summary of findings: In 1883 pastoralists began to drive great herds of cattle into Victoria River District of Australia’s Northern Territory. They entered a vast tropical land of big rivers, wide plains, and rugged ranges. It was a cattleman’s paradise, but also a paradise for the Aboriginal people who had lived there for thousands of years. Each side came to see the other as the serpent in the garden – a serpent that had to be banished – and a twenty year war ensued. The cattlemen won, but it was a pyrrhic victory. The coming of the cattle began the destruction of the paradise for both.

The frontiersmen who came to the district included cattle and horse thieves, outlaws, capitalists, dreamers, drunks, madmen and others. Together they established massive stations of up to 12,000 square miles on the traditional lands of the Aborigines. This book looks at them all, from the explorers of the 1830s and 1850s to the founders of the big stations in the 1880s and 1890s, and finally at the ‘golden era’ of the cattle duffers in the early 1900s.

Drawing on painstaking research into obscure though rich documentary sources, Aboriginal oral traditions, and first-hand investigations in the region over thirty-five years, Darrell Lewis pieces together the complex interactions between the environment, the powerful and warlike Aboriginal tribes and the settlers and their cattle, which produced what truly became A Wild History.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

‘Mouthless Gods’: Kimberley rock art and the Australian imagination, 1929-2000 [PhD]

MacGregor, Anthony

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: The broad objective of the project is to map Kimberley rock art onto the Australian cultural landscape, by looking at the many different meanings both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have attached to rock art, and how these meanings have been developed and communicated to different audiences/communities. While the history of anthropological and archaeological research in the Kimberley is central to this project, it will also look collaborate with Kimberley traditional owners, and examine the interpretive works of writers and artists, missionaries, pastoralists, art collectors, tourists and journalists.

Funding source: PhD

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Taking fire: The historical and contemporary politics of Indigenous burning in Australia and the western United States

May, Daniel

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This PhD project aims to chart the evolution of non-Indigenous understandings of Indigenous burning in Australia and the Western United States, and the effect of these understandings in shaping bushfire politics and policies. It will uncover the links between academic conceptualisations of Native American and Aboriginal Australian burning and land management techniques and seek to explain the significant shift in public attitudes towards Indigenous burning since 1939. It will explore the appropriation and denial of Indigenous burning as a political tactic in the wake of large bushfires.

Impact: This project will help inform future discussions of prescribed burning, including initiatives to restore or endorse Indigenous cultural burning. Further, it will help politicians, policymakers, agencies and land managers avoid the risk of culturally damaging appropriation of Indigenous practices and encourage the development of decolonised attitudes towards fire management.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage: LP150100423

Research theme: Social and Cultural

The relational museum and its objects

Morphy, Howard; Nugent, Maria

Contributing researchers: Bolton, Lissant; Sculthorpe, Gaye; Coates, Ian and Trinca, Matthew

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: British Museum; National Museum of Australia; Wagga Wagga City Council and Museum of the Riverina

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Reconnecting Indigenous Australian communities with ethnographic collections is central to contemporary museum practice. Yet, the historical dispersal of objects across museums, nationally and internationally, makes relationship and reconnection a challenge to communities and museums alike. This partnership between the Australian National University, the National Museum of Australia and the British Museum, in collaboration with Indigenous communities and regional museums in the UK and Australia, aims to develop and pilot approaches that facilitate Indigenous people’s access to and engagement with distributed collections and objects. By doing so, the project seeks to contribute to new theory around the ‘relational museum’, and new modelling of museum practice and museum development in Australia.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage: LP150100423

Research theme: Social and Cultural

How Meston’s ‘Wild Australia Show’ shaped Australian Aboriginal history

Nugent, Maria

Contributing researchers: Memmott, Paul; O’Rourke, Timothy; Allen, Lindy; Smith, Charlotte; Knowles, Chantal and Neville, Richard

Lead organisation: University of Queensland


Project start date: 2016
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: The Wild Australia Show (1892-93), staged by a diverse company of Aboriginal people for metropolitan audiences, provides the focus for an interdisciplinary study of performance, photography, collections and race relations in colonial Australia. Using archival and visual records, and in partnership with key cultural institutions and Indigenous communities, the research seeks to produce an authoritative and original interpretation of the Show situating it within local, national and transnational narratives informed by contemporary Indigenous perspectives.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage: LP160100415.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Remembering dispossession: Interpreting Aboriginal historical narratives

Nugent, Maria

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This project grappled with the challenge to produce Australian historical studies that have Aboriginal people’s own interpretations and moral reasoning at their core. The notion of ‘remembering dispossession’ is offered as a means for exploring the ways in which Aboriginal people have used historical storytelling and other modes of remembrance to make sense of their experience, and of themselves and others, under radically altered condition. The project entails fresh critical engagement with ‘dispossession’ as a key theme and concept in Australian history.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Future: FT100100073

Research theme: Social and Cultural

(Un)making Angas Downs: A spatial history of a central Australian pastoral station, 1930-1980 [PhD]

Palmer, Shannyn

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Angas Downs is a pastoral station situated in the arid Central Australian rangelands, 300 kilometres southwest of Alice Springs. Yet, as a pastoral station, it does not articulate easily with the established historiography of Aboriginal people’s participation in the northern pastoral industry. Nor does it conform to the image of the outback cattle station popularised in myths of pioneers and pastoralists which dominate Central Australian history. Located in the marginal lands of the desert interior, Angas Downs was a largely defective capitalist enterprise, and one which actually ‘employed’ very few Aboriginal people. Nevertheless, significant numbers of Anangu lived on Angas Downs, or used it as a base between 1930 and 1980. By approaching the station as moments in time and space, this thesis examines the ways in which this desert pastoral station was made – and unmade – by Anangu and others in their encounters with each other over fifty years across the middle of the twentieth century. At a time when the politics of place continues to be keenly felt in Australia, this thesis contributes to understandings of practices of place-making that reflect the complex legacies of colonialism, while holding out Angas Downs as a symbol of hope for more responsive and creative formulations of relationships to place.
Found in translation
Rademaker, Laura

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** Laura Rademaker, *Found in Translation: Many Meanings on a North Australian Mission*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2018)

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Anindilyakwa Land Council, Groote Eylandt Linguistics, Anglicare Northern Territory, Tiwi Land Council, Pataka/ijiyali Museum.

**Funding source:** PhD; 2018 Mother Theodore Guerin Research Travel Grant; 2015 Australian Research Theology Foundation Grant; 2011 and 2012 Northern Territory History Grant.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Boarding school business: The voices of Aboriginal girls attending boarding schools [PhD]**

Rogers, Jessa

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** Internationally, there is a paucity of research concerning boarding school experiences of Indigenous peoples (Smith 2009). Few studies have primarily addressed Indigenous girls’ experiences in contemporary boarding schools in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand. This research was developed to amplify the voices of Indigenous girls regarding their contemporary boarding school experiences. This work sits within Indigenous studies and reflects the multidisciplinary nature of Indigenous research. Drawing on Indigenous research methodologies, arts-based research and education, this study looks at two Australian boarding schools and includes a comparison with one Indigenous boarding school in Aotearoa New Zealand. In order to centre Indigenous student voices, I developed a new Indigenous method termed ‘photoyarn’. Photoyarn was developed with the aim of highlighting Indigenous voices in research, specifically toward providing Indigenous students with a culturally sound, relevant method they could use to drive and control their own research, about their own experiences. Photoyarn is an Indigenous method involving student photography, yarning circles and individual yarns. Photoyarn was modified for use in Aotearoa New Zealand to kāreropikutia, a method that involves digital photography, student journals and hui. Participants at each of the three boarding school sites conducted their own thematic analysis on the data they gathered. Findings showed that female Aboriginal boarding students experience homesickness, identity and behavioural changes, and changed perceptions of their home communities. Indigenous Australian boarding school students experienced racism from non-Indigenous students as well as school staff, and Aboriginal students in the study identified cultural content in classes (or lack thereof) as isolating and upsetting. Māori students identified that homesickness was softened by the cultural familiarity of the Indigenous boarding school practices and family-based education structure of their college. All students noted that the experiences of boarding school created
family-like relationships between Indigenous boarders. Australian students identified the clash between home and school expectations, as well as the responsibilities of home and culture not being congruent with the structures of boarding school; and spoke of these incongruences as being difficult to navigate. My Aboriginality, life experiences, teaching and artistic practices and my personal pedagogy influenced this study in many ways. The relatedness of the Indigenous young women in this study with myself as researcher was essential in building relationships, which underpinned, shaped and encouraged the expression of student voice in this research.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Expedition to Arnhem Land: Intercultural inquiry in a transnational context

Thomas, Martin

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The project examined how Indigenous and Western cultures interact in a trans-national context. The legacy of the joint American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land in 1948 provided the case study. This was a large international expedition sponsored by National Geographic, the Smithsonian Institution and the Australian Government, which amassed kilometres of film, thousands of photographs, hours of sound recordings and tens of thousands of museum ‘specimens’ including a large cache of human bones, collected from mortuary sites and exported to Washington. Digital copies of historic documents, films, photographs and sound recordings from Australian and US collections were taken to Arnhem Land for study with elders and lodgement in community-based knowledge centres or on personal computers. After lobbying on the human remains issue, the bones were repatriated to their communities of origin during the life of the project. The rituals and ceremonies associated with the repatriation were documented in video and other media. Through close work with Jacob Nayinggul from Gunbalanya and other senior elders, video documentation of the repatriation developed into a feature-length documentary film, titled Etched in Bone, directed by Martin Thomas and co-directed by Béatrice Bijon (lecturer in ANU School of Literature, Language and Linguistics).

Impact: The research made precious historic documentation of cultural and social life in Arnhem Land, previously buried in archives, available to traditional owners. The digitised media became the stimulus for oral history and detailed interpretation of photography and audio recordings by senior elders, many of whom have since passed away. The video of the repatriation has itself become a historic record, providing a lasting resource for community members and providing a reference point for future repatriations of human remains. Books, journal articles, chapters and a PhD thesis have resulted from the project, while Thomas & Bijon’s film, Etched in Bone, was launched in Canberra and Gunbalanya during the past month. The film is bringing international attention to the reasons why human remains repatriation is a pressing issue for Indigenous cultures within Australia and beyond.

Community partnerships: Injalak Arts and Crafts; Mulka Centre; Ronin Films; Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (Paradisec); National Museum of Australia; National Library of Australia Oral History & Folklore Collection.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Future: FT0992291; Australian Research Council Discovery Project; Screen Australia; Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Repatriation in NT (film): Etched in Bone

Thomas, Martin

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: Smithsonian

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: Jacob Nayinggul is a charismatic elder from Gunbalanya, an isolated settlement in Arnhem Land, northern Australia. Aboriginal people in this area believe that the landscape is inhabited by the spirits of their ancestors whose bones can be seen in crevices and caves. Nayinggul is aware that many of the old burial sites have been disturbed by scientists who collected human remains for museums. This presents the terrifying possibility that ancestral spirits were wrenched from their traditional country. Drawing on original footage from National Geographic, this carefully crafted documentary explores the impact of one notorious bone theft by a member of the 1948 American-Australian Scientific Expedition to Arnhem Land. Hundreds of bones were stolen and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. When the location of the bones became known to Arnhem Landers in the late 1990s, elders called for their return. This resulted in a tense standoff with the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian—and eventually in the repatriation of the bones. Made over eight years, Etched in Bone gives extraordinary insight into the deep and enduring conflict between scientific and traditional forms of knowledge. In moving footage, we see how the repatriated bones are removed from their museum boxes, coated in red ochre and wrapped in paperbark. In this way, Jacob Nayinggul draws on ancient knowledge to create a new form of ceremony that welcomes home the ancestor spirits and puts them to sleep in the land where they were born.

Funding source: Private.
**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Indigeneity in an expanded field**

*Thomas, Martin*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** The IGHERT project, on the pilot theme of ‘Indigeneity in an Expanded Field’, involves a set of structured research investigations and cross-institutional collaborations aimed at piloting new models of post-graduate training. Martin is the Australian National University’s Principal Investigator on the project, collaborating with colleagues from the Universities of California (Santa Cruz), Wisconsin (Milwaukee) and Giessen.

**Funding source:** Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**A cartography of caring for country and Noongar and Anangu [PhD]**

*Walsh, Aileen*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** This project is an analysis of the relationships between Aboriginal people that were maintained to sustain meaningful relationships with country. Aileen’s work is a response to the ugliness of greed, its normalisation through language and the consequences of that normalisation. Her work uses the ethnographic archive of Daisy Bates and uses Vygotsky, Volosinov, and Bhaktin, Arendt, James C Scott and Aileen Moreton Robinson. This project is looking at respectability of those in power as performative and superficial. Aileen is looking at European read as greed of whiteness, to those cultures that controlled extreme emotions such as greed as Aboriginal cultures did. The project is anti-colonial, a critique of so-called Western progress, that deconstructs the narcissism of European imperialisms.

**Impact:** Aileen is hoping her project will contribute to improving Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing.

**Funding source:** Nugget Coombs Scholarship, ARC Laureate Scholarship in Deep Human Time.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Deepening histories of place: Exploring Indigenous landscapes of national and international significance**

*McGrath, Ann; Read, Peter*

**Contributing researchers:** Konishi, Shino; Taylor, Luke and Byrne, Denis

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** The University of Sydney; Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS); National Film and Sound Archives; NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW); Ronin Films and Director of National Parks.

**Project start date:** 2010

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** Through researching the Indigenous histories of selected sites in New South Wales and Northern Territory landscapes, this project investigated the social and environmental links that create historical ‘highways’ of understanding, including song-lines, tracks, exploration, trade, pastoral and tourism routes. By researching written texts, art, film and sound evidence, this project developed innovative models for comprehensive, Indigenous and landscape-focused historical interpretation. Bringing together a unique interdisciplinary and industry team, its publications, pod-streaming and other history delivery strategies deepened understandings of internationally significant Australian landscapes.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: LP100100427.

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Illicit Love: Interracial sex and marriage in the United States and Australia**

*McGrath, Ann*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This project explored the history of love, sex, and marriage between Indigenous peoples and settler citizens at the heart of two settler colonial nations, the United States and Australia. The project led to the publication of the
book, Illicit Love: Interracial Sex and Marriage in the United States and Australia. In this text, Ann McGrath illuminates interracial relationships from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century through stories of romance, courtship, and marriage between Indigenous peoples and colonisers in times of nation formation. Illicit Love reveals how marriage itself was used by disparate parties for both empowerment and disempowerment and came to embody the contradictions of imperialism. A tour de force of settler colonial history, McGrath’s study demonstrates vividly how interracial relationships between Indigenous and colonising peoples were more frequent and threatening to nation-states in the Atlantic and Pacific worlds than historians have previously acknowledged.

**Impact:** This research was published as a book in 2015.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Large Grant

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**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Rediscovering the deep human past: Global networks, future opportunities**

**McGrath, Ann**

**Contributing researchers:** Silverstein, Ben; Rademaker, Laura; Jones, Mike.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** This project will analyse Australia’s epic Indigenous narratives alongside relevant new scientific evidence in order to create a big picture history of Greater Australia/Sahul, and as a result transform the scale and scope of history. Fresh periodisations and understandings will reorient this history in its wider global context. Through critiquing the evolution of disciplines, especially the world history/prehistory divide and the Cambridge training nexus, the project will develop future-oriented transdisciplinary techniques for researching the deep human past. As part of the project, a diverse generation of early career scholars will join top international networks and be trained in digital research techniques and delivery platforms for researching this exceptional human history.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Australian Laureate: FL170100121.

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**School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics**

**Research themes:** Education; Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**Misrecognising contact languages and the effects on education and policy, with a focus on Australia**

**Angelo, Denise**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Western Sydney University; University of Melbourne.

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

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**A grammatical description of Kriol, an English-lexified contact language of northern Australia**

**Angelo, Denise**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

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**Indigenous languages and language data in Queensland**

**Angelo, Denise**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

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**School leadership for linguistically complex classrooms**

**Angelo, Denise**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education; North Australia Strategies

**Temporal, aspectual and modal expression in Anindilyakwa, the language of the Groote Eylandt Archipelago, Australia**

**Bednall, James**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Universite Paris Diderot

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

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Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**Western Desert speech styles and verbal arts**

**Ellis, Elizabeth Marrkilyi**

**Contributing researchers:** Kral, Inge; Simpson, Jane.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** The University of Melbourne

**Summary of findings:** Verbal arts are central to social interaction. In the Western Desert Ngaanyatjarra and Ngaatjatjarra people use special speech styles to mark particular occasions and life transitions. Led by Ngaatjatjarra linguist, researcher and educator Elizabeth Marrkilyi Ellis, the research team will build on a corpus of these endangered oral traditions. Following in-depth linguistics analysis, the project implemented strategies to revitalise these endangered forms through dynamic contemporary applications thus reintegrating them into the language socialisation framework of youth. The study has resulted in documentation of an endangered speech register, as well as of the sign language used in the Western Desert, an exhibition of storytelling by young people using iPad and traditional motifs with accompanying book and film, and a book on the transformations in Western Desert society.

**Impact:** This material is assisting Aboriginal people to safeguard their heritage and contribute to wider public appreciation of Aboriginal languages and cultures.

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Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education; North Australia Strategies

**Understanding the effects of digital technology on Australian Aboriginal languages**

**Bow, Catherine**

**Contributing researchers:** Macqueen, Susy

**Lead organisation:** Charles Darwin University

**Participating organisation:** Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

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Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education; North Australia Strategies

**Language acquisition, negotiation and use in the multilingual classrooms of bilingual schools in remote central Australia**

**Browne, Emma**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Yuendumu School; The University of Melbourne and University of Queensland.

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

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Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Governance

**Arrernte children’s language**

**Poetsch, Susan**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** The University of Melbourne; University of Queensland and University of Sydney.

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

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Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Governance

**National Indigenous Languages Report**

**Simpson, Jane**

**Contributing researchers:** Angelo, Denise; Browne, Emma; Dinku, Yonatan; Hunt, Janet; Kral, Inge; Markham, Francis; O’Shannessy, Carmel; Smith, Hillary and Venn, Danielle.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
**Participating organisation:** Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts

**Project start date:** 2018  
**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** The project consists of a literature review, and evaluation of quantitative data sources relating to the current state of Indigenous languages in Australia, and possible connections with indicators of well-being. We have developed a framework for the analysis. The Wellbeing and Indigenous Language Ecologies (WILE) framework connects two dimensions of language ecologies and language contexts of use with a dimension of wellbeing indicators. It is based on the premises that:

- Indigenous languages are a strength for communities and individuals, and for all Australians, languages and their speaker’s strengths are visible.
- Speakers of Indigenous languages have language rights, emblematic language rights of recognition and communicative language rights of access to services.

**Impact:** The premises of the framework lead to the questions: How do we use these to strengthen the wellbeing, innovation and economic indicators of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples? How can all Australians work together to promote the maintenance and reclamation of Indigenous languages, and the provision of access to English as a language of wider communication? How can we develop government policies which recognise and strengthen the language rights belonging to speakers of Indigenous language? Answers to these questions could have significant benefits for Australia’s language ecologies and for the general well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Research themes:** Governance; Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education; Governance

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**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**Re-awakening Ngiyampaa: A plain language descriptive grammar**  
Woods, Lesley

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Sydney; Monash University.

**Project start date:** 2018  
**Project end date:** 2022

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education; North Australia Strategies

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**Language maintenance education at OLSH School Wadeye**  
Wood, Megan

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** The University of Melbourne; Griffith University.

**Project start date:** 2019  
**Project end date:** 2023

**Summary of findings:** Thesis in progress.
Research themes: Social and Cultural; Education

Documenting Australian Indigenous languages
Giacon, John

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Various schools; Aboriginal organisations.
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: Language revival and education.
Impact: Language revival and education.
Community Partnerships: Gamilaraay communities (western New South Wales).

Research themes: Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies

Information structure in Indigenous Languages
Gray, James

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2019
Project end date: 2023
Summary of findings: Thesis in progress.

Skin and kin—ARC Project: History of Indigenous languages and ethnography, prehistory of languages
Koch, Harold

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: EHESS
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2017
Summary of findings: This research project explored concepts of Indigenous social organisation, language maintenance and native title. The objectives of this and an earlier Austkin project were to compile (linguistic and cultural) data on Indigenous social terminology—kinship terms in Part 1 and social category terms in Part 2—with a view to: Compiling all information from historic and contemporary written sources, create databases on the web to make this available to researchers and Indigenous communities, and through comparison reconstruct earlier social systems and their changes through time.

Impact: Two databases have been developed, summarised at www.austkin.net. Austkin 2 contains, as much as is known about social category terms (names of moieties, sections, and subsections) across all of Indigenous Australia. This is intended as a record of historical research, a resource for Indigenous communities, and a basis for reconstructing the prehistoric spread of these naming systems. Austkin 1, from phase 1 of the Australian Research Council-funded Austkin project, contains data on the kin terms (father, mother, etc) from most of the mainland languages of Indigenous Australia. This is intended as a record of historical research, a resource for Indigenous communities, and a basis for reconstructing the prehistoric kinship terms and the systems of their organisation. The latter is intended as a contribution—from linguistics—to the understanding of prehistoric social organisation and change. This reconstructive study is ongoing and to be presented in a book in preparation by McConvell, Koch and Keen.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Kayete communities.

Australian National Dictionary
Laugesen, Amanda

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Oxford University Press
Project start date: 1978
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: History of Australian English, including borrowings from Aboriginal languages and words and terms relating to Aboriginal politics, society, culture, history, etc.
Impact: Impact is through recording Aboriginal English, words borrowed from Aboriginal languages, words relating to Aboriginal society and culture—this flow on to our general reference dictionaries which include many of these terms. These have an impact in raising awareness about these words, explaining etymology to students who use dictionaries etc.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: We do frequent outreach/engagement—for example, media interviews, public talks, in which the Australian National Dictionary is discussed.
Funding source: ANDC is co-funded by ANU and Oxford University Press.

Language and land connections
McConvell, Patrick

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Department of Anthropology, Australian National University,
Skin and kin–ARC Project: History of Indigenous languages and ethnography, prehistory of languages

McConvell, Patrick

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: EHESS France

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Indigenous social organisation, language maintenance, education, land rights, native title.

Impact: Heritage maintenance.

Community partnerships: VRD and Kimberley communities.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Australian Indigenous languages, places and their history

Nash, David

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Language connection with place.

Impact: Heritage maintenance.

Community partnerships: Warlmanpa and Warlpiri communities.

Research theme: Social and Cultural


Simpson, Jane

Contributing researchers: Amery, Robert

Lead organisation: University of Adelaide

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This research analyses the 163 texts in the Appendix of the 1993 book: A World That Was. It compares these Berndt texts with other Ngarrindjeri texts by HAE Meyer & George Taplin, and analyses Berndt & Berndt texts more widely available to the Ngarrindjeri community. Using the texts to produce a second edition of the Ngarrindjeri dictionary (with Grammar notes), the research also analyses words from different clan dialects. Notably, the research evaluates language variation and change over time, as a result of mission and colonial impact.

Impact: This project has made texts recorded by anthropologists accessible in modern spelling systems. Maryanne Gale has produced materials in conjunction with Ngarrindjeri communities for language revival and education. A Ngarrindjeri dictionary is being launched in August 2019.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery: DP150103287.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

The long-term dynamics of higher order social organisation in Aboriginal Australia

McConvell, Patrick; Peterson, Nicolas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: The two principal aims of the project are to show: that the Holocene prehistory of Australia was dynamic, involving significant expansion and migration of language groups; and, that in such expansion, migration, and resistance to them, higher-order social groupings were formed: the ‘nations’ reported by earlier anthropology and the ‘cultural blocs’ of recent anthropology. Evidence will come from comparative linguistics, anthropology, and the role of geography in the distribution of social groupings, principally in subtropical Eastern Australia but also in the Victoria River district and Tanami Desert, Northern Territory. This project challenges the dominant view of static Indigenous Australia pre-colonially and will benefit Native Title anthropology.

Impact: The PhD student on the project has submitted his thesis and it will be passed after some corrections. Several papers by Dr McConvell.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery: DP140102983.
Research theme: Education

Teaching English as a second language or dialect in Indigenous communities—working with PhD student Denise Angelo—Queensland

Carter, Nina

Contributing researchers: Angelo, Denise

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: various Education Departments

Project end date: ongoing

Summary of findings: Language and education.

Impact: English as a second language.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Various communities.

Research theme: Education

Language contact and acquisition

O'Shannessy, Carmel

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018

Project end date: 2023

Summary of findings: How young children acquire languages is at the core of understandings of human language and cognition, yet relatively little is known about how young children learn Australian languages with their accompanying gesture and sign systems, and the role of young children in language contact and change. More practically, there is little guidance for health professionals and early childhood educators about typical paths of language acquisition for speakers of traditional and newer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The project will document the paths of acquisition of children speaking some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. The project will track the development of children acquiring these languages and provide guidance for people needing to assess the children's language development.

Impact: The project will provide guidance for people needing to understand and/or assess the language development of children speaking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages. It will provide empirical data—verbal, gesture and sign—for the development of benchmarks and policy in early childhood development and education. Theoretically it will increase understandings of how multilingual children speaking traditional and newer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages acquire their languages and how these are transmitted through family interactions.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Warlpiri Communities; Central Australian Communities; Central Australian Aboriginal Congress and The University of Melbourne.

Funding source: Australian National University Future Scheme.
**Research theme:** Education

**Yaama Gamilaraay!**

Smith, Hilary; Giacon, John

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University  
**Participating organisations:** Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child; Family Centre Gunnedah Preschool  
**Project start date:** 2018  
**Project end date:** 2019  
**Summary of findings:** Language revival and education.  
**Impact:** Language revival and education.  
**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Gamilaraay communities (western New South Wales).  
**Funding source:** New South Wales Department of Education, Ninganah No More scheme.

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**School of Music**

**Research theme:** Education

**Expectations and opportunities:** Addressing the priorities and requirements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in the Australian tertiary music education system.

**Newsome, Jennifer**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University  
**Summary of findings:** PhD by former Director Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music, University of Adelaide.

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**School of Sociology**

**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

**An exploration of the frequency, outcomes, enablers and constraints of bystander anti-racism**

**Hynes, Maria**

**Contributing researchers:** Paradies, Yin; Dunn, Kevin; Guerin, Bernard; Pedersen, Anne and Sharpe, Scott
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

The Grog Book. Strengthening Indigenous community action on alcohol

Brady, Maggie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2005

Summary of findings: The Grog Book was first published in 1998, an accessible compilation of best practice advice for managing alcohol-related problems in Indigenous communities. Based on original fieldwork research and designed for frontline workers, nurses, Aboriginal health workers, police, prisons, community councils, justice services, liquor licensing boards, schools and tertiary students it has become an indispensable resource. In 2005 it needed updating and revising.

Impact: The Grog Book has been reprinted six times. It won a design award in the Australian Awards for Excellence in Educational Publishing (1999). The Grog Book has been printed and distributed free of charge by the Department of Health and over its twenty-year life over 60,000 copies have been distributed within Australia. It has also reached Brazil, India, Papua New Guinea and South Africa. In 2004-5 AusAID funded the research and writing of a South African version of The Grog Book. This was published in Cape Town in 2005 as Tackling Alcohol Problems, Strengthening Community action in South Africa by Maggie Brady and Kirstie Rendall-Mkosi. As a result of The Grog Book Maggie was invited to a Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) meeting in Panama City to present on its preparation and design for adaptation to Central American needs.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Health.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia

Arthur, Bill; Morphy, Frances

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Macquarie Publishing

Project start date: 2017

Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: The project is an extensively revised second edition of the Macquarie Atlas of Indigenous Australia. The prize-winning first edition was published in 2005. In collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the new edition makes use of 2016 census data and other surveys of Indigenous people, along with maps and illustrations, the atlas covers everything that is mappable on a national scale from prehistory to the present sociocultural characteristics of Australia’s Indigenous peoples.

Impact: The atlas, which is aimed primarily at secondary school students and the interested general reader (rather than an academic audience) is a unique and comprehensive compendium of information about Australia’s Indigenous peoples. It makes available much information that is normally hidden away in specialist academic works and agency reports and presents it in terms of spatial patterns across the continent.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: The Atlas is dependent on the input of numerous Indigenous community organisation, and in this second edition many of the contributors are Indigenous community academics and/or members of community organisations.

Funding source: Vice Chancellor Partnering with Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Good practice in Indigenous-led interventions to prevent violence against women

Brown, Chay

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation; CatholicCare Northern Territory NO MORE Campaign.

Project start date: 2016

Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: With the World Health Organization (2017) reporting that one third of all women will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, the problem of violence against women (VAW) is known and its literature base well-established. However, very little is known about ‘good practice’ in VAW interventions. This research hopes to shift the focus from the ‘problem’ to the solution by aiming to learn lessons from three Indigenous-led interventions to answer: ‘what works in preventing violence against Indigenous women?’ Often mainstream interventions – or those developed for Western women – are inappropriate in Indigenous contexts. Interventions also occur through the judicial system in the form of incarceration. However, recidivism rates highlight the ineffectiveness of a solely penal approach. The approach to resolving abuse by Indigenous-led interventions is often more holistic. There is a wealth of practice-based knowledge within Indigenous Australia—it is the intention of this research to use a culturally appropriate methodology to learn from and harness some of this knowledge to develop ‘principles of good practice’ in partnership with Indigenous people.
Impact: This research aims to use a culturally appropriate methodology to partner with Indigenous organisations to better understand what makes interventions effective and to draw out from this learning some principles of good practice which may have broader application. The aim is to identify tangible principles to inform program design.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Alice Springs; Alice Springs Town Camps; Katherine; Kalano; Ngukurr; Jilkminggan; Tennant Creek.

Funding source: Australian Government Research Training Partnership Scholarship.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing, Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Learning on Country programs in remote Indigenous communities
Fordham, Adrian

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Youth engagement in natural resource management
Fordham, Adrian; Schwab, Jerry

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Global Indigenous rights and local effect in central Australia: Tracing relations of power and locating potentialities. An ethnography of the diverse work of human rights amongst Anangu in several central Australian communities
Holcombe, Sarah

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: Global Indigenous rights and local effect in Central Australia: tracing relations of power and locating potentialities. This ethnographic study investigates the practice of Indigenous rights in central Australia by exploring the apparently entrenched disjunctures between the declaration of rights and social fact. Working with Aboriginal people, government and non-government organisations will reveal how rights are understood and negotiated, thus locating new pathways for change.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Future; FT110100805.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing, Education

A study of child’s play from an Indigenous perspective in Australia: An interpretive approach to socialisation [PhD]
Holmes, Catherine

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: Around age three, Indigenous children in remote communities in Australia undertake a major transition from the home to formal schooling. This very important period of child development is typically monitored by non-Indigenous educators. Yet these educators typically know little about Indigenous child development of children aged two to six. Children whose home language and cultural practices differ from the mainstream are being disadvantaged when making the transition from home to school and this plays out as youngsters progress through schooling. Despite considerable efforts, the ‘gap’ between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is continuing to widen, particularly in education. Children are learning to learn (Bateson, 1972) through play, yet we know little about the nature of childhood practices in remote Indigenous settings. This study will investigate what is the everyday practice for children in the Ngaanyatjarra and Pintupi Lands; its impact on the development of social, cognitive and linguistic skills required for the commencement of formal education; the relationship between child practices and learning in early childhood and preschool settings; and the impact of child practices on language socialisation and enculturation.

Impact: From an Anglo-European standpoint, play is a crucial component of child development as it enables an exploration of ‘lifeworlds’ where children can mimic real life situations through meaningful and thoughtful experiences to make sense of their world. However, within the Ngaanyatjarra and Pintupi context, the concept of play needs to be ethnographically problematised to see if it can be transferred cross-culturally. Australian Indigenous early childhood policy and programs are dominated by Anglo-European values and practices and are driven by deficit discourse. This study seeks to describe the process of acquiring social and cultural practices that enable a child to become a dynamic, knowledgeable participant in a remote Indigenous
context from a strength’s perspective. As a child-centred ethnography, the study will provide insights into how to develop positive collaborations between Indigenous families and early years’ educators that will provide the missing link between home play activities and pre-school education. Through this research, Yarnangu and Anangu families will be able to reflect on everyday out-of-school practices of children through environmental cultural variations such as time, objects, language, place, technology and social relationships. To provide effective early childhood education, policies and practices, it is crucial to identify out-of-school teaching and learning practices to create a seamless bridge between home and school life.

Community Partnerships and Engagement/Outreach: Ngaanyatjarra Council.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural

Assessing poverty, gender and wellbeing in northern Indigenous communities
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2009
Project end date: 2010

Summary of findings: There are different perceptions about what development and poverty mean in Indigenous communities compared to western social science measures. Unless we understand these perceptions our efforts to reduce poverty and increase well-being may be misdirected and ultimately unsuccessful. Equally, there may be gendered differences within Indigenous communities which are rarely attended to, as the emphasis on the differences in economic and social outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations in settler societies is the dominant type of analysis. Differences within Indigenous populations are rarely explored. This research investigated what Indigenous people themselves see as important dimensions of their well-being, and how conceptualisations of gender differences in Indigenous communities may vary from standard Western measures.


Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage (as part of Individual Deprivation Measure Project): LP0989385.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Indigenous Peoples and Wellbeing
Jordan, Kirrily

Contributing researchers: Bulloch, Hannah and Buchanan, Geoff

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2010

Summary of findings: This project was an early entry into the now substantial research on Indigenous wellbeing. This project examined critical conceptual issues including the relationships between work and wellbeing and the relevance of Sen’s Capabilities’ Approach.

Impact: This research has had academic impact in this field. The research has been presented in two publications and several invited seminars and student lectures, with one of these publications now highly cited, including by leading Indigenous scholars in the field.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

The community development program in the Ngaanyatjarra lands: Issues and downstream effects
Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings:
> Two expert advice reports for the Shire of Ngaanyatjarra supporting a Complaint to the Human Rights Commission regarding the Community Development Program (CDP).
> A language and literacy report for the Shire of Ngaanyatjarra regarding the Community Development Program (May 2016).
> 10 individual client case studies (August 2016).

Impact: Provided important evidence for Complaint to the Human Rights Commission regarding the CDP for the Shire of Ngaanyatjarra. Publications, submissions, presentations and media reports raised the profile of this important issue in remote Indigenous Australia.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Shire of Ngaanyatjarra

Funding source: Project costs covered by Shire of Ngaanyatjarra.
**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Closing the Gap and the 2018 ‘refresh’**

Markham, Francis; Jordan, Kirrily; Howard-Wagner Deirdre; Dillon Michael; Hunt, Janet; Lahn, Julie

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** This project examines the Closing the Gap approach and the efforts by the Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMandC) to ‘refresh’ the framework.

**Impact:** The major impact has been a joint submission to the Closing the Gap refresh process and participation in PMandC consultation sessions.

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**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Impact of welfare conditionality policies on vulnerable youth: Analysis of longitudinal administrative data: 1999-2014.**

Nelson, Agnieszka

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and Department of Social Services

**Project start date:** 2013

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** Youth unemployment has become a particular policy concern in many developed economies, including Australia. This is largely because of the risk of scarring effects that may lead many of these young people to experience unemployment later in life. This challenge is even more acute during periods of economic crisis. The increased policy attention for reducing the number of young people who are inactive and unemployed (NEET) is accompanied by a trend towards imposing stricter conditions for receiving welfare benefits through, for example, the imposition of job search requirements and/or by making receipt of welfare benefits conditional on participation in training or work programs. Prominent examples of policies targeted at young unemployed individuals in Australia include the Work for the Dole and Welfare to Work reforms. Those policies as a whole tend to largely ignore the special needs of discouraged and inactive youth and those living with multiple disadvantages. For example, young parents, Indigenous Australians, those living in remote communities or youth living with a physical or mental disability or ex-offenders. Beyond the fundamental problem of engaging these individuals in the labour market, neglecting this group has a variety of social and economic implications, ranging from social exclusion to poverty. Despite this, there is lack of empirical understanding about how those welfare reforms have impacted on Australian NEETs living with multiple vulnerabilities vis a vis their counterparts.

In this thesis, Agnieszka examines the effects of Australian welfare policies on young vulnerable income support recipients who are disengaged from education, training and the labour market and compare those to their less vulnerable counterparts. Within this broad context, her thesis focuses on the effects of selected welfare policies in Australia first introduced as part of the Welfare to Work reforms in 2006—aimed largely at sole parents, those living with disabilities and long-term unemployed.

**Impact:** Findings of this research will enhance our current understanding of Australia’s disengaged youth living with multiple disadvantage and help contribute to the policy thinking, especially in the light of reforms introduced by the Turnbull Government in 2017 aimed at stopping young people aged 22 to 24 claiming Newstart or the Sickness allowance and shifting them to the less generous Youth Allowance payment.

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**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Healthy people, healthy country**

Schwab, Jerry

**Lead organisation:** University of Notre Dame Australia

**Participating organisations:** University of Western Australia; Curtin University; the Kimberley Institute and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

**Project start date:** 2013

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** The University of Notre Dame Australia is entering into partnerships with the Australian National University, the University of Western Australia, Curtin University, the Kimberley Institute and the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, to develop its research interests and achieve stronger performance outcomes in three health-related research themes: Indigenous Health and Wellbeing, Healthy Ageing, Chronic Disease Management. The outcomes of the CRN for Healthy People Healthy Country include furthering Australia's national research priority of ‘promoting and maintaining good health’; further strengthening the research capacity of the lead institution; providing partner access to the lead institution's established relevant research networks; and harnessing the collaborative endeavours of key players involved in the identified themes.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of Education and Training/Collaborative Research Networks.
Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Land as ‘third space’: Towards and educational and social reengagement of Indigenous youth in remote Australia
Schwab, Jerry; Fogarty, Bill; Fordham, Adrian

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2009

Summary of findings: The educational and social disengagement of Indigenous youth in many remote communities in Northern Australia is well documented. A cursory reading of media reports and opinion pieces uncovers many who can be blamed: schools, parents, teachers, government, socialists, anthropologists, linguists and even film makers. Solutions offered are legion and range from conservative (eliminate bilingual programs, link welfare payments to school attendance, send children to boarding schools so they can escape their dysfunctional communities), to progressive (build true partnerships between communities and schools, develop an Indigenous teaching workforce, support bilingual programs), to common-sensical (equip schools with enough desks for every student, provide cross-cultural training for non-Indigenous teachers, invest in the development of curricula that fit the needs of Indigenous children). Yet all of these and most other solutions focus directly or indirectly on ‘school’. In this exploratory paper I will shift focus away from ‘school’ and look for another place or another ‘space’ where learning and social re-engagement among young Indigenous people in remote Australia might be supported. Drawing on theories of ‘third space’ and ‘hybridity’, I will explore Indigenous land as ‘transformative space’ where Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge, opportunities and responsibilities intersect and where young people might engage with meaningful practice.

Impact: Comprehensively estimating the cost benefit of increasing the number of Indigenous professionals is a very complicated and long-term exercise and thus beyond the scope of this piece of work. Rather, the approach is to estimate the economic and social benefits to the person who has become a professional. This provides an indication of some of the potential economic benefits to the Australian economy. Relevant findings of studies for the general Australian population are drawn upon in order to estimate the order of magnitude of the effects for a range of scenarios. Benefits include: Increased rates of employment, hours worked, amount paid, and effects on health.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Employment; consultancy.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Governance; Education

Improved Employment outcomes for Aboriginal People in NSW
Taylor, John

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: The project developed a discussion paper to generate public input on opportunities to improve employment outcomes for Aboriginal people to inform the Ministerial Taskforce on Aboriginal Affairs.

Funding source: New South Wales Department of Aboriginal Affairs; consultancy.

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Education

Indigenous populations project (IPP)
Taylor, John

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings:
> Indigenous socioeconomic outcomes and their determinants across the life course—analysis of the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and related surveys.
> Building an Indigenous Community Development Index.
> Identifying and defining ‘service populations’.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Social Services; consultancy.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

In pursuit of culturally relevant indicators of Indigenous wellbeing: Operationalising the recognition space [PhD]

Yap, Mandy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Kimberley Institute; Nyamba Buru Yawuru; Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre; Nagula Jarndu

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: There is widespread recognition that wellbeing is contextually and culturally constructed. Yet, the tendency has been to establish universal indicators for representing and measuring wellbeing. This can be attributed to the difficulty of creating measures that can be both ‘relevant’ and ‘usable’. ‘Relevance’ involves giving priority to Indigenous worldviews while concerns for ‘usability’ can steer researchers and policy makers toward a reliance on existing normative datasets and methodologies. In this thesis, an alternative approach starting from Indigenous perspectives is explored, working with the Yawuru community in Broome, Western Australia. Using a participatory mixed-methods approach, narratives of wellbeing by Yawuru women and men inform the development of indicators used to represent and evaluate their wellbeing. Best-Worst Scaling was also used to elicit Yawuru priorities. This approach has the benefit of transforming the way that data and information is presented and collected, by actively involving those who know their lives best.

Impact: This PhD research aimed to align the concerns of ‘usability’ and ‘relevance’ to ensure that the measures of Indigenous wellbeing whilst achieving academic rigour, also has integrity and relevance to the Yawuru community. The Yawuru case study provided a unique opportunity for primary data collection from inception to completion. The research process also ensured that Yawuru have ownership over the process and data and a resulting outcome of this ownership is the production of data fit for their purpose and functional for their needs. The Yawuru Community Wellbeing Report, the associated data generated from the PhD research are important sources of data informing the Broome Growth Plan and helps inform Yawuru’s development strategies and social and cultural program development.

Community partnerships: Kimberley Institute; Nyamba Buru Yawuru; Nagula Jarndu; Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre.

Funding source: Australian National University; Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre; Nyamba Buru Yawuru, Kimberley Institute and Nagula Jarndu.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Characterisation of fermentation practices of Australian Aborigines

Brady, Maggie

Lead organisation: University of Adelaide

Participating organisations: Department of Wine and Food Science University of Adelaide; Australian Wine Research Institute; Australian National University.

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: A study of the native yeast populations associated with spontaneous fermentation of sap and other plant products, from which Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples have historically produced fermented drinks.


Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Torres Strait Regional Authority; Erub Community Council; Mickey O’Brien (Adelaide).

Funding source: University of Adelaide.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Indigenous Australians and alcohol control: The impact of hotel ownership in harm reduction and social and economic development

Brady, Maggie; Hunter, Boyd

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2007
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: Investigation of Indigenous social enterprises involving the supply of alcohol (public hotels and community-based clubs) in order to resolve uncertainty about whether such Indigenous community ownership/governance is a viable and harm minimising strategy. Usually designed to control the availability of alcohol (and ‘teach’ moderate alcohol consumption), these enterprises also aimed to deliver social and economic empowerment—two apparently conflicting goals.

Philanthropy and Indigenous people: Enhancing Indigenous education outcomes

Dreise, Tony; Hunt, Janet; Schwab, Jerry

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Melbourne Community Foundation

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: The research explored the most strategic ways philanthropy could contribute to enhance Indigenous education outcomes. It explored the engagement of philanthropy with Indigenous education in Australia and argued for a significant change in the approach of philanthropic organisations in order to make a greater impact on education outcomes in Indigenous communities.

Impact: Disseminated research findings to philanthropic bodies, government agencies, Indigenous educators and community members, and academic audiences. Tony Dreise graduating with a PhD in 2018.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Philanthropy Australia; ACER; various Education departments; Aboriginal educators.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage: LP100100721.

Indigenous Public Sector Representation

Ganter, Elizabeth

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2006
Project end date: ongoing

Summary of findings: PhD research found the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public servants similar to those of political representatives and that Indigenous public sector employment targets are compromised by employees’ high mobility between government and the Indigenous sector.

Impact: Advanced understandings of representative bureaucracy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in government in Australia.
Community partnerships: Extended engagement with research participants. Various arrangements with the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. Ongoing relationships with Indigenous public servants, Australia and New Zealand School of Government and ANU’s Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research.

Funding source: Australian National University (ANU)/Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre PhD scholarship 2006-2010. Supplementary funding through ANU History Program; Northern Territory Government History Grants Program; Northern Territory Research and Innovation Grants Program.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Aboriginal cultural heritage policy and practice in New South Wales
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: This research followed changes in Aboriginal Cultural Heritage policy proposed in New South Wales by providing critique of the proposed model in relation to the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It found the proposed approach wanting in relation to the UNDRIP.

Impact: The Cultural Heritage Reform process in New South Wales is still in process, but there have been several publications from this work plus submissions to the reform process. A revised proposal is being considered.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Socioeconomic benefits of Aboriginal engagement in natural resource management
Hunt, Janet; Altman, Jon

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2009
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: This research involved three case studies of New South Wales Aboriginal groups engaging Aboriginal people in looking after their country. In particular, it highlighted the socioeconomic benefits such activity was generating for the people involved. The three were: Banbai Business Enterprises which managed the first Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) in New South Wales (NSW), ‘Wattleridge’, on the New England Tablelands north east of Guyra, and is now also managing a second IPA, ‘Tariwa Kurrukun’, on land owned by the Guyra Local Aboriginal Land Council. The Nyambaga Green Team operating from the Ngurrala Aboriginal Corporation near Macksville, which ran an environmental business, and the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council’s engagement in cultural and natural resource management efforts to enhance this through development of a Land and Sea Country Plan. At these locations a diverse range of significant cultural, social and economic benefits were emerging.

Impact: This research has been presented at conferences, published in academic journals and been included in submissions to parliamentary reviews. The research has highlighted to the NSW government, the value of engaging Aboriginal communities in land and sea management and policy is shifting to increasingly enable this.

Funding source: NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Social benefits of Aboriginal engagement in natural resource management
Hunt, Janet; Altman, Jon; May, Katherine

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2009

Summary of findings: There are a number of avenues for Aboriginal involvement in natural resource management in New South Wales (NSW), despite this relative lack of land-holding. The research documented examples of NRM on Indigenous-owned land and included examples of Indigenous engagement in NRM where Indigenous Land Use Agreements had been negotiated arising from native title claims. It also explored Aboriginal involvement in management of land which Aboriginal people do not own or on which their native title rights have not been recognised, and through co-management agreements with National Parks, and involvement in Catchment Management Authorities. It included water policy and access to water licences, as well as threatened species management, marine resources, forestry, rangelands pastoralism and sustainable use of wildlife as well as a number of other activities.

Impact: The NSW Natural Resources Advisory Council considered the report. NSW Office for Environment and Heritage commissioned longer-term research at the same time and this work fed into that research.

Funding source: NSW Natural Resources Advisory Council.
Research themes: Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Aboriginal cultural heritage protection in New South Wales using native title and land rights
Hunt, Janet; Ellsmore, Sylvie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: The research explored the practical consequences for Aboriginal people of the interaction of three legal frameworks in New South Wales which impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage in the state, namely the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act (1974), the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act (1983) (ALRA) and the Commonwealth Native Title Act (1993). A case study of how Gumbaynggirr native title claimants attempted to use both the ALRA (1983) and the Native Title Act (1993) to achieve the best possible protection of culturally significant lands and their return to Gumbaynggirr people as the traditional owners illustrated the challenges native title claimants face in NSW under this complex regime.

Impact: An NSW chapter in the only Australian book on native title and cultural heritage; this book was published by Aboriginal Studies Press.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Gumbaynggirr people.

Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia Pacific: Indigenous Engagement
Hunt, Janet; Thorburn, Kathryn; O’Neill, Lily; Aisbett, Emma

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2019
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Indigenous research under the Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia Pacific Grand Challenge will address the question of how the emergence of Australia as a renewable energy superpower can be harnessed to achieve sustainable development for Indigenous communities. Research will consider the information, institutions and supporting policies that can enable Indigenous communities to identify and achieve their objectives.

Impact: To enable Indigenous communities to leverage the growing renewable energy industry to achieve their sustainable development goals. Further impact goals are evolution of state government policies, local and regional institutions and information provision to support the primary impact goal.

Community partnerships: Australian National University Grand Challenge Scheme.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Arts for equality: Improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through art and new media
Jordan, Kirrily

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This project seeks to unsettle the way in which we do policy research with First Nations peoples, based on collaborations in new media and the arts. It aims to develop and test new ways of doing, communicating, and evaluating research that are accessible and engaging for diverse audiences, and that better reflect the emancipatory potential of Indigenous pedagogies. It also examines the political potential of art.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Community partnerships with the Australian Capital Territory and Queanbeyan First Nations communities and in other regions as appropriate.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

The Two Way Project
Jordan, Kirrily; Thomassin, Annick; Howard-Wagner, Deirdre; Perera, Sean

Contributing researcher: Alder, Alison

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Transport Canberra and City Services; Australian National University School of Music and Australian National University School of Art & Design.

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This innovative project brings together an interdisciplinary team across the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) with Ngunnawal and Ngambri communities and the ACT Government to deliver practical outcomes for Canberra’s traditional owners at the intersection of policy research and visual arts.
Impact: A significant community artwork, substantial media attention including local television and local and national radio. Community art mural at Watson Shops, ACT, produced in collaboration with Ngambri and Ngunnawal artists Dr Matilda House, Daniel Williams, Soni Rogers, Carl Brown, Tina Brown and Adrian Brown. The opening was attended by approximately 40 people including from across CASS and Australian National University, the local Indigenous and Watson communities, and the ACT Government.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Community partnerships with Ngunnawal and Ngambri elders and families.

Funding source: ACT Government Transport Canberra and City Services; CASS Workshop Grant; Commonwealth Indigenous Languages and Arts Program.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Beyond the ends of policy: Agency, wellbeing, and Indigenous policy process

Klein, Elise

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Summary of findings: The capability approach has recently been used in Australian Indigenous policy formation. Of particular note is how it has been used, in some instances, to justify current paternalistic and directive policies for Indigenous Australians. These include behavioural conditionalities on state support and income management—policy apparatuses that aim to create individual responsibility and to re-engineer the social norms of Indigenous people. This interpretation of the capability approach is at odds with the writings of Sen, because it overlooks the core concepts of freedom, agency and pluralism. To examine this tension, this paper reviews the contestation between capability scholars and commentators on Indigenous policy, paying particular attention to four areas: Human capability versus human capital, deficit discourse, individual responsibility, and the ends and means of policy. Finally, to reinvigorate the capability approach in Australian Indigenous policy, six areas are suggested in which the capability approach could be used in the future.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Evaluation of the Wurnannangga Storylines Project (Mowanjum)

Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: State Library of Western Australia

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: An evaluation of State Library of Western Australia Storylines project at Mowanjum Community.

Impact: Validated the worth of Storylines as a tool for repatriating community digital and non-digital materials, revealed the worth of these programs for supporting local employment, and improved alphabetic and digital literacies.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Mowanjum Community, Western Australia.

Funding source: State Library of Western Australia.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Western Desert special speech styles project

Kral, Inge; Ellis, Elizabeth

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: Ngaanyatjarra Council

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: In 2012-2013 under an Endangered Languages Documentation Program small grant, some twenty hours of audio-visual recordings were made of a speech register, narrative and song, representing one of the best collections of classical Western Desert verbal arts in one of only twenty strong Indigenous Australian languages. This led to the Australian Research Council-Discovery Indigenous grant to transcribe, translate, analyse, repatriate and archive this collection. Sixty five audio-visual items have been archived with the international Endangered Languages Archive, SOAS London (completed October 2016).

Impact: The quality and enduring importance of this research is immeasurable. Our endangered language documentation represents an invaluable legacy for humanity and future generations of Indigenous Australians.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Ngaanyatjarra Council.

Funding source: Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project (ELDP) Documentation Programme.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Indigenous population project

Markham, Francis; Venn, Danielle; Biddle, Nicolas; Crawford, Heather

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMandC)

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: In this project, researchers from the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR) document the changing composition and distribution of a range of Indigenous outcomes using recently released 2016 Census data. The Indigenous Population Project has its genesis in CAEPR’s research commissioned by the Ministerial Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (MCATSIA) in 2005. Recognising the diversity of circumstances facing Indigenous populations, PMandC has established an enhanced research capacity at CAEPR Research to further explore the dynamics and regional geography of Indigenous population and socio-economic change. Topics covered include demographic change, income, poverty and inequality, education, employment, housing, mobility and identification change.

Impact: This research has fed into the Closing the Gap Refresh, PMandC’s review of their overarching policy framework for Indigenous Affairs. Research has been used internally by PMandC in numerous ways. For example, our population projects are used in Indigenous labour market planning. CAEPR researchers have reviewed the internal PMandC evaluation of The Community Development Programme (CDP) and have conducted data analysis training workshops for PMandC staff. More work of this sort has been solicited by the Social Justice Commissioner. The work on the drivers of population growth has been praised as challenging the way we all think about Aboriginal population growth by a senior bureaucrat in the NSW Department of Education. This research has also helped to shape the public debate around Indigenous Affairs, with seven articles referring to the work published in 2018 in outlets including The Australian, The Saturday Paper and The Sydney Morning Herald.

Community partnerships: Seminars and reports to government departments.

Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Summary of findings: The Australian National University's Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research researchers are working with colleagues in the University's School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics to investigate the links between Indigenous language use and wellbeing. The Indigenous language use research will form part of the 2019 National Indigenous Languages Report, the Commonwealth’s primary contribution to the International Year of Indigenous Languages and is expected to inform policy regarding Commonwealth support to Indigenous language centres.

Impact: The Indigenous language use research will form part of the 2019 National Indigenous Languages Report, the Commonwealth’s primary contribution to the International Year of Indigenous Languages and is expected to inform policy regarding Commonwealth support to Indigenous language centres.

Community partnerships: Reports to government departments, community outreach to follow.

Funding source: Department of Communication and the Arts.

Research themes: Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies

Reciprocal accountability and public value in Aboriginal organisations

Sullivan, Patrick; Hunt, Janet; Lahn, Julie; Thorburn, Kathryn

Lead organisation: The University of Notre Dame Australia

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Kimberley region Aboriginal organisations are funded by governments to deliver services that are of value to the public. They also reflect Aboriginal culture and identity and represent Aboriginal interests. This also creates value for their own publics. This project investigates the tension between these two ways of understanding public value. It investigated accountability for public value creation, whether it reflects the real value of Aboriginal organisations, and whether it can be done better. Better accountability will foster Aboriginal organisations that are more adaptable, have better relations with wider society and efficiently create value for their publics. The project drew on anthropology and public administration theory.

Impact: The objective of the research is to shed light on the value of Aboriginal organisations for the Aboriginal community and public and to shift accountability arrangements to a public value approach. Research findings have already been presented at two major international conferences.

Community partnerships: Four Aboriginal organisations in Kimberley.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery: DP160102250.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

National Indigenous Languages Report

Markham, Francis; Venn, Danielle; Biddle, Nicolas; Crawford, Heather

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Commonwealth Department of Communication and the Arts; Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Cox Inall Ridgeway

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: Ongoing
Research theme: Social and Cultural

Yawuru community household survey
Taylor, John

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings:
Phase 1: Assist in the preparation of the Yawuru community Household Survey including the design of the survey instrument, the training of the data collection in survey collection methodology and the design and advice on the construction of the electronic database.

Phase 2: Data processing and analysis of the resulting database. Provide a report on the demographic baseline profile of the Indigenous population in Broome.

Funding source: Kimberley Institute Ltd; consultancy.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Population change in Port Augusta
Taylor, John; Westbury, Neil

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2013
Summary of findings:
In 2009, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to include an Urban and Regional Strategy as part of the Indigenous Reform Agreement aimed at coordinating the delivery of services to Indigenous Australians. The main purpose of this strategy was to ensure that government agencies and community groups form partnerships to develop implementation plans for coordinated actions in relation to the headline indicators of the COAG Closing the Gap targets. Of particular interest, were the dynamics operating within regional areas, given that these account for around fifty per cent of the national Indigenous population. These are significant service centres located geographically between metropolitan areas and remote Australia. They have extensive catchment areas from which they are drawing in Indigenous people as migrants as part of a stepwise movement of population out of remote locations. Combined with higher natural population increase, this stands in contrast to non-Indigenous out-migration and population ageing. From an Indigenous policy perspective, and in terms of the COAG Urban and Regional Strategy, they register as demographic ‘hotspots’ in the sense that demographic processes are generating specific outcomes that require place-based policy responses. In order to understand these processes more fully and their particular implications for policy, this paper focused on one such location (Port Augusta) as a case study of the changes that are underway in demographic composition more widely, and of the issues that are increasingly faced by all levels of government and local Indigenous organisations in dealing with them.

Funding source: Self-funded, with initial scholarship assistance from Charles Darwin University through the Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

What value culture if not for sale?
First Nations valuation of culture beyond markets [PhD]
Woods, Kaely

Lead organisations: Australian National University; Charles Darwin University.
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings:
This research explores how intangible aspects of Aboriginal culture can be quantitatively valued, without being commodified. Working with Aboriginal people on Nyikina country in the west Kimberley, Kaely used a form of choice modelling to value aspect.

Impact: The potential impact of this research falls into two broad areas: policy and program design; and determination of compensation for impact of research on culture.

Community partnerships: Kaely has worked through the Native Title Prescribed Body Corporate that holds the native title on behalf of the Nyikina and Mangala people and has established relationships with the Aboriginal residents of several communities and towns in the west Kimberley region. Her ongoing relationship extends beyond the research to matters of governance, public policy, land and water management and economic development.

Funding source: Self-funded, with initial scholarship assistance from Charles Darwin University through the Northern Research Futures Collaborative Research Network.

Research theme: Education

Everyday Reconciliation: New Celebrations and Ongoing Silences.
How children learn about and interpret messages about Indigenous peoples and cultures, Australian history and reconciliation [PhD]
Avrahamzon, Talia

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This research explored how ‘reconciliation’ is (re)constructed in Australian schools—at the policy, school, classroom level as well as through the perspectives of children in Years 3 and 4 (8-10-year olds), accounting for the diversity amongst the often homogenised ‘Indigenous’ and ‘non-Indigenous’ Australians. In 2016, a
multi-sited school ethnography in two urban, multicultural primary schools on Ngunnawal Country in the Australian Capital Territory jurisdiction of education was undertaken. Data collection included observations, interviews and focus groups with fifty two children, twenty teachers, four Department staff, four school executives and twelve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents from the region. Findings highlight that despite a perceived positive approach being undertaken at the schools and in the classrooms as well as overwhelming commitment from teachers to increase an understanding amongst their students of Indigenous perspectives, teachers and children often expressed deficit discourses, stereotypes and ‘colonial storytelling’ about Indigenous peoples and cultures. Furthermore, a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children as well as all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents shared experiences of different forms of racism at a policy, school, classroom and peer level. Some children and teachers, however, also found ways to challenge and disrupt the normalisation and privileging of existing power structures.

**Impact:** The implication of these findings suggested a need for schools and curriculum to engage more with concepts of power, privilege and bias as well as the contradictions within this contemporary cultural interface of everyday reconciliation, and not only create a reconciled space that celebrates a perceived authentic Indigenous culture. Such findings have implications for how reconciliation is (re)constructed in other institutions.

**Community partnerships:** Australian Capital Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and education consultative group; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, parents and educators engaged in schooling on Ngunnawal Country; children and educators attending participating schools.

**Funding source:** Sir Roland Wilson Scholarship.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Vocational Education and Training**

**Crawford, Heather**

**Contributing researcher:** Biddle, Nicholas

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** Increasing attainment of higher-level vocational qualifications among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

**Impact:** Greater understanding of population-level situation to inform policy.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Strategies for Philanthropic investment/engagement as a means to enhance Indigenous education outcomes**

**Dreise, Tony**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Training and employment pathways on Palm Island**

**Fordham, Adrian**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Engaged by Murray-Darling Basin Authority Aboriginal Partnerships Program as ‘critical friend’ on Aboriginal weather stations research project**

**Holcombe, Sarah**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Primary School Attendance in children in remote Indigenous Communities in the Northern Territory [PhD]**

**Jones, Katy**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University
Connecting, communicating and learning through new media: Indigenous youth and digital futures in remote Australia.

Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This project explored the impact of digital technologies and new media practices on the social, cultural and linguistic ecology of remote Indigenous Australia. It shed light on the use of digital media to support youth engagement in innovation, communication, education, employment and public participation in the digital economy. It assisted in policy development for improving information technology readiness, promoting safe internet usage and bridging the digital divide.

Impact: The cultural and educational implications of youth media innovations in the Indigenous context reached out to an international audience and provided important theoretical contributions to a universal understanding of sociocultural learning in the globalised digital world.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Ngaanyatjarra Council; Batchelor Institute; UC Berkeley

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award: DE120100720

Evaluation of the Indigenous Literacy Project (Better Beginnings Program) WA

Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: An evaluation of the Read to Me I love It Indigenous Literacy Project within Better Beginnings. Evaluation took place with caregivers and providers at communities across the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and East and West Kimberley.

Impact: The evaluation revealed the value of this program for supporting family literacy in Indigenous homes.

Funding source: State Library of Western Australia

Research theme: Education

Evaluation of the UC Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative

Jordan, Kirrily

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This research took the form of a report to the University of Canberra (UC) Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) evaluating the impact of UC’s flagship Indigenous research network and making recommendations for its future development and funding.

Impact: Significant impact in informing the ongoing sustainability of UC's flagship Indigenous research network.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation.

Funding source: University of Canberra.

Research theme: Education

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences – Projects summaries
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences – Projects summaries
Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research

Research theme: Education

Lifespan learning and literacy for young adults in remote Indigenous communities
Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Linkage Project with the Fred Hollows Foundation

Project start date: 2007
Project end date: 2010

Summary of findings: This project was an ethnographic study of the ways in which young Indigenous adults aged between sixteen and twenty-five are using language and multimodal literacies in community learning environments. The project had five sites across the Northern Territory and Western Australia, including theatre, arts, music, multimedia and community archiving database projects.

Impact: This project succeeded in profiling the great learning that Indigenous youth in remote areas are doing in out-of-school settings. It situated the theories of social learning and literacy in the education space. It also validated non-formal approaches to learning in Indigenous education.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: The Fred Hollows Foundation and Djilpin Arts Jawoyn region, Northern Territory; Ngaanyatjarra Council, Western Australia; Warlpiri Education and Training Trust Advisory Committee, Northern Territory; Ngapartji Ngapartji intergenerational language and arts project, Northern Territory; Northern Territory Library; libraries and knowledge centres in remote communities.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Post-Doctoral Fellow (LP0774918) and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Research theme: Education

Evaluation of the SLWA Ideas Box Project at Yungngora Community
Kral, Inge

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: State Library of Western Australia

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Evaluated the implementation of a Libraries without Borders digital learning initiative at Yungngora Community, Western Australia

Impact: This evaluation enabled the State Library of Western Australia to determine the success of the program and make decisions regarding its application in other remote communities.

Funding source: State Library of Western Australia.

Research theme: Education

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Yungngora Community, Western Australia.

Beyond black and white: Exploring threshold concepts in undergraduate Indigenous studies [PhD]
Page, Susan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Data collection for this project was undertaken at 3 undisclosed university sites.

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2022

Summary of findings: The emerging discipline of Indigenous Studies holds considerable promise for university educators interested in learning and teaching. A number of recent policy reports have drawn attention to the need for better education of university graduates in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders cultures and histories. Indigenous Studies is
one obvious site of this critical work. As we seek to ‘close the gap’ between outcomes for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, university graduates will need to develop deeper understandings of our nation’s complex colonial legacy than those of their predecessors. It is vital then, that graduates think beyond the simple binaries of black and white which too often impede understanding and practice. The thresholds concepts framework and its focus on complex knowledge, offers a useful discipline focused approach for exploring student learning in Indigenous Studies.

**Impact:** The 2014 paper, published in the Australian Journal of Indigenous Education has been cited by nine other papers since its dissemination. Susan has also presented her work in a number of relevant conferences where colleagues have expressed ongoing interest in the work. A recent PhD thesis by Marcelle Townsend-Cross draws on her threshold concepts paper (and my other scholarly work).

**Community partnerships:** For the purposes of this project, Susan’s community is the Indigenous Higher Education community of scholars. She has engaged with this community through her work (at the University of Technology Sydney) and through informal and formal presentations in Higher Education forums.

**Funding source:** Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship.

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**Research theme:** Education

**The implications of increased private school funding for Indigenous education**

**Schwab, Jerry**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** “Barriers and bureaucracy, bridges and brokers”. These four words sum up the findings of the study, which investigated the experiences of independent schools in obtaining ABSTUDY funding for Indigenous students from remote areas. Schools, along with Indigenous secondary boarding students from remote areas and their families, deal with barriers to providing education for these students. One of these barriers is the complex bureaucratic system that schools, families and students need to negotiate to obtain ABSTUDY funding. Interpersonal relations between diverse social entities are an essential part of this educational ecology; it was found that individuals and organisations who act as bridges or brokers between different social elements within this environment, reducing the burden on schools, families and students, play a valuable role and are very highly regarded.

**Funding source:** Independent Schools Council of Australia.

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**Research theme:** Education

**Higher education and the growth of Indigenous participation in professional and managerial occupations**

**Taylor, John; Gray, Matthew; Hunter, Boyd; Yap, Mandy; Lahn, Julie**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2011

**Summary of findings:** In April 2011, the Australian Government announced a Review into Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. In order to assist the Review, ANU’s Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations to examine the role of higher education in the growth of Indigenous employment in professional occupations, to assess the associated costs and benefits to the Australian economy and society, and to explore likely barriers to growing the number of Indigenous professionals. This paper examined aspects of higher education access and outcomes for Indigenous people, structured in two main parts. First, a statistical overview of recent
Indigenous employment growth by occupational category, and it compares this with non-Indigenous occupational change. It also explored the role that post-school qualifications have played in this process. Second, analysis of select economic and social returns to higher education and employment along with the effects of being a professional (or manager) both to individuals and the Australian economy and society. By way of conclusion we reflected on some of the barriers to further expansion of the professional occupational base.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous natural resource management and livelihoods
Altman, Jon

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2018
Summary of findings: ANU co-led Axis 3: Livelihoods and food security: Coping with neoliberal growth in the major international comparative project Centre pour la conservation et le développement autochtones alternatifs (CCDAA) or Centre for Indigenous Conservation and Development Alternatives (CICADA) administered by McGill University, Montréal, Québec under the overall direction of Professor Colin Scott. This research focuses on research with ranger groups working in the vast region from Kakadu National Park to North East Arnhem Land.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous peoples and climate change
Altman, Jon; Jordan, Kirrily

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2009
Summary of findings: Summarised the potential impacts of climate change on the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples living in remote regions
Impact: This was a very early contribution to the now substantial investigation of the impacts of climate change on Aboriginal people in Arnhem Land, written in conjunction with Indigenous rangers.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Djelk Indigenous rangers.

Research themes: Land and Water Management and Economic Development; North Australia Strategies

Indigenous interests in land and water in Northern Australia
Altman, Jon; Jordan, Kirrily; Kerins, Sean; Buchanan, Geoff; Biddle, Nicholas; Ens, Emilie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Project start date: 2009
Summary of findings: An important contribution to the CSIRO publication ‘Northern Australia Land and Water Science Review 2009: Full Report’ to highlight the very significant Indigenous interests in land and water in Australia’s north, feeding into policy debates about ‘Developing the North.’
Funding source: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Biodiversity values and Indigenous livelihoods with the National Environmental Research Program (NERP)**

Altman, Jon; Kerins, Sean

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** The project has improved the capacity of Aboriginal landowners and managers to respond to environmental management issues and meet broader social, cultural, economic, and political objectives. Research into INCRM governance has improved resource management in local case study areas and will have important implications for wider departmental policy and program development. The geographic scope of the project case studies across the Northern Territory was substantial, making the project results of particular relevance to that jurisdiction.

**Impact:** The participatory and engaged nature of the work undertaken has resulted in significant local and community scale impacts during the course of the project.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Over 130 Aboriginal traditional owners from five language groups (Garawa, Gudanji, Mara, Waanyi and Yanyuwa) have participated in both on-country and off-country planning meetings and workshops over a three-year period.

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Economic hybridity through the work of Aboriginal land and sea management groups in two remote Indigenous communities**

Buchanan, Geoff

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Native Title Research**

Dillon, Michael

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** The research focussed on describing and assessing likely future policy directions in native title. This has included book reviews, media articles, and research papers directed to identifying emerging issues and areas of innovation within the native title policy domain.

**Impact:** The research sought to expand understanding of the complex drivers of native title policy both in the Indigenous community (and particularly within Indigenous organisations dealing with native title) and within policymaking circles.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**From welfare to work or work to welfare? Will reform of the Community Development Employment Projects help close the employment gap?**

Altman, Jon; Sanders, Wil, Hunter, Boyd; Jordan, Kirrily

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** This research examined the impacts of the closure of the Community Development Employment Projects scheme that had employed up to 35,000 Indigenous people. It examined statistical evidence and collected fieldwork data from partner communities in New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

**Impact:** This project has led the way on research into the transition from the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme to CDP and the major policy impact outlined in LP130100226.

**Community partnerships:** Multiple communities in regional and remote Australia including in the Maningrida region, APY Lands, Central Desert and New South Wales Far South Coast.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Discovery: DP110101878.
Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Exploring two-way ecological research to inform Indigenous natural and cultural resource management
Ens, Emilie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous Protected Area baseline data
Ens, Emilie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University.
Funding source: The Nature Conservancy Australia Trust.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Provision of Data from the Arnhem Land Indigenous biodiversity surveys
Ens, Emilie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Implementing remote employment services
Sanders, William; Jordan, Kirrily; Fowkes, Lisa
Contributing researcher: Thompson, David
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisation: Jobs Australia Ltd
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2019
Summary of findings: This project examined the development and implementation of, and changes to, remote employment services over the period from 2011-2017. Remote employment services refer to the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (2013-2015) and the Community Development Program (2015-). The objective was to understand influences on the way in which remote employment services operated and were experienced by participants.

The program has around 30,000 participants, over 80 per cent of whom are Indigenous. The research included site observations and interviews with frontline workers and management of provider organisations, along with two provider surveys. It also included interviews with government officials and analysis of public information.

Impact: Analysis of the program contributed to the establishment of a Senate Inquiry into the scheme in 2017. Submissions have been made using the research to three Senate Inquiries, and the researcher has been called to present evidence in two. The researcher has also presented evidence at a Coronial Inquiry in Western Australia. The research has been covered by several media outlets including ABC Radio, ABC TV, The Guardian and local Indigenous radio. The research work has been important in highlighting the inappropriateness and discriminatory nature of the scheme in the media and in the Parliament and has contributed to efforts to advocate for an alternative scheme.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This project has included close collaboration with the industry partner (Jobs Australia), including presenting at its annual conference each year, as well as at specialist remote employment service provider forums. The research has also been presented at two public events and at the Northern Territory Council of Social Service Conference. The research has been used by an alliance of Indigenous organisations, peak bodies and community stakeholders to lobby for improvements to Government policy in this area. Expert advice and support to the alliance is ongoing, including assisting in analysis of government reforms and development of alternative approaches.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage: LP130100226.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Learning from success: The Indigenous Protected Areas program
Fraser, Helen

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: This work focuses on the contribution to success of the degree of Indigenous control the Indigenous Protected Areas program gives participants, recognition and flexibility.
Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Engaged for heritage and site survey field research with female Traditional Owners for land of proposed 10,000-hectare aquaculture project on Legune pastoral lease (Northern Territory major project status)

Holcombe, Sarah

Lead organisation: The Australian National University.

Research themes: Land and Water Management and Economic Development; North Australia Strategies

Energy Change Institute Grand Challenge: Indigenous community engagement with renewable energy industries

Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: The Australian National University’s Grand Challenge Scheme is designed to support interdisciplinary research across the University to make an impact on an issue of national significance. This pilot project fed into an application to the 2018 Grand Challenge Scheme. The proposal was based on the understanding that there is potential for developments in renewable industry in Australia’s north to contribute to economic development for and with Indigenous Australians. The potential for this industry, with the support of public policy, to contribute to Indigenous development is yet to receive substantial academic attention. There is significant academic work to be completed regarding how the renewable energy industry might best contribute to Indigenous development and how policy makers might facilitate such outcomes.

Impact: In the short-term this project aimed to identify best practice in agreement making for large scale renewable energy projects and explore research on Indigenous people and the renewable energy industry internationally to identify best practice. The goal of this research was to influence policy makers and industry players in the renewable energy sector, and to identify areas of strategic importance that will enable Indigenous equity in and benefit from future renewable energy developments. It also sought to inform Indigenous people of the opportunities and considerations should they be interested in renewable energy.

Funding source: Australian National University Vice Chancellor Grand Challenge Scheme.

Research themes: Land and Water Management and Economic Development; North Australia Strategies

Community Benefits of Land Use Agreements through Community Development

Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2007
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This research aimed to identify how broad community benefits from land rights and native title could be achieved through innovative approaches to land benefit agreements. This research contributed to and documented the experience of the Central Land Council (CLC) in developing a community development approach to land use agreements. The CLC aimed to develop a community development model that was community driven and based on principles of empowerment and self-determination. The CLC developed an organisational community development framework which framed the implementation and evaluation of their community development processes. An independent evaluation of this program found that the CLC’s community development approach produced significant positive outcomes. The research identified that contributing to the CLC’s success in community development was and is, its strength-based approach; it starts with Aboriginal people’s own financial resources; draws on their knowledge and participation to determine appropriate solutions to issues they face; and supports and strengthens local Aboriginal governance structures for decision-making and to oversee project implementation.

Impact: This research supported the CLC in reaching its program’s objectives.

Community partnerships: Central Land Council.

Funding source: Central Land Council.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous Employment and Economic Development

Jordan, Kirrily

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: This research examined a range of Commonwealth government strategies and programs for Indigenous employment and economic development including the Australian Employment Covenant.
Impact: This research has been a substantial contribution to public debate. It has been presented in several publications and has had substantial media coverage, 17 media stories including national print and radio (for example, The Australian, Sydney Morning Herald, Australian Financial Review), and two invitations to appear as an academic expert on ABC’s Four Corners.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Economic Prosperity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in New South Wales

Jordan, Kirrily

Contributing researchers: Biddle, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: This project provides a summary of the historical and current policy context pertinent to Aboriginal economic prosperity in New South Wales (NSW), for the major NSW Aboriginal Affairs’ planning strategy document: Transforming the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs NSW research agenda 2018-2023.

Impact: This research has had a substantial impact on the research and policy direction of the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs to 2023, contributing a key chapter on ‘economic prosperity’ to a central planning document that sets out the department’s five-year research agenda. This document frames the department’s work by supporting and informing the changes Aboriginal people in NSW seek, and establishes a leading strengths-based research approach that the NSW government sees as a model of hope.

Funding source: NSW Government Aboriginal Affairs.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Outcomes for First Nations in South Australia’s Economic Downturn

Jordan, Kirrily

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2016

Summary of findings: This project examines the prospects for economic development for traditional owner groups and First Nations communities in regional South Australia in the context of the mining slowdown in 2016. The research finds that differences occur in agreement-making resulting from the unity or otherwise of Traditional Owner groups; the quality of the broader relationship with the mining company; the balance of power and resources between the parties. Nonetheless, agreements appear to have provided some protection from job losses during the mining downturn. There is a need for Aboriginal groups to diversity their economic development strategies beyond engagement with the mining industry.

Impact: Co-authored publication in preparation, Kirrily Jordan and Erin Woolford: How have First Nations fared during South Australia’s mining slowdown?

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Partnership with Visiting Aboriginal Fellow Erin Woolford and engagement with multiple Aboriginal community organisations in South Australia including Port Augusta Aboriginal Community Engagement Group (ACEG), Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation, Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Centre, Antakirinya Matu-Yankuntjatjara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC), Yalata Aboriginal Community, Olympic Dam Native Title Parties Representative Corporation (NTP RepCorp), AB Original Consultants Pty Ltd, Walga Mining, Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA), Tjutjunaku Worka Tjuta Inc. and Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation.


Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Employment Profile of South Australia’s far north

Jordan, Kirrily; Gray, Matthew; Taylor, John

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).

Project start date: 2011
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: This project produced estimates of employment opportunities in South Australia’s far north and provided projections of future labour demand in these areas. The research focussed on areas where a high proportion of the population are Indigenous and, in one case, on Aboriginal land.

Impact: This research has informed FaHCSIA and education/employment service providers who deliver services to Indigenous people, to help them develop training and skills development policies targeted to areas of employment need.
Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Laynhapuy Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) Wetlands Feral Pig Management Plan
Kerins, Sean

Contributing researcher: Ens, Emilie
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2009
Project end date: 2009
Summary of findings: Project outcomes:
> Traditional owner consultations to ascertain the views of traditional owners regarding the management and control of feral pigs in the Laynhapuy IPA.
> Implementation of monitoring sites.
> Transfer of monitoring and evaluation skills to Yirralka rangers.
> Development of a feral pig management strategy.
Funding source: Laynhapuy Homelands Association Inc.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Open Cut Exhibition—painting, portrait, photography and a historic timeline graphic
Kerins, Sean; Green, Jacky; Ritchie, Therese Ritchie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2018
Summary of findings: The exhibition ‘Open Cut’ brings to life the power imbalance between mining companies and Aboriginal peoples on whose country minerals and natural gas are extracted while they remain in poverty. The installation combines stories, photography and painting and a timeline history graphic of the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria region of the Northern Territory. The project gives voice and political determination to the Garawa, Gudanji, Marra and Yanyuwa peoples in the southwest Gulf of Carpentaria region in their long struggle against pernicious development projects that detrimentally affect their lives and contaminate their ancestral countries.
Community partnerships: Open Cut was first shown at Northern Centre for Contemporary Art (August 2017). Lismore Art Gallery (Curator Djon Mundine, November 2017), The Cross Art Projects (February to March 2018), Counihan Gallery in Brunswick, Melbourne (June 2018, curators Jo Holder and Djon Mudine).

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Re-visioning North Australian Development: Challenges and opportunities for building resilient remote communities
Kerins, Sean

Contributing researchers: Russell-Smith, Jeremy; Dale, Allan; Gerritsen, Rolf; Costanza, Bob; Ida Kubiszewski, Ida; Pederson, Howard; Lane, Paul; Whitehead, Peter and George, Melissa.
Lead organisation: Charles Darwin University
Project end date: 2017
Summary of findings: The project undertook a valuation of ecosystem services (ES) derived from savanna landscapes of northern Australia and adjoining regions. This included scenario modelling of payment for environmental service (PES) benefits from emerging land-use options (for example, savanna burning, carbon sequestration, diversified/mixed pastoral management activities, environmental stewardship arrangements). The project identified culturally appropriate institutional/governance arrangements to support Indigenous livelihood and community development aspirations. The project publishes an edited monograph.
Funding source: Bushfires and Natural Hazards CRC.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous participation in the professions
Lahn, Julie

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2012
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: This ongoing research foci seeks to document changing rates of participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in professional occupations, public discourse by Indigenous commentators in relation to narratives of social mobility and socio-economic status alongside contemporary anthropological approaches to cultural expressions of class (and concepts of ‘middle-classness’).
**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Identifying barriers and enablers of career progression to senior leadership roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees of the Australian Public Service**

Lahn, Julie; Faulkner, Samantha

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Indigenous Capability Unit, Australian Public Service Commission; Australian Public Service Indigenous Senior Executive Service Network

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** This project identified barriers and enablers of progression to senior leadership roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working in the Commonwealth public service. Key findings suggest that informal relationships with mentors and managers form the key enabler of career advancement, and generally play a more important role than other institutionalised measures (which were nonetheless seen as useful), such as formal mentoring, study and development programs, affirmative measures and family-friendly provisions. A number of barriers to advancement were identified including operational constraints, limited regional opportunities, poor management practices and a lack of institutional valuing of Indigenous skills and leadership styles.

**Impact:** Findings have been presented at the Lowitja Conference and Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Conference (both 2019) and a range of invited presentations to government departments and networks and working groups including the Indigenous Senior Executive Service Network, Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Public Service (APS) Human Resources Forum and the APS Indigenous Liaison Officer network.

**Community partnerships:** This project was underpinned by an agreement between ANU’s (CAEPR), the Australian Public Service Commission and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

**Funding source:** Australian Public Service Commission, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University; National Health and Medical Research Council.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Poverty in the midst of plenty: Economic empowerment, wealth creation and institutional reform for sustainable Indigenous and local communities**

Taylor, John

**Contributing researchers:** Langton, Marcia; Tehan, Maureen; Stewart, Miranda; Godden, Lee; O’Faircheallaigh, Ciaran and Strelein, Lisa

**Lead organisation:** The University of Melbourne

**Participating organisations:** Commonwealth Department of Social Services; Rio Tinto; Santos Ltd; Woodside Energy Ltd.

**Project start date:** 2010

**Project end date:** 2016

**Summary of findings:** The project was a comprehensive, interdisciplinary study of the institutional, legal and policy reforms required to reduce Indigenous and local peoples’ poverty and to promote economic empowerment for sustainable Indigenous and local communities.

**Impact:** The project researched government, private sector and indigenous initiatives enhancing Indigenous economic development and well-being outcomes. It provided culturally relevant data to analyse the flow of benefits (including employment) from the resources sector to Indigenous peoples; links between government policy/services for Indigenous well-being; and investigates legal forms (land title, securities, taxation law/incentives) for Indigenous economic empowerment. The project strengthened the socio-economic fabric of indigenous communities benefiting the nation, Indigenous peoples in commercial engagements, corporations seeking a ‘licence to operate’ and government agencies responsible for Indigenous economic/social development.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: LP0990125.
**Participating organisations:** Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research, Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2015  
**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** This thesis makes visible several aspects of Torres Strait fisheries co-management strategies that impeded on and/or facilitate Torres Strait Islanders capacity to influence fisheries management decisions.

**Impact:** Support for Torres Strait Islanders project of regaining control over their fisheries and marine territories.

**Community partnerships:** Masig Island community.

**Funding source:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)/Fonds Québécois de recherche société et culture/McGill University/Internal SSHRC.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Torres Strait Utopias, life projects and (im)possible futures: Decolonial and gendered perspectives. International workshop to identify research priorities for Torres Strait**

**Thomassin, Annick; Faulkner, Samantha; Lahn, Julie; Yap, Mandy; Mulrennan, Monica; Lui-Chivizhe, Leah; Desilva, Ray**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Concordia University

**Project start date:** 2019  
**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** The goal of this project has been to workshop together to discuss possible research priorities for the Torres Strait and Torres Strait diaspora. The project is designed to bring together Torres Strait community members and representatives, Australian National University Torres Strait Islander and non-Torres Strait Islander scholars as well as Torres Strait scholars from University of Sydney, Griffith University and James Cook University.

**Impact:** Report/research plan on Torres Strait research needs and aspirations and potential research collaborations.

**Community partnerships:** Torres Strait communities in the Torres Strait and Canberra Torres Strait Islander community.

**Funding source:** Australian National University Gender Institute/RSSS Visiting Fellowship/CAEPR Visiting Indigenous Fellow.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Seachange: Aboriginal marine pathways to social inclusion**

**Thomassin, Annick; Hunt, Janet; Dudley, Alex**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Mogo Local Aboriginal Land Council; Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council.

**Project start date:** 2015  
**Project end date:** 2018

**Summary of findings:** Co-development of decolonised research methodologies with objective to make visible South Coast Yuin Aboriginal history, past and present tenure regimes, practices, knowledge systems, stories, etc.

**Impact:** Local Rangers were trained in designing CyberTracker surveys and database that suits their current and future needs. This small pilot project has been noticed along the coast and Batemans Marine Park is currently interested in the research.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Mogo and Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Councils and local Yuin communities.

**Funding source:** South East Local Land Services.

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**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Making Torres Strait Fisherwomen Visible**

**Thomassin, Annick; Mulrennan, Monica**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** Concordia University

**Project start date:** 2019  
**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** This short film project to provide insights into Torres Strait women relationship with the sea as well as fishing practices and knowledge; perspectives that have tended to be overlooked in research and policy.

**Community Partnerships:** Torres Strait Regional Authority Land and Sea Management Unit.

**Funding source:** Australian National University’s Research School of Social Sciences Visiting Fellowship.
**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Complexity and Indigenous development: What can we learn from the intersection of complexity theory and Indigenous development?**

**Kilgour, Jonathan**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Otago, Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** This doctoral research project explores and posits an Indigenous complexity theory. The aim of the research is to generate an Indigenous perspective of complexity theory from a Māori-centred worldview, and to extend this to other Indigenous approaches to generate a theory of Indigenous complexity. While the research is largely theoretical in focus, it draws on case studies to highlight the theory: a Māori urban housing development initiative and a Māori-led small-town whole-of-community development initiative. The research draws on further case studies to inform the theory.

**Impact:** Develop a better understanding and guidance of how complexity theory can be applied from a more Indigenous-centric way, using tools that are natural to a perspective of Indigenous complexity.

**Funding source:** Sidney Myer Fund.

**Research theme:** Governance

**Overcoming Indigenous exclusion**

**Dillon, Michael; Westbury, Neil**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2018

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** The research has been primarily focused on analysing the institutional underpinnings of ongoing Indigenous exclusion.

**Impact:** The research seeks to provide a deeper analytical framework to assist a more nuanced debate on public policy issues affecting First Nations, including constitutional recognition.

**Research theme:** Governance

**Remote Indigenous public policy**

**Dillon, Michael**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2016

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** The research is ongoing, and deals with a number of overlapping issues, including remote economic development, remote housing provision, the effectiveness of current policy approaches to remote Australia, the history of remote policy.

**Impact:** The research seeks to contribute to greater public understanding of the unique policy needs of remote communities. Ultimately, it seeks to drive changes to current policy approaches which will increase the levels of participation of Indigenous people in decision making and maximise the benefits which flow from public funding.
Research theme: Governance

Indigenous Rights, Recognition and the State in the Neoliberal Age
Howard-Wagner, Deirdre

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: University of Alberta; University of Wellington; University of Auckland.
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project involved the organisation of a symposium on the topic of Indigenous Rights, ‘Recognition and the State in the Neoliberal Age’, funded by the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research and attended by researchers from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Australia and Canada. The group of researchers included sociologists, philosophers, economists, anthropologists and legal scholars to discuss both theoretical and practical concepts in relation to Indigenous rights in the Neoliberal Age. Dr Howard-Wagner contributed to the organisation of this event and the collation of a book capturing the presented ideas. Dr Howard-Wagner also co-wrote the chapter titled ‘From new paternalism to new imaginings of possibilities in Australia, Canada and Aotearoa/New Zealand: Indigenous rights and recognition and the state in the neoliberal age’ and sole wrote the chapter titled ‘Aboriginal organisations, self-determination and the neoliberal age: A case study of how the “game has changed” for Aboriginal organisations in Newcastle.’ A key finding of this research is that the mainstreaming of service provision for Aboriginal communities has made some specialised Aboriginal organisations redundant. These Aboriginal organisations had once been an avenue for social, political and economic self-determination and the regulatory technologies of neoliberal governance weakened this Aboriginal autonomy.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation; Winunga; Sisters Inside; First Peoples Disability Network.

Funding source: Australian National University Research School of Social Science.

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: In December 2017, the ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research hosted an International workshop on Indigenous Justice. Dr Howard-Wagner was both the Chair and Convener of this 2-day workshop which hosted speakers from the United States, New Zealand and Australia. Dr Howard-Wagner's presentation was titled Fining the Indigenous poor: Thinking (and moving) beyond the criminalisation of indigenous poverty. The key findings of this workshop are currently being collated into a monograph that will be published by Australian National University Press in 2019.

Impact: The workshop has also led to new research relationships between Dr Howard-Wagner, Tjillari Justice Aboriginal Corporation and Australian Capital Territory’s Corrective Services in the study of the Strong Culture, Strong Families project.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation; Winunga; Sisters Inside; First Peoples National Disability Network.

Funding source: Australian National University ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences Workshop Funding.

Research theme: Governance

Innovative Indigenous Justice: Strong Culture, Strong Families
Howard-Wagner, Deirdre

Lead organisation: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation and the Australian National University.
Participating organisations: ACT Corrective Services and Alexandre Maconochie Centre.
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This research analysed the Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation's Strong Culture, Strong Families program. The program is designed by Aboriginal peoples, for Aboriginal detainees and their families. The program connected fathers detained in Australian Capital Territory prisons, with their partners and children by facilitating cultural programs that the family can all take part in. This research is ongoing; however, early findings indicated that the program was successful in supporting family connection as it is Aboriginal-run (supporting self-determination) and the programs being run are culturally intuitive (providing detainees with a sense of culture and community connection, healing and cultural pride).

Community partnerships: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation.

Research theme: Governance

Broken Justice? Indigenous Justice edited collection
Howard-Wagner, Deirdre

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Commonwealth Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Australian Capital Territory Corrective Services, Australian Capital Territory Justice.

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This research analysed the Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation's Strong Culture, Strong Families program. The program is designed by Aboriginal peoples, for Aboriginal detainees and their families. The program connected fathers detained in Australian Capital Territory prisons, with their partners and children by facilitating cultural programs that the family can all take part in. This research is ongoing; however, early findings indicated that the program was successful in supporting family connection as it is Aboriginal-run (supporting self-determination) and the programs being run are culturally intuitive (providing detainees with a sense of culture and community connection, healing and cultural pride).

Community partnerships: Tjillari Aboriginal Justice Corporation.
Research theme: Governance

NPM, Aboriginal organisations and Indigenous rights

Howard-Wagner, Deirdre

Contributing researchers: Hunt, Janet; and Soldatic, Karen.

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: University of Western Sydney; New South Wales Aboriginal organisations; New South Wales Aboriginal Affairs; Community Services, Premier and Cabinet and New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council.

Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2021

Summary of findings: This three-year collaborative action-research partnership aims at developing and proposing new policy knowledge contributing to reimagining how New Public Management practices could be reconfigured in New South Wales. Over the years, New Public Management has had multiple effects on urban Aboriginal organisations, changing the relationships between them, the communities they serve and belong to, and the government. It also has significant transformative effects on these organisations’ operations which, in the process, have largely been reduced to their service delivery functions in the eyes of the government.

Impact: The research is designed to provide evidence-based research to improve public policy understandings of the distinct role urban Aboriginal organisations play in society in relation to Aboriginal peoples and their rights to self-determination and community development, as well as ways to reconfigure public administration to accommodate this role based on international research. The research will make an Indigenous policy impact through researching and collaborating with Aboriginal peoples.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: The Glen; First Peoples National Disability Network; Mura Mittigar, Butucarbin; Tjillari Justice Aboriginal Corporation.

Funding source: ARCDP18.

Research theme: Governance

The Commonwealth’s policies and Aboriginal people in rural and regional Australia

Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2014

Summary of findings: This research identified the relationship between Indigenous Affairs policy and regional development policy and highlighted the lack of attention regional development gives to Aboriginal communities. At the time of research, over 200,000 Aboriginal people, approximately 44 per cent of the entire Aboriginal population, lived in regional Australia, yet regional development policy did little to articulate this or engage with these people. The research traced the history of Indigenous policy as it specifically impacted on regional Australia.

Impact: Published as a chapter in significant book on rural and regional Australia.

Research theme: Governance

Evaluating the Cashless Debit Card

Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Dr Hunt reviewed the Evaluation of the Cashless Debit Card. The cashless debit card was introduced in two trial locations—Ceduna and the West Kimberley—with the stated aim of addressing drug and alcohol misuse and crime rates in those locations. Dr Hunt’s research independently reviewed the cashless debit card evaluation and critiqued the
methodology and findings of the evaluation. Her argument was that the evaluation was flawed, and the findings did not justify the claim that the trials were successful as represented by the Minister, and other politicians.

Impact: This research has been used by politicians, journalists and non-government organisations as well as Indigenous organisations. It played a central role in shifting Australian Labor Party policy at the time of a parliamentary inquiry into the Cashless Debit Card. The research was referred to in media statements and media articles.

Research theme: Governance
Self Determination
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: Aboriginal Affairs New South Wales (NSW) commissioned research on self-determination to contribute to its Research Agenda, an important initiative in NSW to support policy reform. The research contributed to a document setting out the Agenda: Transforming the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the NSW Government. Dr Hunt’s research reviewed the current state of self-determination in NSW and the ways in which policies supporting self-determination could be strengthened. This research identified key questions for further collaborative research to determine the best path forward for policy reform to transform the relationships between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW.

Impact: The research was included in transforming the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the NSW Government: Aboriginal Affairs NSW research agenda 2018-2023 and will inform the next phase of research to support policy reform in Aboriginal Affairs. The research has been presented at four large seminars in NSW and the Australian Capital Territory in 2018. The intended long-term impact is for government to invest in research and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in NSW to implement policy that supports self-determination and a transformed relationship between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Community partnerships: NSW Aboriginal Affairs.
Funding source: NSW Aboriginal Affairs.

Research theme: Governance
Australian Governments and Aboriginal nations: Creating a new relationship
Hunt, Janet

Contributing researcher: Sanders, William
Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: What is required to transform Government-Aboriginal Relationships? The Australian National University’s Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research co-hosted a workshop with Aboriginal Affairs New South Wales (NSW) on this topic and undertook preparatory research with each jurisdiction to identify the key issues for discussion for the agenda and drafted the final report.

Impact: Changes continue in several jurisdictions, and work continues with NSW Aboriginal Affairs Research Agenda on transforming the relationships in NSW.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: NSW Aboriginal Affairs and all Aboriginal Affairs Departments except Western Australia.
Funding source: NSW Aboriginal Affairs.

Research theme: Governance
Successful Aboriginal organisations
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Eleven Aboriginal organisations.
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2015

Summary of findings: What are the factors that enable some Aboriginal organisations to drive positive change in their communities? This research involved interviews with leaders of successful Aboriginal organisations to understand the factors behind the successes that they were achieving in their communities. It explored how they defined and assessed success and what they saw as the factors behind their achievements. It discussed the challenges and critical turning points they faced and what enabled them to sustain their success. It also explored what they say are distinctively Aboriginal features about the way they worked. The research found considerable continuities with previous studies of Aboriginal organisations, but also outlined some of the successful strategies they use in working with their communities.

Impact: Invited to present at a Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet seminar; feedback to Aboriginal organisations themselves; published an ANU Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research working paper.
Integrating community governance/engagement into Aboriginal affairs core business
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2015
Summary of findings: The research explored the requirements for the New South Wales (NSW) government shifting to a community governance and community development approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy.
Impact: This research informed decisions taken by NSW Government regarding its policy of local decision making. It involved several presentations to central and regional policy makers and staff responsible for local decision making implementation in NSW. This policy is being well received in NSW Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: NSW Aboriginal Affairs.
Funding source: NSW Aboriginal Affairs.

Engaging Indigenous communities
Hunt, Janet

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2014
Summary of findings: This literature review identified effective and ineffective engagement with Indigenous communities. It identified some core principles that have led to more effective engagement processes between governments and Indigenous people.
Impact: Two papers from this research were published on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Closing the Gap Clearinghouse website and seminar presentations were given to large audiences in Canberra, Perth and Brisbane. The work has been widely read and used, by government agencies, non-government organisations, and Aboriginal people.
Funding source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Indigenous communities and regional development
Jordan, Kirrily, Markham, Francis; Altman, Jon

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2018
Project end date: 2018
Summary of findings: This research contributed to the Australia case study to a global Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) initiative to exchange best practice in Indigenous economic development.
Impact: Informing policy recommendations for OECD member and non-member states to improve economic outcomes for Indigenous peoples and raising the profile of Indigenous policies in national and international fora.
Funding source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Culture and policymaking: Towards better Aboriginal policymaking [PhD]
Ritchie, Craig

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Indigenous involvement in remote area local government
Sanders, William

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Central Desert Shire, Local Government Association of the Northern Territory.
Project start date: 2008
Project end date: 2020
Impact: Reform of electoral system in late 2011, in time for 2012 local government elections. Strengthening of local boards within larger shires/ regional councils in years since.
Community partnerships: Anmatjere communities.
Research theme: Governance; North Australia Strategies

Aboriginal votes and candidates in Northern Territory elections

Sanders, William

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2020

Summary of findings: Demographic presence gives potential electoral power to Aboriginal voters and candidates in the Northern Territory. This research focuses on remote electoral divisions where Aboriginal votes have the greatest potential to determine electoral outcomes, either between parties or in the success of independent candidates. The research is also concerned with electoral administration and how this effects issues like turnout and informal voting.

Impact: This research aims to identify and explain the potential mechanisms of electoral influence and impact that are available to Indigenous Australians in areas where they are a significant demographic presence.

Community partnerships: Across the Northern Territory.

Research theme: North Australia Strategies

The relationship between remoteness, life expectancy and health among Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders

Evans, Ann; Hunter, Boyd

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: This project explored differences in general health, maternal and child health, housing and social outcomes by geographic accessibility. The aim was to determine whether disadvantage exists linearly across broad geographic indicators. The project used data from the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) to model the differences in outcomes across remote areas. The analysis found that there are some health premiums for living ‘on country’, especially in the low-income group (in homelands)—but there are some countervailing influences arising from poor infrastructure, and ongoing social exclusion and local community that circumscribe putative health benefits. The implication for policy makers is that there are ongoing trade-offs to take into account and that the short-run and long-run assessments may differ. In the short run, one might get better health outcomes by providing services in homelands. However, unless economic opportunity and community dysfunction can be adequately addressed, then this is not a viable option in the long run.

Impact: This project resulted in a report to the Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to guide policy decision-making around health and wellbeing.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Commonwealth Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Funding source: SPRS project FCH 2010/04.
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific
The ANU College of Asia and the Pacific is a leader in the university in understanding and engaging with the societies of Australia, Asia and the Pacific. A key focus of the College’s work lies in informing public policy, and enhancing engagement with Indigenous cultures, histories and languages.

Researchers across the College have contributed across key priority areas in Indigenous research. Scholars range from the PhD level through to distinguished professors. The College is also dedicated to supporting Indigenous researchers, and CAP researchers are committed to engagement through developing relationships with Indigenous Communities and Organisations in regions as diverse as Maningrida in Western Arnhem Land, Bentinck Island in northwest Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia.

Researchers have been supported by federal bodies such as the Commonwealth Government’s Indigenous Language and Arts program, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, and the Australian Research Council (ARC) through Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards, and Discovery, Linkage and Laureate awards. Research has also been produced with and for organisations such as Kakadu and West Arnhem Social Trust (KWAST) and the Murray Darling Basin Authority. The College has also provided seed grants used to develop new ideas and opportunities for the co-development and production of research and engagement.

The College is engaged in the co-production of knowledge in Indigenous research across a diverse range of regions and issues. Studies on governance issues, and societal and cultural practices, are two key areas of strength.

**Governance**

Virginia Marshall is the Inaugural Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellow with the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) at the College, and the Fenner School of Environment and Society. Virginia’s Indigenous Postdoctoral research position focusses on law reform for Indigenous peoples in Australia, critically analysing international Indigenous water use to develop Indigenous culturally appropriate mechanisms for national water frameworks and ethical water use within domestic water regimes. Virginia is a practicing lawyer and duty solicitor, a former associate and researcher with the Federal Court of Australia in Sydney and professional member of the NSW Law Society and Women Lawyers Association of NSW.

Professor Grafton will undertake a prestigious ARC Laureate Fellowship beginning in 2020 titled ‘Water Justice: Indigenous Water Valuation and Resilient Decision-making’, the primary purpose of which is to value water and support resilient decision-making for water justice. Its significance is to provide missing socio-cultural-environmental values of First People’s water, the absence of which means Indigenous demands for water justice are frequently ignored.

Siobhan McDonnell, of the Crawford School of Public Policy within CAP, is a legal anthropologist who engages in applied work in Indigenous Australia and the Pacific around climate change, land rights and gender. Her doctoral thesis, completed at the College in 2016, examined an important land rights issue in Vanuatu from 2000, in which ten percent of all land held under Indigenous customary law was leased to foreign investors, causing deep divisions in the country. Recently the High Court in Vanuatu resolved a case, and McDonnell’s research played a key role affirming the Indigenous ownership of the land. Siobhan has also worked as a legal and policy advisor in Australia for the Central Land Council, and as a project manager for Reconciliation Australia.

Also affiliated with RegNet, Jon Altman’s long and distinguished career as an economic anthropologist has been concerned with social justice and human rights. Jon became the founding director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (1990-2010), after commencing fieldwork with the Kuninkji in Maningrida, Central Arnhem Land. His research is, amongst other things, concerned with appropriate economic development and associated policy for Indigenous Australia, the economic engagement of Indigenous people with the Australian and global economies, the Indigenous customary economy and its articulations with market capitalism, land rights, native title and Indigenous land and sea management, and theoretical issues in economic and development anthropology.

**Social and Cultural Practices**

Nicholas Evans, at the School of Culture, History and Language at the College, has been working on the Kayardild language since 1982. He has recently completed his ARC Laureate research which included repatriating a range of language materials to assist in Kayardild language maintenance and revival. This included the development of an app-based dictionary that embeds sound files to assist users in ensuring the correct pronunciation of words.

Associate Professor Katerina Teaiwa’s main area of research looks at the histories of British, Australian and New Zealand phosphate mining in the central Pacific. She focuses on the
movement of Banaban rock and the complex power relations created by the mining, shipping, production and consumption of superphosphate and ensuing commodities. She studies the ways in which Indigenous Banabans make sense of this difficult history of double displacement in their new home of Rabi Island in Fiji.

Health and Wellbeing

Having trained as an economist at ANU, Mandy Yap worked for ten years in the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research in the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences before undertaking a PhD there. Her PhD research was built on a partnership with the Yawuru community in which she developed an index of wellbeing, using Yawuru understandings of what constitutes a good life. She took up a position at the Crawford School of Public Policy after submitting her thesis in 2017, where she is part of a team working on the Individual Deprivation Measure, a new, gender-sensitive measure of poverty. Indigenous data sovereignty and Indigenous community wellbeing are among topics she has recently written and published on.

Other Key Areas of Expertise

The College contributes to other key areas of priority research, including Land Management and Economic Development, Education and North Australia Strategies. Professor Simon Haberle of the School of Culture, History and Language, for example, is engaged in a series of projects with a focus on environmental conditions across the Kimberley region, the Western Desert region, and elsewhere in Australia. His research documents the ways in which factors such as the fire, monsoonal climate changes, and the history of European settlement and displacement of Aboriginal communities, impact ecosystems in these regions. Distinguished Professor Sue O’Connor’s contributions are equally world-class, focusing on developing new understandings of Indigenous technological innovation, occupation patterning and paleo-environmental changes over the late Quaternary period in North Western Australia.

In addition, researchers at the National Security College within the Crawford School of Public Policy are focused on two research projects considering the interactions between Indigenous communities in Northern Australia and the challenges of managing the inter-agency border protection environment. One important and policy relevant outcome from this initiative will be the publication of a case study of the successful partnership between the Wujal Wujal Community and 51 Far North Queensland Regiment, illuminating proven pathways to address social cohesion and well-being in an at-risk community. The NSC have included Wujal Wujal leaders and speakers in their Women in National Security events, and have developed significant public engagement with the Wujal Wujal and across ANU.

The Crawford School of Public Policy recently welcomed Ngijaymp woman, Maeve Powell, to their staff as a lecturer. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts/Economics from ANU in 2014 and in 2017 completed a Masters of Philosophy in Indigenous Studies at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø. In 2016, she undertook the Indigenous Studies Summer Program at Columbia University in New York.

She sees her academic work as situated within a trans-Indigenous scholarship, at the intersection of Indigenous studies and critical geography. She is interested in Indigenous modernities, spatial decolonisation, urban Indigenous belonging, critical race studies and digital story mapping. The working title of her PhD thesis is ‘(Re)Mapping the Academy: using a spatial approach to explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander belonging at the Australian National University’.

Impact of College Research for Indigenous People

Researchers across the College are engaged in research with and for Indigenous groups, in supporting short and long-term benefits for Indigenous people. Researchers at the College have made significant contributions, for example, to the documentation and maintenance of Indigenous languages. Nicholas Evans’ work on the ancestral language of the Kayardild is regarded by the community of Bentinck Islanders as a vital part of their identity and spiritual health.

Research by Alexandra Marley documenting how language such as Bininj Kunwok in Arnhem Land is also helping to provide health and educational resources for the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Gunbarlanya Health Service, Red Lily Health Board, and the Jabiru Area School. Other research findings are helping to transfer skills and knowledge in language documentation techniques to local communities.

Research at the College is also supporting educational outcomes. Australian Research Council funded research into early Indigenous technological innovation in North Western Australia assisted the Australian Heritage Council in carrying out the National Heritage Assessment of the Western Kimberley. This led to the production of bilingual pamphlets, in collaboration with the Gooniyandi Traditional Owners, for sale at tourist sites and for use in schools.

Research is also supporting environmental management. Simon Haberle’s research is being used to inform management strategies for fire use in World Heritage protected areas, and to help to raise awareness of Aboriginal habitation of, and influence over, rainforest, savanna, and southern woodland ecosystems. The research is identified as helping contribute to climate change-related ecosystem management strategies, as well as historical understanding of how indigenous people have responded to climatic changes.

Across the College, researchers are working hard to ensure that their work is enabling knowledge creation to the benefit of local communities. This includes finding new ways to collaborate and include Indigenous workers in ways that implement research and disseminate knowledge that respect communities across Australia and the region. With policy and societal challenges becoming increasingly complex, the College is committed to continuing its work in shaping new ways of thinking, posing critical questions and generating nuanced perspectives about Indigenous public policy, culture, history and language.
RESEARCH PROJECTS

ANU School of Culture, History and Language

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Earth mounds in Northern Australia: Archaeological and environmental archives of the mid to late holocene
Brockwell, Sally

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Kakadu National Park; University of Sydney; Charles Darwin University
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Earth mounds are a unique but little studied Indigenous site type on the coastal plains of northern Australia. They provide an excellent opportunity for research into the environmental history and Indigenous cultural systems of a landscape that has changed dramatically over the last 5000 years. Although earth mounds occur commonly in the archaeological landscape of the north, their relationship to other site types is poorly understood. This research investigated origins, chronology, morphology and function, as well as traditional Indigenous economic and social significance. The project confirmed chronologies, explored location, documented morphology, investigated origins, function, Indigenous cultural significance and roles in wider settlement systems, and derived data on climate change.

Impact: The project has wider implications for earth mound studies and Indigenous archaeology elsewhere in Australia and the world, and provided important new data for climate change studies. New dates were determined; locations and morphology were mapped; origins, function, cultural significance and role in wider settlement systems were recorded. The data from the earth mounds and corresponding palaeoenvironmental studies have added significantly to our knowledge of climate change and human responses in the last 2000 years.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Kakadu National Park Traditional Owners; Bawananga Aboriginal Corporation; Wathayn Tradtional Owners
Funding source: Australian Research Council DP120100512.

Enriching cultural heritage management for mining operations: a multi-disciplinary approach
Brockwell, Sally

Lead organisation: Macquarie University
Participating organisations: Rio Tinto Alcan; University of Auckland; University of York; Queensland University of Technology; University of Waikato
Dalabon language documentation
Evans, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 1991
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Documenting Dalabon through oral recordings, transcriptions and translations, and the development of a dictionary which was published in 2004.

Impact: Recording and assured transmission of Dalabon, an endangered language, and the cultural knowledge that is transmitted through it on a wide range of topics from kinship to ethnobiology and landscape to oral history and music.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Mimal Rangers; Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation

Funding source: Australian Research Council; ATSIC (through grant to Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation).

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Education; North Australia Strategies

Kayardilt language repatriation
Evans, Nicholas

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Mornington Island Art; Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).

Project start date: 1982
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Building on the back of decades of work on Kayardilt, the current project aims to repatriate a range of language materials to assist in Kayardilt language maintenance and revival, which has so far involved distributing recordings for listening on smartphones. Also worked with Ben Foley on the development of an app dictionary with sound files embedded to assist in the pronunciation of words, with more plans for online language archives. Related to this has been work on the interpretation of Kayardilt art (Sally Gabori and other women artists).

Impact: Maintenance of knowledge of ancestral language, regarded by the community of Bentinck Islanders as a vital part of their identity and spiritual health. This project has also attracted some media attention from National Indigenous Television (NITV) (Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Mornington Island Arts and Crafts; Kailadiit Aboriginal Corporation; Mirdiyany Gununa Aboriginal Corporation.

Funding source: Indigenous Languages and Arts Project (Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts).

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Education; North Australia Strategies

Variation in Bininj Kunwok
Marley, Alexandra

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: Cultural Heritage Management (CHM) is critical to most Australian mining operations, but a common focus on compliance with legislation means that the outcomes of CHM assessments are often of little value to Indigenous Traditional Owners. We aimed to apply a research-based framework to CHM on the Rio Tinto Alcan (Weipa) bauxite mining leases that will provide Traditional Owners with a comprehensive understanding of how their ancestors responded to changes in resource availability brought about by environmental change. Enhancing understanding of the past will lead to a better basis for negotiation between Traditional Owners and mine operators regarding management of cultural heritage.

Impact: Palaeoenvironmental studies of pollen, charcoal and mineral magnetics revealed the environmental history of the swamp and surrounding landscape over the last 8000 years. Earth mound studies reveal that their establishment is associated with changing environmental conditions and a regional increase in the availability of permanent water sources around 2200 and 500 years ago as demonstrated by the palaeoenvironmental studies. LiDAR scanning demonstrated how shell mounds effectively ‘pancake’ because diagenesis of shell leads to a loss of shell mound volume as the shell valves themselves disintegrate and change their angles of repose. Geochemical study of shell mounds indicated how the internal conditions of mounds changes with depth and likely vary at a local environmental level. Shell mound studies have changed understanding of shell mound formation processes and their palaeoenvironmental and behavioural contexts. Palaeoenvironmental data provided a Holocene record of vegetation and fire in an area where few records exist. The earth mound studies have implications for earth mound chronology and climate change understanding elsewhere in northern Australia.

Community partnership/s and engagement/outreach: Wathayn Traditional Owners

Funding source: Australian Research Council LP110100180

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Education; North Australia Strategies
Summary of findings: Working closely with Indigenous communities living in outstations in Arnhem Land and with heritage recordings, this project aims to discover how Bininj Kunwok has changed over the past century and how it continues to change. Findings so far are that a number of dialects are no longer spoken, but that elements of these dialects are merged into a dominant variety. Additionally, there appears to be simplification/regularisation of complex linguistic features by younger speakers, as well as a possible increase in adoption of English/Kriol words. The next step is to explore contexts and ideologies which are impacting on speakers’ linguistic choices so as to find ways to mitigate any negative effects on language and cultural maintenance.

Impact: By understanding how Bininj Kunwok is changing, we can track how the language is being maintained and adapting to new technologies, social shifts, and cross-cultural interaction. The insight gained from this research will facilitate cross-cultural communication and bilingual programs, particularly in the education and health sectors, and make sure that Bininj Kunwok continues to be maintained. Short term goals include educational and health resource production with the Bininj Kunwok Language Project for the Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation, Gunbalanya Health Service, Red Lily Health Board, and Jabiru Area School. Warddeken Land Management have also recently indicated interest in collaborating to maintain language and culture through their Indigenous ranger program.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Bininj Kunwok Language Project; Warddeken Land Management.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Laureate Project.

ANU Crawford School of Public Policy

Indigenous values and water markets: Survey insights from northern Australia

Grafton, Quentin

Lead organisation: Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

Participating organisations: Land Councils.

Summary of findings: Drawing upon the literature on Indigenous values to water, water markets and the empirical findings from a survey of 120 Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents across northern Australia, the paper makes an important qualitative and statistical comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous values to water markets. The study is the first comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous values to water markets based on the same survey instrument. Key results from Indigenous respondents include:

- Water markets are held to be an acceptable approach to managing water.
- Markets must be carefully designed to protect customary and ecological values.
- The allocation of water rights need to encompass equity considerations.
- Water and land rights should not be separated even if this enhances efficiency, as it runs counter to Indigenous holistic values.

Overall, the survey results provide the basis for a proposed adaptive decision loop, which allows decision makers to incorporate stakeholder values in water markets.

Impact: Important insights about what must be considered from a First Peoples’ perspective, when water markets are to be established in Northern Australia.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Multiple communities in Katherine, Burketown, Cairns, Kununurra, Broome and Fitzroy Crossing.

Funding source: Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Governance; Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies.

Challenges for valuing ecosystem services from an Indigenous estate in northern Australia

Costanza, Robert

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2017

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Governance; Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies.

Ecosystems and Indigenous well-being: An integrated framework

Costanza, Robert

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2015
Mainstreaming Indigenous and local communities’ connections with nature for policy decision-making

**Costanza, Robert**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:** Based on findings from participatory action research, the project describes a process for the development of a Strategic Indigenous Reserve (SIR) in water for Indigenous groups in the Northern Territory, Australia. In the first case study at Mataranka, it is shown how a ‘top-down’ process initiated by the Northern Territory Government (NTG) was characterised by inadequate engagement and a failure to deliver water justice or an outcome accepted by the traditional owner groups. In a second case study at Oolloo, the traditional owner groups were engaged by the NTG in a consultation process, but it commenced with a unilateral offer of a water allocation to the SIR that was not formulated in a collaborative way. As a result, traditional owners considered the process unfair, and in turn, the allocation offer was perceived as ‘unfair’. Using insights from these two cases an alternative and collaborative process is outlined, to support engagement by decision-makers with Indigenous groups that promotes water allocations and outcomes that are just, sustainable and have broad-based community support.

**Impact:** A framework to help ensure fairness and justice for First Peoples in the development of Strategic Indigenous Reserves for water.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:**
Traditional owners and communities at Mataranka and Oolloo, the Northern Territory.

**Funding source:** Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA).

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management; Economic Development; Governance, Social and Cultural; North Australia Strategies

Change and Continuity: The north Australia cultural landscape

**Costanza, Robert**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Towards a sustainable, diversified land sector economy for north Australia**

**Costanza, Robert**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Putting Indigenous water rights to work: The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework as a lens for remote development**

**Grafton, Quentin**

**Lead organisation:** Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)

**Summary of findings:** Sustainable development programs can lead to tension and conflict in human communities when natural capital is used as the foundation for livelihood programs. Building on the Sustainable Livelihoods Framework (SLF), this study demonstrates that including community perceptions in the creation of sustainable livelihoods programs is important in designing programs that are legitimate to community members, and this is especially important in the context of natural capital. Using the SLF, the allocation of water rights to Indigenous groups in remote northern Australia is examined to determine the acceptability of this form of natural capital to support sustainable livelihoods. The findings indicate that there are competing values of water within communities, and that balancing the preferences for spirituality and conservation with economic development and self-sufficiency is critical to the success of sustainable livelihoods programs across the region.

**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Fairness and justice in Indigenous water allocations: Insights from Northern Australia**

**Grafton, Quentin**

**Lead organisation:** Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)

**Participating organisations:** Northern Land Council
Impact: Identification of some of the competing values over water so as to promote sustainable livelihoods.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Multiple community leaders across Northern Australia.

Funding source: Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous communities and climate change: A Recognition Empowerment and Devolution (RED) framework in the Murray-Darling Basin Australia

Grafton, Quentin

Lead organisation: Murray-Darling Basin Authority.
Participating organisations: Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN)

Summary of findings: Climate change directly threatens Indigenous cultures and livelihoods across Australia’s Murray-Darling Basin (MDB). Using a modified grounded theory methodology, this study draws on in-depth interviews with Indigenous leaders and elders across the MDB to highlight that climate variability and over-extraction of water resources by agricultural users directly threatens the integrity of aquatic systems. As a consequence, Indigenous cultures and livelihoods reliant on these natural systems are at risk. Interviewees identify a range of systemic barriers that entrench vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in the MDB. Building on insights from the literature and from interviews, a Recognition, Empowerment and Devolution (RED) framework is developed to establish possible pathways to support climate adaptation by rural IPs. Fundamental to this RED framework is the need for non-Indigenous socio-institutional structures to create a ‘space’ to allow IP the ability to adapt in their own ways to climate impacts.

Impact: A Recognition, Empowerment and Development (RED) to First Peoples.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Indigenous communities in Albury-Wodonga, Dubbo, Deniliquin, Wemoringale and Brewarrina.

Funding source: Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Indigenous values and water markets: Survey insights from northern Australia

Grafton, Quentin

Lead organisation: Northern Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA)

Participating organisations: Land councils

Summary of findings: Drawing upon the literature on Indigenous values to water, water markets and the empirical findings from a survey of 120 Indigenous and non-Indigenous respondents across northern Australia, the paper makes important qualitative and statistical comparisons between Indigenous and non-Indigenous values to water markets. The study is the first comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous values to water markets based on the same survey instrument. Key results from Indigenous respondents include:

- Water markets are held to be an acceptable approach to managing water.
- Markets must be carefully designed to protect customary and ecological values.
- The allocation of water rights need to encompass equity considerations.
- Water and land rights should not be separated even if this enhances efficiency, as it runs counter to Indigenous holistic values. Overall, the survey results provide the basis for a proposed adaptive decision loop, which allows decision makers to incorporate stakeholder values in water markets.

Impact: Important insights about what must be considered from a First Peoples’ perspective when is water markets are to be established in Northern Australia.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Multiple communities including Katherine, Burketown, Cairns, Kununurra, Broome and Fitzroy Crossing.

Funding source: North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd (NAILSMA).

Research themes: Social and Cultural; Health and Wellbeing

The Sustainable Development Agenda and Indigenous peoples and communities

Yap, Mandy

Contributing researchers: Watene, Krushil

Lead organisation: Nyamba Buru Yawuru and Walalakoo Aboriginal Corporation; Kimberley Institute; Nagula Jarndu.

Participating organisation: Massey University

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: This research argues the importance of Indigenous communities’ conceptions and articulations of sustainable development to the global Agenda 2030.
Impact: Better understanding and recognition of Indigenous Australians as some most multilingual people in the world.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Yawuru, Nyamba Buru Yawuru, Kimberley Institute, Nagula Jamdu

Funding source: The Australian National University; Massey University.

ANU School of Regulation and Global Governance (REGNET)

Research themes: Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

‘Overturning aqua nullius: Securing Aboriginal water rights

Marshall, Virginia

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This research will identify and critically analyse international water rights regimes to develop an Australian legal framework for Indigenous water rights in economic, cultural and tenure-based water use, and undertakes an international comparative analysis of selected nation states which have competing water use regimes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups. The aim of this research is to respond to the future challenges of global and domestic water scarcity, of which particularly affect Indigenous communities in Australia. This research also aims to provide avenues to address the continuing gaps in Aboriginal health, wellbeing and wealth status through a water rights paradigm in the development of consistent legal and institutional frameworks which facilitate the incorporation of the First Peoples of Australia as a distinct, First Nation right within Australia’s national water framework, the National Water Initiative.

Funding source: Ian Potter Conference Travel Grant

Kunbarlang language documentation

Singer, Ruth

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: Archive of Kunbarlang language materials at ELAR archive (SOAS, London). This will support language maintenance activities in the community.

Impact: Construction of a diverse record of the Kunbarlang language as it is spoken by older people today and as it was spoken in the 70’s and 80’s (through annotation of earlier recordings). Training of Kunbarlang speakers and their younger descendants in language documentation techniques.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Strong partnership with Warruwi Community where Kunbarlang is spoken by a few older people and is an important heritage language to younger people. Relevant organisations include Yagbani corporation, Warruwi Language Centre, Warruwi School.

Funding source: Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (SOAS, London), Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (ANU) language documentation grant (2018).
**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Education; North Australia Strategies

**Multilingualism and language use at Warruwi Community**

**Singer, Ruth**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Warruwi Language Centre; Warruwi School; Yagbani Corporation; PARADISEC archive; St. Leonards College; Research Unit for Indigenous Language, The University of Melbourne; Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language.

**Project start date:** 2011

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** Better understanding of how language is used at Warruwi Community with a focus on multilingualism and how many small languages are maintained. Research outputs: Three journal articles and an ethnographic monograph (draft). Archive data with PARADISEC includes life history interviews with a focus on language and interviews about language in education at Warruwi over the years.

**Impact:** Identification of ‘receptive multilingualism’ as a key aspect of how so many small languages are maintained at Warruwi can feed into understandings of how to maintain multiple languages in other communities. Enriching young people’s skills in knowledge translation to talk about their languages with others.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Strong partnership with Warruwi Community where Kunbarlang is spoken by a few older people and is an important heritage language to younger people. Relevant organisations include Yagbani Corporation; Warruwi Language Centre; and Warruwi School.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

**Dictionary making and corpus building**

**Simpson, Jane**

**Contributing researchers:** Bednall, James; Browne, Emma; Disbray, Samantha; Ellis, Elizabeth; Kral, Inge; Laughren, Mary; Nash, David; O’Shannessy, Carmel; Poetsch, Susan.

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** University of Queensland; Western Sydney University; University of Melbourne.

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2021

**Summary of findings:** Gathering data, organising, creating workflows for the production of a major dictionary of Warlpiri, and corpora for ten Indigenous languages, with associated PhDs for four of them.

**Impact:** Documenting of endangered languages, making material available for language maintenance and education.

**Community partnerships and engagement/outreach:** Anindilyakwa, Arrernte, Blinj Gunwok, Ngaanyatjarra, Warlpiri, Warumungu communities.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence.

**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Across the Range: the history of fire and landscape in southeast Australia**

**Stevenson, Janelle**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** This grant is to support the development of a two-way training and research program with Indigenous groups in Victoria.

**Funding source:** Strategic Partner Development Grant.

**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Paleoecology and palynology**

**Stevenson, Janelle**

**Contributing researcher:** Haberle, Simon

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** This project involves the use of pollen from sediment cores (for example, lakes and swamps) to reconstruct environments from the past. This can be on short historical timeframes or 10’s to 100’s of thousands of years. It indicates the response of environment to environmental change, human impacts on the environment; looks at the history of fire in the Australian landscape and how that has changed through time and since the arrival of man; working closely with Indigenous communities—visiting ‘Country’ with Indigenous peoples; research and education in ‘Country’ as well; in Victoria and North West Australia. Basis of work in archaeology and natural history, with about 6 in the group. Can also be used for other applications—interacting with the humanities in this area; looking at a range of proxies for environmental processes; pollen monitoring program (hayfever) — aeropalynology; forensic work; honey studies. The impact of these processes on people is studied, including key cultural groups especially Australian Indigenous people.
Research theme: Education

Influencing Indigenous Education

Simpson, Jane

Contributing researchers: Angelo, Denise; Browne, Emma; Disbray, Samantha; Ellis, Elizabeth; Kral, Inge; O’Shannessy, Carmel; Poetsch, Susan.

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: University of Queensland; Western Sydney University; University of Melbourne

Project start date: 2014
Project end date: 2021

Summary of findings: Studies of language and education in several remote communities, translational research on language, education in contact language situations.

Impact: Studies of language and education in several remote communities, translational research on language, education in contact language situations.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence

Research theme: Governance; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Altman, Jon

Emeritus Professor Jon Altman of the Australian National University is currently located at the School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) in the College of Asia and the Pacific. Professor Altman was previously the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy. He has a disciplinary background in economics and anthropology. Professor Altman has contributed to research, reviews and evaluations, published articles and government submissions on the following topics:

- Design and Implementation of the Community Development Programme
- Planned Employment Programs for Remote Aboriginal Australia
- Cashless Debit Card
- Treaty
- Alternate approaches to Indigenous economic development in remote Australia
- Livelihood and food sovereignty
- Indigenous Australians and the Law
- Aboriginal Land Rights
- Indigenous Land titling and mineral extraction wars in Indigenous Australia
- Northern Territory Intervention
- Closing the Gap
- Homeland living in remote northern territory
- Indigenous Land and Sea Management
- Caring for Country

Jon’s research has and continues to have a significant impact on academic research and government policy.
National Centre for Indigenous Studies
NCIS is an interdisciplinary research unit. Our work proceeds from community engagement and is highly collaborative. It is embedded in extensive international networks. The Centre leads major projects across a wide range of fields and disciplines, and each of these is relevant to many of the articulated ANU Research/Priority Areas. NCIS work is therefore categorised below in terms of ‘best fit’ within the priority areas although they do not fit solely within one category.

**Health and Wellbeing**

Deficit Discourse Projects: The Narrative Framing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing: A Review; 2. Reframing discourse and changing the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing: an analysis; 3. Discourse, Data and Deficit: Deconstructing the ‘Indigenous Health’ paradigm and its effects on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Deficit discourse frames Aboriginal identity in a narrative of negativity, deficiency and disempowerment. It is a social phenomenon that emerging evidence suggests is a contributor to producing and reproducing social disadvantage. Deficit discourse operates across a range of intersecting fields including education, health, policy, media, everyday conversations and beyond. This research is increasing the awareness in policy circles that policy discourse needs to continue to be explored, challenged and disrupted so that the culture, diversity and strengths of Indigenous peoples are not lost as a platform for development.

NCIS has produced two major reports in this area which are having impact on policy discussion. The reports found that strength-based approaches in Indigenous health can shift negative stereotyping but that their adoption is being limited by weakness of the conceptual base; a tendency to pay lip-service to these approaches; real paucity of strong qualitative evaluation; and a complete lack of evaluation of actual impact on Indigenous health outcomes. A third project called Discourse, Data and Deficit aims to address these weaknesses in collaboration with RSPH.

Key Community Partners include Laynhapuy Homelands Corporation, NT; Noah’s Inclusion Services, NSW; Oolong House; Waminda South Coast Women’s Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corp; Wreck Bay community in Jervis Bay.

**Land and Water Management and Economic Development**

These themes cut across many areas of NCIS research, particularly in the North. Projects highly relevant to this theme such as Learning on Country and the Indigenous Governance project can be found under Governance, Education and North Australia. The theme also has relevance to the repatriation projects. NCIS is also involved in ongoing work regarding place-based development and Indigenous cultural and natural resource management.

**Governance**

Governance research at NCIS focuses on the nexus between self-determination, governance and development outcomes. In this field of research, the Centre has close ties with the Australian Indigenous Governance Institute at ANU, the Centre for Sami Studies at the Arctic University, Tromsø, the Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona, and the Centre for Maori Governance, University of Waitako.

Indigenous peoples across the world face similar challenges in this domain. NCIS and AIGI continue to facilitate an ongoing series of conversations within a community of practice of Indigenous leaders and researchers, through the Common Roots, Common Futures network of First Nations governance practitioners from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA. In 2017, NCIS and AIGI co-convened an international workshop called: Strategies for Success in Indigenous Governing for Development: An International Conversation. Key findings included identification of common structural challenges and innovative governance practices amongst Indigenous First Nations. The research review of governance training and education (available at www.aigi.com.au) provides practical information for community organisations as will the current NCIS review of applications to the Indigenous Governance Awards.

Effective governance is not a permanent end-state: it is about what people do, having the appropriate set of tools, and having a wider enabling policy and rights environment that supports Indigenous people governing for self-determined development. Shifting public discourse and policy settings towards a devolved self-determination model is critical to achieving positive outcomes.

Project under development: NCIS is working with AIGI and their major partners BHP Billiton Foundation on an ARC Linkage application to investigate Indigenous self-determined governance for self-determined development which will involve Indigenous communities in remote, desert, coastal, rural and urban locations across Australia.
Social and Cultural

All NCIS projects fall under this category. The following are major examples.

Repatriation projects (ARC Linkage: Return, Reconcile, Renew: Understanding the effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future; ARC LIEF: Restoring Dignity: Networked Knowledge for Repatriation Communities).

The repatriation of Ancestral Remains is a highly significant Indigenous achievement which has been an important agent of change in the relationship between Indigenous peoples, museums and the academy over the past 40 years. This stream of research is driven by ongoing collaboration with community groups in the Kimberley, the Torres Strait and the Ngarrindjeri lands of South Australia and involves researchers in the US, Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

The first Linkage Project demonstrated the critical relationship between repatriation, healing and reconciliation, and the fundamental importance of this relationship in repatriation practice, as well as the critical importance and complexity of knowledge management and data governance. The research has facilitated successful repatriation practice for the projects’ community Partner Organisations and has improved best practice for communities, museums, and government. The current ARC LIEF project is funding the construction of research infrastructure to support repatriation research and practice, together with appropriate Indigenous data governance. The impacts of this work can be observed across all the ANU Research/Priority Areas.

Project: Serving Our Country: a history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia

This high-profile ARC Linkage project addresses reconciliation and helped fill the glaring gap in the history of Australia, namely the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in its defence. It was a partnership with the Commonwealth Departments of Veterans’ Affairs and Defense, the National Archives of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the University of Newcastle and the Australian Catholic University. It involved more than more than 230 interviews with Indigenous service men and women and Community Yarn Ups held all around the country. As well as documenting the historical contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian defence and auxiliary services from the Boer War to 2000, the project uncovered and shone a light on the many issues, practices and situations Indigenous Australians encountered pre, during and post military service.

Project: For the Love of the Game (Indigenous engagement in cricket, funded by Cricket Australia)

This project provided a comprehensive history of the involvement of Indigenous Australians in cricket and presented a series of recommendations for the sport to guide its ongoing work with Indigenous communities. Cricket Australia revolutionised its approach to Indigenous engagement as a result. Cricket Australia has implemented nine out the ten recommendations across its programs. As a consequence, participation rates in the game have gone from 8000 to over 80,000 Indigenous players in two years.

Justice Reinvestment projects: Reducing Australia’s Aboriginal prisoner population using Justice Reinvestment – assessing the public’s views to treatment versus incarceration using Citizens’ Juries; Reducing Incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study

Two projects led by Jill Guthrie (now of RSPH) explored the prospects for investing in avoiding the over-involvement of Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system. In the first project, citizen’s juries were held in Sydney, Canberra and Perth. These showed that given sufficient information, diverse sections of the community were open to the idea of alternatives to imprisonment. In the second project, members of the Cowra Community were invited to explore how Justice Reinvestment could be implemented in their community. Cowra Shire Council passed a resolution to seek intergovernmental collaboration for establishing a JR pilot in Cowra.

Project: Legally assisted and culturally appropriate dispute resolution (LACADR) Evaluation

The aim of the LACADR program is to help people from Indigenous and migrant communities to access culturally appropriate dispute resolution, in other words, to help them resolve family conflicts without recourse to the courts. The evaluation involves eight field sites across Australia. Unlike many evaluations of similar programs, this project involves thorough qualitative methods.

Key Community Partners for these projects are too numerous to list. Serving our Country alone engaged with: NSW Aboriginal Land Council (Lismore), Aboriginal Employment Service (Dubbo), Gab Titui Cultural Centre (Thursday Island), Townsville Aboriginal Womens Co-op, Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative (Warnambool); and many many more. Community partners for other projects include BUSHTV, Erambie Advancement Aboriginal Corporation, and six case-study communities across Australia, Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA), Gur a Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council (GBK), and Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALACC).
**Education**

NCIS is contributing to debates about Indigenous education in a number of ways, from demonstrating the value of place-based education through investigating the effects of deficit discourse to investigating the value of boarding schools. In addition, education research is a key part of our HDR program with research underway on culturally responsive pedagogy, Indigenous place-based ‘story telling’ and curriculum as well as work on theories and application of intergenerational transfer in schools.

**Project: Indigenous Citizenship and Education**

This collaboration with Norway, Sweden and New Zealand is investigating how the duality of being an Indigenous and nation-state citizen is reflected in the field of education across its programs. As a consequence, participation rates in the game have gone from 8000 to over 80,000 Indigenous players in two years.

Justice Reinvestment projects: Reducing Australia’s Aboriginal prisoner population using Justice Reinvestment – assessing the public’s views to treatment versus incarceration using Citizens’ Juries; Reducing Incarceration using Justice Reinvestment: an exploratory case study

Two projects led by Jill Guthrie (now of RSPH) explored the prospects for investing in avoiding the over-involvement of Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system. In the first project, citizens juries were held in Sydney, Canberra and Perth. These showed that given sufficient information, diverse sections of the community were open to the idea of alternatives to imprisonment. In the second project, members of the Cowra Community were invited to explore how Justice Reinvestment could be implemented in their community. Cowra Shire Council passed a resolution to seek intergovernmental collaboration for establishing a JR pilot in Cowra.

**Project: Learning on Country**

The Learning on Country Program (LoCP) is an important educational development that links formal schooling with Indigenous knowledge and local development and employment opportunity. It is supporting young Indigenous people to keep and maintain a strong sense of their Indigenous identity and achieve formal educational outcomes. NCIS has been involved in this area of educational research and development for the last six years with great impact. Our evaluation for the Department of PMandC was used extensively in deciding to grow and roll out the program across Arnhem Land. This research area is strongly supported by stakeholders and has always been conducted in collaboration with CAEPR.

**Project: Deficit Discourse and Indigenous Education**

This project has provided critical evidence on how Indigenous education is understood and represented in forums of influence, particularly politics and the media. This is the first attempt in Australia to map and chart the influence, effects and construction of deficit discourse across the policy, teaching and learning spectrum. The project is attracting international attention, particularly in Canada, New Zealand and Norway.

Key community partners include various Northern Australia partners (see North Australia Strategies below), four schools in the ACT, Melbourne Indigenous Transition School, Melbourne Grammar School.

**North Australia Strategies**

Many NCIS projects have partnerships with groups in the north of the country, especially in Arnhem Land and the Torres Strait, building on the deep links of academic staff with communities. NCIS co-chairs the ANU’s Northern Research Committee.

In addition, NCIS is collaborating with areas from across the University on the development of a grand challenge proposal on Indigenous cultural and natural resource management and education. Recently, NCIS has been focusing on forming new partnerships in Canada and Norway which can explore commonalities in remote Northern Development for Indigenous populations.

Key community partners include: nine Indigenous ranger groups across the Top End, nine Indigenous communities in the NT; Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation, The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd (NAILSLMA), Land Councils across the NT; Djelk Rangers and Maningrida College; Yirrkala School, Yirrkala Rangers, Yirrkala Homelands Schools; Gumurr Marthakal Rangers, Shepherdson College (Galiwinku).
National Centre for Indigenous Studies – Projects summaries

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Read with me every day
Bamblett, Lawrence

Lead organisations: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Australian National University; National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

Participating organisation: Erambie Mission community

Project start date: 2008
Project end date: 2011

Summary of findings: In 2008, the Council of Australian Governments rolled out PaCE grants with a commitment to make community engagement a central component of their education programs. Laurie was involved in the Erambie Mission community’s successful application to the CoAG for a PaCE grant and the implementation of the project. The program’s objective was to celebrate a thriving oral history tradition and to increase the level of English literacy skills in the Erambie Mission community. ‘Read With Me’ involved a promotion of reading through material support and capacity building workshops. Books by Wiradjuri authors such as Isobel Coe and Anita Heiss were promoted, kids were exposed to reading and parents and grandparents worked with Koori teachers to support reading development. The project separated its message from government, top down, education and health campaigns. Its message stood out as it aligned with community values, it incorporated cultural identity with the use of the Koori flag, Koori colours and common symbols to market the program.

Impact: The total attendance at workshops was 1,500. A further 1,800 engaged using the social media sites Facebook and Twitter. To put the number of participants (667) into perspective—700 people identify as Koori at Erambie and Cowra. Other outcomes include people in the community writing and publishing their own stories. Laurie’s research supported program design, evaluation of impact and reporting.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

The narrative framing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing: A Review

Fogarty, William; Bulloch, Hannah; Dodson Mick; Fforde, Cressida; McDonnell, Siobhan; Davis, Michael

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: The Lowitja Institute

Project start date: 2017
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project aimed to identify the discursive narratives framing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. This project was the first in a series of linked projects and informed the subsequent projects; Reframing Discourse and Changing the Narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing: An Analysis; and Discourse, Data and Deficit: Deconstructing the ‘Indigenous Health’ paradigm and its effects on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. National Centre for Indigenous Studies researchers employed a critical discourse analysis approach to examine a range of texts, including published literature, policy documents, and online material. The project mapped discursive formations, and in particular, explored the prevalence of deficit discourse and its likely impacts on the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The final report was published in May 2018 and launched at the ‘Community priorities into policy’ forum hosted by the Lowitja Institute in Melbourne.

Impact: In the short time since its publication, this report has gained significant popular attention and traction in policy discussion. The report has been distributed widely in networks across the government sector, industry, research, and Indigenous Corporations. In the first four months after its publication, the report had 214 unique downloads from the Lowitja Institute website. The report has been referenced in the Koori Mail, the Medical Journal of Australia, and is held in collections across Australia’s major libraries as well as online databases such as the Analysis and Policy Observatory. The project will have significant benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in addressing a long-overdue need to identify the formations and structures of deficit discourses that impact upon disadvantage and dependency, as a step towards changing the narrative and thus reducing its impact.

Funding source: The Lowitja Institute.
Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Reframing discourse and changing the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing: An analysis

Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick; Fforde, Cressida; Lovell, Melissa; Langenberg, Juleigh; Heron, Mary-Jane

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: The Lowitja Institute

Project start date: 2017

Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: This project flows on from, and complements, the Lowitja Institute funded project: The Narrative Framing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Wellbeing: A Review. Reframing Discourse aims to identify national and international methods and approaches that have been effective in changing the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, from one based on deficit and ill-health, to one of strength and resilience. It makes recommendations for best-practice approaches and future actions to reframe the discourse and narrative in the Australian context of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing. The final report was published in May 2018 and launched at the ‘Community priorities into policy’ forum hosted by the Lowitja Institute in Melbourne.

Impact: This project has had notable impact in the short time since its publication. Community feedback indicates that the key messages of this report have resonated with the experiences of a range of stakeholders working in healthcare provision. The report has been distributed widely in networks across the government sector, industry, research, and Indigenous Corporations. In the first four months after its publication, the report had 260 unique downloads from the Lowitja Institute website. The project will have significant benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in addressing a long-overdue need to identify a range of best-practice models, techniques and programs that are effective in changing the narrative in health discourse from deficit-based, to strength-and-resilience-based.

Funding source: The Lowitja Institute.

Research theme: Health and Wellbeing

Discourse, data and deficit: Deconstructing the ‘Indigenous Health’ paradigm and its effects on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick; Bulloch, Hannah; Fforde, Cressida; Wilson, Ben; Bellchambers, Kate; Brown, Leon

Lead organisation: National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University.

Participating organisations: National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University.

Project start date: 2018

Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This project flows on from, and complements, two previous Lowitja Institute funded projects. For the Discourse, Data and Deficit project, NCIS researchers are collaborating with a number of health organisations in Arnhem Land and Jervis Bay. The research team is talking to people at the frontline of health service provision to explore what health and wellbeing means to different people, what approaches local health organisations and communities find most effective, and how policy enables and constrains what health organisations do, or would like to do. Concurrently, the NCEPH team is undertaking research that aims to describe strength-based approaches to quantitative data analysis. This aspect of the project builds on NCIS’s previous report, ‘Deficit Discourse and Strengths-based Approaches: Changing the narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing’, to investigate how strengths-based methodologies can apply to quantitative research.

Impact: This project will contribute to knowledge of how different people talk and think about Indigenous health, and what broad approaches to Indigenous health work well. In particular, the project will contribute to a better understanding of the interfaces between policy and health services, and how deficit discourse and strengths-based approaches operate in this context. This project offers an opportunity to scale-up local voices, and ultimately aims to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations better understand and argue for empowering approaches to healthcare policy and resourcing. The benefits and impact of this project will be able to be evaluated over time by examining the effectiveness of programs, policies and models for changing the narrative on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing among policy and decision-makers, health and allied practitioners, educators and other professionals.

Community partnerships: Four Indigenous Health Organisations

Funding source: The Lowitja Institute.
**Research themes:** Health and Wellbeing; Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Social and Cultural; Education; Governance

**Return, reconcile, renew:** Understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future

*Fforde, Cressida*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** National Museum of Australia; University of Otago; Ministry for the Arts; Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc; Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa; Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre; Association on American Indian Affairs; Flinders University; The University of Melbourne; University of Queensland, Australian Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation (GBK)

**Project start date:** 2014

**Project end date:** 2019

**Summary of findings:**

The research explored the critical relationship between repatriation, healing and reconciliation, and the fundamental importance of this relationship in repatriation practice; the critical importance and complexity of knowledge management and data governance for successful repatriation practice; The role of repatriation in cultural governance and nation building; The development of Indigenous led access and management protocols, and processes for digital archiving of culturally sensitive information relevant to multiple Indigenous communities/nations; The location and provenance of Ancestral Remains for the projects’ community Partner Organisations; The revealing of Indigenous histories of repatriation, and little known histories about the removal of Ancestral Remains.

**Impact:**

The research has facilitated successful repatriation practice for the projects’ community Partner Organisations; assisted the community Partner Organisations in locating and provenancing Ancestral Remains, and provided knowledge management support; raised information levels for its Partner Organisations about the history of the removal of Ancestral Remains; Improvement of best practice in repatriation, particularly in relation to knowledge management, for communities, museums, and government; growth of Indigenous testimony about the history and effects of the removal of Ancestral Remains and the challenges and successes in securing their return. The project has also developed and delivered a masters course on repatriation offered through Australian National University and also as a Professional Development Course. This provides students and repatriation practitioners with intensive training in a range of repatriation related topics and is held on country hosted by the project’s community Partner Organisations.

**Community partnerships:** Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority, Gur a Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council, Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (Northern Australia Strategies relates to GBK and KALACC in the Torres Strait and Kimberley respectively).

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage Projects.

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**Research themes:** Social and Cultural; Governance

**A fair trial for whom? Due process given Indigenous males in NSW [PhD]**

*Emory McGary, Rick*

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2017

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:**

Indigenous Australians are the single most incarcerated peoples on planet earth. Despite decades of government inquiries and legislative reform, the problem still worsens. This project investigates comparative court craft and criminal procedure for Aboriginal Australians and non-Indigenous Australians in criminal trials using a novel methodology drawn from comparative law and social science. Rick is currently undertaking an in-depth study of trials in one Australian jurisdiction (New South Wales) and situating the findings within the broader Australian context. Rick’s research takes place alongside the Australian Law Reform Commission’s inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation in custody, and he specifically focuses on racial discrimination by Australian criminal courts. This research project explores an under-researched area: the guilt/innocence trial itself. Methods include archival research, statistical data analytics, comparative law, and ethnographic observations of trials. Additionally, this project integrates the insights of social scientific and legal theorists from around the world to come to new theoretical positions for interpreting data in context.

**Community partnerships:** New South Wales law society, Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service for NSW/ACT, and the NSW criminal district courts.
Common roots, common futures. International Indigenous governance conference, Brisbane

Smith, Diane

Lead organisation: The Australian Indigenous Governance Institute; National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University; Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona.

Project start date: 2017

Summary of findings: The conference brought together a small group of Indigenous governance leaders, practitioners and researchers from the ‘CANZUS countries’ (Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United States of America) to share stories, strategies and lessons learned about self-determined governance for Indigenous development. Dr Smith helped coordinate the program and wrote the background paper for the Conference.


Funding source: Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Australian Indigenous Governance Institute; BHP Billiton; Queensland Government; Annamilla Foundation; PwC Indigenous Consulting; Quandamooka Traditional Custodians.

The legal construct of traditional laws and customs: A conceptual and contextual analysis [PhD]

Anderssen, Diana

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2012

Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: This doctoral research explores the legal interpretation of Indigenous Australian traditional laws and customs as the source of native title. The interpretation of traditional laws and customs relies not upon Indigenous Australian understandings of their own law, but upon a western paradigm of law, which juxtaposes ‘civilised’ legal systems against ‘primitive’ customary law, and uses western perceptions of Indigenous Australian law-ways to constitute the ‘primitive’. Western theories of law have cast Indigenous Australian law-ways as archaic remnants of the origins of western law, constructed as other to the civilised western. By deconstructing this binary, it becomes apparent that the construct of western law depends upon an othering and a denial of indigenous Australian law, contained within the very concept of law itself. This deconstruction exposes a space for the meaningful recognition of Indigenous understandings of their own law-ways, and enables the acknowledgement of the continued vitality of Indigenous law.

Impact: The study has the potential to lead to radical change in the law in Australia, particularly Native Title law. It also has the potential to influence change in the way law is taught in Australia. It will be relevant to legal and other native title researchers and academics, traditional owners, and those practising in the area of native title, as well as to policy analysis and development. It is anticipated that the impacts will be long term rather short term.

Community governance development project

Smith, Diane

Lead organisation: Central Land Council

Participating organisations: Warlpiri Kurdiji Law and Custom Group; Commonwealth Coordinator-General of Remote Service; representatives from the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments.

Project start date: 2011

Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings: Dr Smith acted as the Governance Research Expert and Mentor for this project. Research has shown a strong causal link between governance and positive development outcomes for communities. This research asked and answered a few key questions: What specific kinds of collective governing arrangements will work in small remote Aboriginal communities? And how might community governance solutions be nurtured and strengthened in ways that promote resilience and ongoing effectiveness? Early discussions with community revealed that the community felt disempowered and isolated from decision-making processes. This project aimed to adopt a developmental approach to building a community governance model.

Impact: By working closely with the Lajam Australian National University residents a community driven development governance approach was constructed and adopted by the Central Land Council.

Funding source: Central Land Council.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

Serving our Country: A history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the defence of Australia

Dodson, Mick

Contributing researchers: Beaumont, Joan; Cadzow, Allison; Furphy, Samuel; Maynard, John; Jebb, Mary Anne; Riseman, Noah; Gray, Geoffrey; Greene, Craig; Macfarlane, Kate and Hayes, Alexander.

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: Australian Catholic University; University of Newcastle; Australian Institute for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Commonwealth Department of Defence; National Archives of Australia; Australian National War Memorial; Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Project start date: 2012
Project end date: 2017

Summary of findings: Documented the historical contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian defence and auxiliary services from the Boer War to 2000. The project uncovered and shone a light on the many issues, practices and situations Indigenous Australians encountered pre, during and post in the service of defence.

Impact: These histories are helping us to present a richer, deeper history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders service and memories of their involvement, that relying on archives alone could not achieve. The compendium titled SERVING OUR COUNTRY: Indigenous Australians, War, Defence and Citizenship was completed in in early 2018. The 2nd book, The Voices, is in the final editing phase with a view for completion in August 2018 and a planned lunch in November 2018.

Community partnerships: Australian National University, Australian Institute for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Yamuloong Conference Centre (Newcastle); Lismore Workers Club; NSW Aboriginal Land Council (Lismore); Redfern Community Centre (Sydney Gadigal Eora Nation); Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre and Museum (Tweed Heads); Aboriginal Employment Service (Dubbo); Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre (Moree); Murrin Ministry (Brisbane); Yugambeh Museum Lang and Heritage Centre (Beenleigh, Gold Coast); Gab Titui Cultural Centre (Thursday Island); Townsville Aboriginal Womans Co-op; Relationships Australia (Townsville); Ration Shed Museum (Cherbourg Community); Lowitja Institute (Melbourne); community contacts in Apollo Bay, Framlingham, Warrnambool, Portland, Heywood and Lake Condah; Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative (Warrnambool); Tandanya Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Adelaide, Kaurna); Raukkan Admin Centre (Raukan); Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (Murray Bridge); Aboriginal Development Building–Kudit Kitchen (Perth, Noonga), Western Australia Museum (Albany); Wanka Myere Pilbar Aboriginal Language Centre (Port Hedland); Nyamba Buru Yawuru (Broome–Yawuru); Senator Nova Peris (Darwin); North Australian Aboriginal Justice Association; Larrakia Nations (Katherine); CAAMA radio; Institute of Aboriginal Development (Alice Springs); Tasmanian Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Hobart); Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders Council (Launceston).

Funding source: Australian Research Council Linkage Programs.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Reconciling biological and social Indigeneity in the genomic era

Fforde, Cressida

Lead organisation: University of Melbourne

Participating organisations: Deakin University; Australian National University

Project start date: 2015
Project end date: 2018

Summary of findings: Advances in genomics will have profound impacts on contemporary identities, including Indigeneity. A focus on social processes since the 1970s has left scholarship on Indigenous identity ill-equipped to grapple with the consequences of the genomic era. Drawing on multidisciplinary expertise, Indigenous and non-Indigenous investigators will examine biological and social influences on Indigeneity in narratives of self-presentation and in two fields currently being transformed by genomics: ancestry testing and repatriation.

Impact: The project has conducted interviews with people who have discovered Indigenous Australian ancestry through genetic testing as well as people who believe they have Indigenous Australian ancestry and are considering using genetic ancestry testing to explore this further. Resulting publications examine the potential impacts of genetic ancestry testing on Indigenous identity, community and organisation membership, Indigenous policy and programs, and native title. The project has conducted a workshop in relation to DNA and repatriation. Resulting publications (in preparation) will provide an overview of repatriation and DNA analysis, and an assessment of how repatriation and DNA analysis can shed light on notions of biological and social identity.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: Workshops for this project have included Indigenous participation from New Zealand, the Ngarrindjeri nation, the Cherokee nation, and the Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre.

Funding source: Australian Research Council Discovery Projects.
Research theme: Social and Cultural

Legally assisted and culturally appropriate dispute resolution (LACADR) evaluation
McDonnell, Siobhan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing
Impact: The aim is to help people from Indigenous and migrant communities to access culturally appropriate dispute resolution, in other words, to help them resolve family conflicts without recourse to the courts.

Funding source: Commonwealth Attorney General's Department.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

For the love of the game
Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick; Walsh, Corrine

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Participating organisations: Cricket Australia, National Indigenous Cricket Advisory Council
Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2015
Summary of findings: This project was a 12-month collaborative research partnership between the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (Australian National University) and Cricket Australia. The project investigated and critically evaluated numerous approaches to engaging young Indigenous people through cricket and constitutes a pilot study for a more comprehensive future research project. The aims were to review existing research and literature pertaining to Indigenous Cricket in Australia; document a contemporary social history and analysis of cricket among Indigenous people; produce, compile and analyse baseline Indigenous population and participation data for all Australian states and Territories; and identify and make recommendations on statistical and data gaps, where appropriate. A key component of the project was consultation with Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders in all Australian states and Territories regarding their Indigenous cricket and youth development programs and pathways. The project also conducted an audit of existing models of Indigenous youth engagement through sport.
Impact: This project provided new understandings of what leads Australia's Indigenous communities to engage with cricket and devised strategies to improve Indigenous participation and youth engagement in cricket. Cricket Australia embraced the research findings and implemented all recommendations. As a direct result of this research Cricket Australia are implementing an Indigenous Cricket Strategy. Subsequently, participation numbers for Indigenous people engaged in cricket have increased from 8000 when the research began to 68,000 now. This research has also had impact in individual State and Territories. For example, the Western Australian Cricket Association (WACA) actioned many recommendations in the final report, including adopting an advisory committee model for the restructuring of Aboriginal Cricket Governance.

Research theme: Social and Cultural

Cranial desire; examining the motivations and methodologies employed by British and Australian private collectors to accumulate Australian Indigenous human remains in the 19th and early 20th centuries? [PhD]
Parker, Johanna

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2016
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: The projected focus of Johanna’s research is British and Australian collectors of Australian Indigenous human remains in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Johanna is predominantly interested in self-funded collectors not directly associated with a university or museum at the time of active targeted collecting; and individuals amassing their collections due to extensive correspondence and networks rather than directly engaging in their own fieldwork. William Colin MacKenzie, Frederic William Lucas and Joseph Barnard Davis are the selected case studies. They collected Australian Indigenous human remains, their collecting was self-funded, their collections were transferred to public collecting institutions, they were removed from the physical acquisition of human remains, and as a comparative group they have not received substantial sustained scholarly attention.
Impact: This thesis proposal hypothesises that utilising a Foucauldian theoretical framework to analyse the methods and motivations of this subset of private collectors will contribute new knowledge; including a greater understanding of the complexity of the international trade of Indigenous human remains and the perception of human remains as social commodity.
Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: This work contributes towards the ARC Linkage-funded Return, Reconcile and Renew project, led by Associate Professor Cressida Fforde at the Australian National University.

Research theme: Social and Cultural
(Re)Mapping the capital: using a spatial approach to explore Indigenous belonging in Canberra [PhD]
Powell, Maeve

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:**

**Project start date:** 2018  
**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** This multidisciplinary project will take a perspective of Indigenous agency, aiming to explore how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience belonging in the urban spaces of Canberra and how these spaces can be brought into conversation with each other. Using Indigenous methodology and (re)mapping as a tool, the project will address the reclaiming and reimagining of the city. It will contribute to a greater understanding of Indigenous methodology in an urban setting and the topic of Indigenous belonging in urban areas in Australia of which there is little academic work.


**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

Blood sweat and cheers

Fogarty, William

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** BUSHTV, ABC News 24, Australian Olympics Committee.

**Project start date:** 2012  
**Project end date:** 2013

**Funding source:** Reconciliation Australia (You Me Unity Funded Partnerships Program).

**Research themes:** Governance; Social and Cultural

Restoring dignity: Networked knowledge for repatriation communities

Fforde, Cressida

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Commonwealth Department of Communications and the Arts; Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council Torres Strait Islander Corporation (GBK); Humboldt University; Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre (KALAAAC); National Museum of Australia; Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority Inc; University of Amsterdam, Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sutdies; Flinders University; The University of Melbourne; University of Tasmania.

**Project start date:** 2017  
**Project end date:** 2020

**Summary of findings:** Indigenous communities and an international team of researchers aim to build a unique digital facility that will support the repatriation of Indigenous human remains and scholarship on this issue. Repatriation is an extraordinary Indigenous achievement which has been the single most important agent of change in the relationship between Indigenous peoples, museums and the academy over the past 40 years. Successful repatriation requires, and produces, research materials diverse in type, geography and accessibility. Within an Indigenous data-governance framework ‘Restoring Dignity’ builds on LP130100131 to gather, preserve and make appropriately accessible a critical and extensive record of repatriation information that exists worldwide.

**Community partnerships:** Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority; Gur a Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council; Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre.

**Funding source:** Australian Research Council Linkage: Infrastructure Equipment Facilities.

**Research theme:** Social and Cultural

Constitutional law and Indigenous human rights

McDonnell, Siobhan; Dodson, Mick

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** Dr McDonnell has worked on a series of projects with Professor Mick Dodson that focus on the Australian legal system and Indigenous human rights. These included rights under the Australian Constitution as well as the discrimination faced by Indigenous people under various Protection Acts, and also in times of War (see work conducted under the Serving our Country project).

**Research themes:** Social and Cultural; Governance
Legally assisted and culturally appropriate dispute resolution (LACADR) Evaluation
McDonnell, Siobhan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Summary of findings: The aim is to help people from Indigenous, refugee and migrant families who have experienced family violence to access culturally appropriate dispute resolution, in other words, to help them resolve family conflict without recourse to the courts. The findings of this project will influence the current Australian Law Reform Commission review into the Family Law System and in particular the provision of family law services to Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse families.

Community partnerships: Eight case-study communities across Australia.

Funding source: Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department.

Research themes: Governance; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Caring for the Cotter Project Evaluation
Fogarty, William; Sullivan, Patrick; McDuffie, Magali

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: 2013
Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings: This project analysed the two-year Caring for the Cotter Project and produced a comprehensive evaluation report and two short films. The Caring for the Cotter project was located in the high-conservation area of the Cotter Catchment. The project encompassed rehabilitation of extensive land areas, particularly those affected by the 2003 bushfires, and training in land and resource management aimed at creating employment pathways for Aboriginal trainees. The evaluation involved a multi-layered collaboration of several organisations and stakeholders.

Impact: The Caring for the Cotter Catchment evaluation, while small in scope, was nonetheless an important venture that contributed to the federal government’s strategic goals of conserving and protecting Australia’s environment and biodiversity, and engaging Indigenous people in employment and further training.

Community partnerships and engagement/outreach: ACT National Resource Management Council; ACT Parks and Conservation Service; United Ngunnawal Elders Council; ACTEW Water; ACT Waterwatch; Canberra Institute of Technology; Greening Australia Capital Region.

Funding source: Australian Capital Territory’s Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Common roots, common futures: An international conversation on Indigenous governance, Tucson Arizona
Smith, Diane; Dodson, Mick; Cornell, Stephen

Lead organisation: Udall Centre for Public Policy; University of Arizona; National Centre for Indigenous Studies, Australian National University.

Participating organisation: Tohono O’odham Nation

Project start date: 2012

Summary of findings: This drew together over 50 Indigenous leaders and tribal governments from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and United States of America. The overall goal of the conference was to begin a dialogue between individuals and groups in these four countries in order to discuss three topics and the relationships among them: Indigenous self-determination; Governance; Economic development. Dr Smith was involved in the coordination of this event, co-designed the program, and facilitated break-out sessions.

Impact: Dr Smith co-authored a cross-country Background Paper with Professor Cornell and the final report which outlined trends and emerging challenges. From this conference an International Indigenous Governance Alliance was created with the aim of strengthening the international Indigenous and research relationships.

Research theme: Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Land justice for Indigenous Australians: How can two systems of land ownership, use and tenure coexist with parity and justice? [PhD]
Wensing, Edward

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisations: The Kimberley Land Council

Project end date: 2019

Summary of findings: This PhD thesis explores the possibilities of supplanting the prevailing orthodoxy of domination by one system over the other with a coherent policy and praxis
framework for a mutually respectful coexistence between two culturally distinct forms of land ownership, use and tenure based on parity, mutual respect, reciprocity and justice.

**Impact:** This PhD research is directly relevant to the current debate about Constitutional recognition and the need for a treaty to address outstanding grievances between the settlers and the Indigenous peoples of Australia, especially about land rights.

**Community partnerships:** Yawuru and Bardi and Jawi Peoples in Western Australia.

**Research theme:** Land and Water Management and Economic Development

**Discourses of development & Australia’s Indigenous cultural and natural resource management programs (Working Title) [PhD]**

**Bellchambers, Kate**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Project start date:** 2019

**Project end date:** Ongoing

**Summary of findings:** Through discourse analysis and ethnographic study, Kate will investigate narratives of development in Australia’s Indigenous Cultural and Natural Resource Management Programs (ICNRMPs) from a range of viewpoints. In particular, this research will explore how Indigenous people negotiate government and other discourses in line with local aspirations for development.

**Research theme:** Education

**Improving Indigenous education outcomes in Victoria**

**Fogarty, William; Dodson, Mick; Fforde, Cressida; Wilson, Ben**

**Contributing researcher:** Gorringe, Scott

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** University of Queensland

**Project start date:** 2015

**Project end date:** 2017

**Summary of findings:** This project explored how deficit discourse surrounding Aboriginality affects educational outcomes for Indigenous youth in Victoria. The project focusses on two case study schools in Melbourne, investigating what happens to education discourses after the implementation of a strength-based professional development program for teachers.

**Impact:** For the schools involved, the response to the Engoori strength-based education professional workshop was extremely positive. Participants agreed ongoing engagement with strengths-based professional development programs would be beneficial for the entire staff and would be a necessary prerequisite to cultural change at the school level. The research highlights discursive framings of Aboriginality in Victorian education contexts and points to the absence teacher’s voices in policy and media debate.

**Community partnerships:** Two Melbourne schools.

**Funding source:** Lord Mayor’s Charitable Foundation.

**Research theme:** Education

**Learning on Country**

**Fogarty, William; Lovell, Melissa; Schwab, Robert G**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisations:** Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research; National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; Learning on Country Program (LoCP) Steering Committee and LoCP local community committees; Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the government interagency committee.

**Project start date:** 2013

**Project end date:** 2014

**Summary of findings:** This project evaluated the Learning on Country Program (LoCP) in the Northern Territory and was carried out in partnership with the Centre for Aboriginal Economic Policy Research (CAEPR). The LoCP is an approach to education in remote areas whereby learning is designed to be both relevant and engaging to the local community. The LoC approach aims to incorporate local Indigenous aspirations and perspectives, while simultaneously embedding literacy and numeracy learning in real activities such as management of environmental threats and pursuit of economic development opportunities. The LoCP grew out of Dr Fogarty’s PhD research and he has an on-going critical role with LoC.

**Impact:** In response to this evaluation, LoCP was refunded for another 3 million dollars. LoCP has continued to build on its success and attract new partners. LoC is now an incorporated aboriginal organisation and recently attracted another 9 million dollars funding.

**Community partnerships:** Djelk Rangers and Meningrida College (Meningrida); Yirrkala School, Yirralka Rangers; Yirrkala Homelands Schools (Yirrkala and Laynhapuy Homelands); Gumurr Marthakal Rangers; Shepherds College (Galiwinku [Elcho Island]).

**Funding source:** Commonwealth Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
Research themes: Education, Governance

The Indigenous Citizenship and Education (ICE) project
Smith, Diane with Fogarty, Bill

Lead organisation: The Arctic University; Centre for Sami Studies.
Participating organisations: Australian National University, National Centre for Indigenous Studies and Auckland University of Technology, School of Language and Culture.
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing
Summary of findings: The goal of the ICE project is to investigate how the duality of being an Indigenous and nation-state citizen is reflected in the field of education. Dr Smith is currently researching and producing a national and state/territory publication on the history of policy and legislation bases of Indigenous citizenship.
Funding source: Norwegian National Research Council.

Research theme: Education

Daly River education study
Fogarty, William; O’Bryan, Margaret

Lead organisation: The Australian National University
Project start date: 2019
Project end date: 2020
Summary of findings: This project aims to analyse the effectiveness of boarding schools among First Nations students in Australia.
Funding source: Commonwealth Department of Education and Training.

Research theme: Governance

Audit of Australian education and training courses on Indigenous governance
Smith, Diane; Wighton, Alice

Lead organisation: Australian Indigenous Governance Institute
Participating organisations: Australian National University
Project start date: 2017
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Dr Smith initiated a project and supervised a research officer, Ms Alice Wighton (2017-2018), to undertake a research audit of Australian education and training courses on Indigenous governance. The resulting report informs Indigenous peoples about accessible courses and content. This research is ongoing, however, preliminary data outlines some findings such as: a slight tendency for certain industry sectors to provide particular forms of governance training over others, a tendency for training organisations to provide training to Indigenous peoples for little or no fee, and that that approximately half of the training organisations audited have tried to put structures in place to deliver culturally-informed training to Indigenous peoples and groups.
Impact: The Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona has since adopted the approach to undertake a similar research project. As a member of the review panel for several of Reconciliation Australia’s Indigenous Governance Awards (IGAs), Dr Smith contributed research analysis of the Indigenous applications to the 2014 and 2016 IGAs.
Funding source: Australian Indigenous Governance Institute, Aurora Program.

Research theme: Governance

Indigenous governance development: Mapping current and future research and resource needs
Smith, Diane; Bauman, Toni; Quiggin, Robynne

Lead organisation: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Australian Indigenous Governance Institute
Project start date: 2014
Summary of findings: Dr Smith contributed to the organisation of this forum on 29-30 July 2014 and co-authored the background paper and final publication. The forum brought together governance researchers, government policy makers, private sector stakeholders, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are actively engaged in exercising and building governance in their communities, organisations and nations to share knowledge and collectively identify gaps and priorities. The background paper and forum discussion outlined a cultural logic—a shared ‘design language’—that continues to inform contemporary Indigenous governance solutions. This shared design logic has been described as ‘relational nodal networks’.
Funding source: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies; Australian Indigenous Governance Institute.
Research themes: Governance; North Australia Strategies

**Strong Aboriginal governance summit, Tennant Creek, Northern Territory**

Smith, Diane; Holmes, Miles

**Lead organisation:** Central Land Council

**Participating organisations:** Warumungu (Tennant Creek, Northern Territory) peoples; Aboriginal Peak Organisations, Northern Territory; Patta Aboriginal Corporation; Council of Elders and Respected Persons (CERP); Laynhapuy Homelands Aboriginal Corporation; Murdi Paakai, WYDAC and Maningrida Progress Association; Lajarn Australian National University Law and Justice Group; NPY Women’s Council; Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation; Maningrida Progress Association.

**Project start date:** 2013

**Summary of findings:** Dr Smith assisted in the coordination and facilitation of the Northern Territory Governance Summit convened in Tennant Creek by the Central Land Council, with Indigenous groups and leaders from across the Northern Territory. Dr Smith co-authored the final report which identified challenges and supports for community governance. The summit aimed to develop an Aboriginal Governance Agenda, responding to government policy but also developing independent community governance priorities. Dr Smith documented the discussions that took place at the summit and the resultant recommendations.

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Research theme: Governance

**Exploring the policy implications of ‘deficit discourse’**

McDonnell, Siobhan

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Summary of findings:** Dr McDonnell has been involved in exploring the role of deficit discourse in both broader Australian Indigenous policy and in the health sector, with specific reference to ‘Closing the Gap’ (see National Centre for Indigenous Studies Deficit Discourse project).
ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science
The ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science is an exceptional community of students, educators, scholars and researchers who embrace the breadth of the computing and engineering professions. Our academics and students are engaged in ground-breaking and cutting-edge research in exciting areas such as renewable energy, robotics, telecommunications, biomaterials, human-machine interaction, and artificial intelligence. We collaborate with researchers around the world from a range of globally recognised universities.

Currently, the College is comprised of two Research Schools and three Innovation Institutes. To position the College as a leader in redefining engineering and computing, and to ensure these disciplines are custom designed for the middle of the 21st century, a dynamic program of transformational change is being implemented College-wide. Known as “Reimagine”, the College is committed to building significant scale and capacity in order to frame new thinking about, and solutions to, the world’s most complex human and technological challenges. Through Reimagine, the College will grow nearly three-fold, inspiring a new generation of creative thinkers.

Research

In line with the ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science’s strategic intent of creating a strong community and delivering high-impact research, Indigenous related research is strongly supported within the College. Following are some of the research projects conducted by our academics and researchers that involve Indigenous communities and are seeking to address issues faced by Indigenous Australians.

Henry Gardner, and his team from the Research School of Computer Science, has undertaken a pilot case-study of the ICT systems of two self-managed Aboriginal councils in New South Wales to assess the nature and potential of software interventions. Their study, aimed at improving ICT Support for Aboriginal Land Councils in New South Wales, indicates the development of task-driven software interfaces could significantly support the processes and activities of Aboriginal council management and contribute to alleviating the stress associated with current systems.

Jeremy Smith, from the Research School of Electrical, Energy and Materials Engineering, is collaborating with the Engineers Without Borders Australia and the Indigenous-2-Indigenous Global to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and strengths into engineering projects and practice, including community-led engineering and development projects.

Katherine Daniell, from the Autonomy, Agency and Assurance Innovation Institute (3Ai) with her affiliations in the ANU College of Science has been supporting research and knowledge exchange with Indigenous colleagues on water governance and management. This has included a Fonds Pacifique-funded water governance project in Oceania that was co-funded and co-researched with Anne Poelina, who is the Managing Director of Madjulla Incorporated and a Nyikina Traditional Custodian from the Mardoowarra in the West Kimberley region of Western Australia. This work has spawned two ongoing PhDs on water governance, Indigenous knowledge and sustainable development where Dr Poelina is a co-researcher and advisor. As part of her role on the National Committee on Water Engineering (NCWE) of Engineers Australia and Editor of the Australasian Journal of Water Resources, Associate Professor Daniell has been developing the expanded multi-disciplinary journal and NCWE events by involving Indigenous colleagues as speakers, editors and authors. A Special Issue on Indigenous water values is in now in development and is being managed by Bradley Moggridge of the Kamilaroi Nation in north-west NSW and Dr Gail Tipa of the Ngai Tahu tribe, from New Zealand’s the South Island.

Yu Lin, from the Research School of Computer Science, has partnered with the National Centre for Indigenous Genomics intending to improve genome assembly for Indigenous Australian reference genomes and analyse segmental duplications in Indigenous Australian reference genomes. Dr Lin’s research focuses on computational biology and bioinformatics. He has been working on algorithms for genome assembly, the analysis of genome rearrangements, and phylogenetic reconstruction.
**Education**

The College has broadened our involvement with the indigenous community by engaging indigenous community members in the delivery of some of our educational programs. We also take a lead role in hosting educational experiences specifically designed for the indigenous youth.

The Autonomy, Agency and Assurance Innovation Institute (3Ai) of the College engages with Indigenous colleagues and elders through their Master program and external engagement. With the support of Professor Dianne Bell, 3Ai Director Genevieve Bell brought Ngarrindieri reed weavers, Aunty Ellen Trevor and Aunty Noreen Kartinyeri to Canberra for a two-day workshop with our students to explore and research the concept of networks as part of the ‘Fundamentals of a New Applied Science I’ course. Demonstrations of Indigenous technology, engineering and scholarship are also included in other parts of 3Ai syllabus. For example, our students were taken onto country and welcomed in their orientation week by Wally Bell of Buru Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation.

The College takes part in co-hosting the National Indigenous Summer School, a week-long program for Year 10 and Year 11 Indigenous students from around Australia. The program provides these students the opportunity to participate in learning experiences that will help inform their education and career aspirations and goals. As part of the Summer School, the College plays a major role in hosting the Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM) stream program.

The ANU College of Engineering and Computer Science look forward to expanding the range of indigenous related research and educational programs by engaging more and developing further collaborations in the upcoming years.

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**RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**Research theme:** Health and Wellbeing

**Improving genome assembly for Indigenous Australian reference genomes and analysing segmental duplications in Indigenous Australian reference genomes**

**Lin, Yu**

**Lead organisation:** The Australian National University

**Participating organisation:** The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics

**Summary of findings:** Yu Lin’s research focuses on computational biology and bioinformatics, and he has been working on algorithms for genome assembly, the analysis of genome rearrangements, and phylogenetic reconstruction.

**Impact:** Improving genome assembly for Indigenous Australian reference genomes and analysing segmental duplications in Indigenous Australian reference genomes.
Research themes: Social and Cultural; Land and Water Management and Economic Development

Systems engineering, humanitarian engineering, curriculum development, appropriate technology, socio-technical systems

Smith, Jeremy

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Project start date: Ongoing
Project end date: Ongoing

Summary of findings: Incorporation of Indigenous knowledge and strengths into engineering projects and practice, community-led engineering and development projects.

Community partnerships: Engineers Without Borders Australia; Indigenous-2-Indigenous Global.

Funding source: ANU College of Business and Economics, Internal Indigenous Research Scheme.

Research themes: Land and Water Management and Economic Development; Governance

Aboriginal accountants: Governance in Indigenous corporations in Australia

Gardner, Henry

Contributing researchers: Radoll, Peter; Fleissner, Sebastian; Stevenson, Duncan

Lead organisation: The Australian National University

Participating organisation: University of Canberra

Project start date: 2010
Project end date: 2013

Summary of findings: A pilot case-study of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems of two self-managed Aboriginal councils were conducted. The research indicated that the development of task-driven software interfaces could significantly support the processes and activities of Aboriginal council management and contribute to alleviating the stress associated with current systems.

Impact: Improving ICT Support for Aboriginal Land Councils in New South Wales.

Community partnerships: NSW Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Local Community Councils.
Community engagement
Researchers across the ANU colleges have developed key partnerships with a large number of Indigenous communities and organisations. Partners identified by ANU researchers are listed below. Note: this is a partial list, drawn from information provided by researchers when compiling this Compendium. Further information within this Compendium’s entries highlight academics these partnerships are connected to.

Communities

- Ardyaloon
- Badawang
- Badimaya
- Beagle Bay
- Bidyadanga
- Bininj from Oenpelli and Wellington Range
- Bininj Gun-wok
- Binjari
- Biripi
- Brewarrina
- Broome
- Bundjalung
- Burketown
- Cairns
- Cherbourg
- Coburg Peninsula
- Croker Island
- Dalabon
- Dharug nation
- Djarindjin
- Doomadgee
- Elcho Island
- Erambie Mission
- Fitzroy Crossing
- Fox Lake
- Galin’ku
- Galinwinku outstations
- Gamilaraay
- Githabaul
- Goemulgul (Mabuiag
- Groote Eylandt (Angurugu community)
- Gunbalanya
- Gurindji
- Ilgar
- Iwaidja
- Jabiru
- Jerringa
- Jilkimingan
- Kabulwarnamyo
- Kalano
- Kalumburu
- Katherine
- Kayardild
- Kununurra
- Kwini
- Lajamanu
- Laynhapuy Homelands
- Lombadina communities
- Lombadina
- Malglin
- Mamardawerre
- Maningrida
- Manitoba
- Markku
- Mataranka
- Meriam
- Miringadja and Donydji
- Moongoong Darwung
- Mowanum
- Mudburra
- Mutitjulu/Pitjanjatjara Anangu
- Nagula Jardu
- Narooma
- Ngambri
- Ngambri-Ngunnawal
- Ngarakwal
- Ngiyampaa
- Ngukurr
- Ngunruwal
- Nuragunyu
- Nyamba Buru Yawuru
- Nyirrpi
- Ooloo
- Orange
- Tennant Creek
- Thungutti.
- Tjiilikala
- Tiwi
- Tiwi Islands
- Torres Strait
- Waanyi
- Wadeye
- Wakka Wakka Wulli Wulli
- Wallaga Lake Community
- Waripiri
- Warmun
- Wathayn Traditional Owners
- Willowra
- Wiradjuri peoples
- Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community
- Wunambal (Kalari)
- Wurrumiyanga
- Yarrabah
- Yarrabah
- Yawuru community
- Yolnu
- Yuendumu
- Yuin
Indigenous organisations

> Aarnja
> Aboriginal Accountants: Pathways to Professional Status
> Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority
> Aboriginal Lands Trust of WA
> Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)
> Aboriginal Resource Development Service
> AIATSIS
> Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY)
> Anindilyakwa Land Council
> Arnhem land Fire Abatement (NT) Lt
> ATSIMA
> Bagot Community Association
> Balanggarra Rangers
> Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
> Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation
> Bininj Kunwok Regional Language Centre
> Boomalli Aboriginal Artists Cooperative
> Bundiyarra-Irna Wangga Language Centre
> Bunuba Dawingarri Aboriginal Corporation
> Bunuba-Goonyandi Rangers
> Carpentaria Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
> Central Land Council
> Deniliquin Aboriginal Land Council
> Djelk Rangers
> Doolagarli Dreaming
> Dreamtime Funerals
> Dumbartung Aboriginal Corporation
> Far West Coast Aboriginal Corporation
> Gurrumurra Marthakal Rangers
> Gunditjmara Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
> Gundjeihmi Aboriginal Corporation
> Gunnedah Winanga-Li Aboriginal Child and Family Centre
> Gur A Baradharaw Kod Torres Strait Sea and Land Council
> Indigenous-2-Indigenous Global
> Innawongga Banyjima and Nyiyaparli Aboriginal Corporation
> Jabiru Area School
> Jimmy Little Foundation
> Juninga Aged Care
> Kakadu National Park
> Karrkad-Kanjidji Ltd, Djelk Rangers
> Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council
> Karungkarni Art & Culture Aboriginal Corporation
> Katungul Aboriginal Medical Service
> Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture Centre
> Kimberley Land Council
> Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation
> Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation
> Laynhapuy Aboriginal Corporation
> Malingrida and Culture; Mimal Rangers
> Malingrida College
> Marthakal Rangers
> Merimans Local Aboriginal Land Council
> MG Corporation in the East Kimberley
> Miriwigun Gajerrong Rangers
> Mingin Native Title group
> Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
> NACCHO
> Nagandji-Ba Hostel
> National Centre of Maori Environmental Research
> Ngadju Native Title groups
> Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority
> NIRAKN
> Njanjma Aboriginal Corporation
> Noongar language centre
> Noongar native title groups
> North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency
> Northern Land Council
> Northern Territory Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation
> NSW Aboriginal Land Council
> NT Land Councils
> Nyamba Burra Yawuru
> Palungun Wurnangat Aboriginal Corporation
> PAW Media
> Pila Nguru Native title group
> Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Law & Culture Pty Ltd (APY)
> Red Lily Healthboard
> Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC)
> Silas Roberts Hostel
> Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation
> Thamarrurr Development Corporation
> The National Centre for Indigenous Genomics
> The North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Ltd
> Tjutjunaku Worka Tjuta Inc.
> Top End Renal Services
> Torres Strait Regional Authority
> Uncle Jimmy Thumbs Up Ltd
> United Ngunnawal Elders Council
> Waanyi-Garawa Rangers
> Warddeken Land Management Limited
> Warddeken Limited
> Warlukurlangu Aboriginal Artists Association
> Wellesley Islands Land and Sea Social Economic Development
Western Desert Dialysis
Western Desert Lands Aboriginal Corporation
Wilcannia Local Aboriginal Land Council
Willandra Lakes RWHA 3TTG
Winnunga Aboriginal Medical Service
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service
Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service
Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council
Yalata Aboriginal Community
Yakuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre Aboriginal Corporation
Yilli Rreung Housing
Yinjya Guyula MLA
Yirralka Rangers
Yirrkala Homelands Schools
Yirrkala School
Yothu Yindi Foundation
Yugul-Mangi Rangers

Non-Specific Organisations

Australian Red Cross
Australian War Memorial
Carers NT
CatholicCare, Northern Territory
Charles Darwin University
Christian Outreach Hostel
Darwin City Council Assertive Outreach Team
Darwin Community Legal Service
Department of Defence
Department of Veterans Affairs
IBA
Kimberley Institute
Murray-Darling Basin Authority
National Archives of Australia
National Film and Sound Archive
National Library of Australia
Supply Nation Uniting Communities
Australian Council for Social Service (ACOSS)
South Australian Council for Social Service (SACOSS)
Australian Income Management Network
Foundation for Young Australians
Beyond Empathy
Engineers Without Borders Australia
ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Australian National University law students
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Australian National Cultural Flows Program
ACT Waterwatch
Greening Australia Capital Region