



Central Australian
Aboriginal Congress
RESEARCHERENYE WAPPAYALAWANGKA



Doing It Right

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Improving community understanding of research through knowledge translation and researchers understanding of community can lead to more meaningful engagement in research

Doing It Right aims for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to have more control over Aboriginal health research, its outcomes and benefits in Central Australia. The project uses a 'both ways' approach. Community members, health services and researchers share knowledge and build a shared understanding of research and community. This method is called community-based participatory research and uses an integrated quality improvement framework. In 2018, Congress urban and remote health boards worked with us to interpret what the NHMRC core values (spirit and integrity, cultural continuity, responsibility, reciprocity, respect and equity) mean in central Australia. In 2019, the project received further funding from the Central Australian Academic Health Science Network to work with ACCHS that are not part of Congress.

Congress urban and remote boards would like to see a focus on employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people and improved cultural understanding by all. The values for **doing research the right way** are shown in our **working together** framework. Each value has a short animated video that explains how the boards would like to work together to improve the health and well-being of local Aboriginal people.



Interpretation of NHMRC 6 core values for the central Australian context

Congress will develop research projects in partnership with the community and research institutions that align with our Core Values. Commitment to **Doing It Right** means following these six values:

RESEARCH SECTION CORE VALUES

Uphold Culture

Research upholds and supports culture. Cultural distinctiveness and the lived history in community is recognised. All research operates within a cultural safety framework.

Justice and Fairness

Research commits to the principles of justice and fairness for equitable access to services and opportunities. The recognition of the Aboriginal voice is central to this.

Commitment

Research is respectful of culture. We engage with the community and stakeholders so that research priorities respond to community needs and improve the economic, cultural and social determinants of health. In the spirit of 'Doing It Right'

Responsibility

High quality, ethical, coordinated research is planned, approved, implemented and completed. Engagement through agreed ways of communicating leads to better policy, practice and service. A focus on sustainability means long-lasting, meaningful outcomes, shared by all.

Respect and Relationships

Respect of cultural protocols and community and governance processes. Respectful behaviour includes awareness of different views, experience, values and priorities. Relationships are built and strengthened on this respect, trust and understanding.

Sharing

Collaborative research so that learnings benefit the community, knowledge is shared, and research outcomes are translated into policy and practice.



Doing It Right artwork. Clarabelle Inkamala

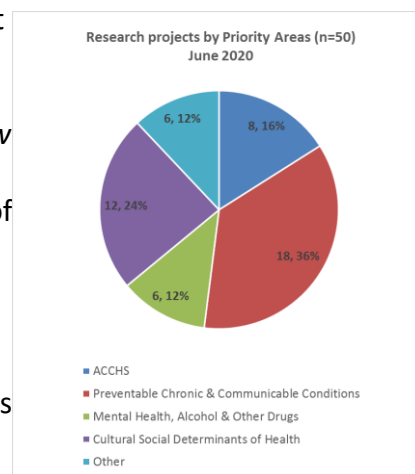
Doing It Right in 2019/2020

Everyone involved in the project is now familiar with the quality improvement tools and templates that the project has created for the administration and coordination of research at Congress. People appreciate them and one board director recently said how much he values regular reports with *'easy to follow layout'* and *'all relevant information'*.

This year, we have had preliminary discussions with ACCHS that are not part of Congress about learning from the work with our boards and using our CQI processes and tools. There have been delays because health boards and staff don't have much capacity to engage with research. Covid-19 has also delayed our timelines.

The Doing It Right team have shared the work with many other health services across Australia at the following conferences.

- Health & Wellbeing Conference, Lowitja Institute, Darwin (June, 2019)
- 25 Years of Health Leadership AMSANT, Alice Springs (August, 2019)
- NACCHO Member's Conference, Darwin (November, 2019)
- SAHMRI Showcase, Adelaide (February, 2020)

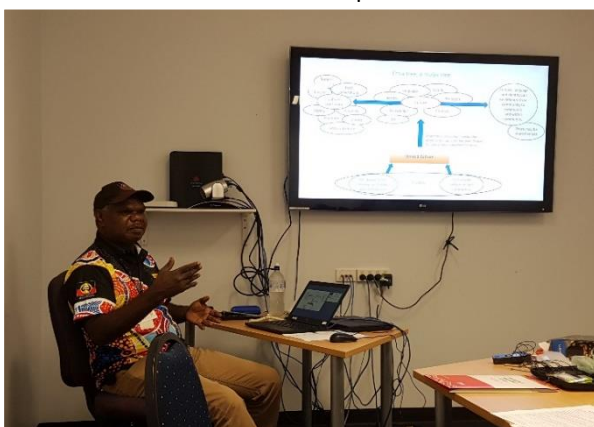


Example of Research Report to the Board

Congratulations Danni Woods and Glen Sharpe for completing the Certificate 2 in Community Health Research delivered by Menzies School of Health Research. Danni and Glen joined local Aboriginal Researchers from Tangentyere Council, Menzies and the Baker Institute. The course involves 8 modules delivered over 15 months through three sets of one week blocks with coursework to complete in between.

"I now am more confident in having the skills to work both ways in understanding the researchers and being able to facilitate information to communicate with Aboriginal community people in better understanding research. When we go to community board meetings, we are able to better organise research meetings and improve ways in presenting research information"

Glen Sharpe Graduate



"It was an awesome experience. I really enjoyed working with the lecturers and fellow students. The work was very refreshing and I am glad I was a part of a unit that encouraged its student to give their feedback of their personal community interactions. More importantly working with Researchers from different backgrounds and experience."

Danni Woods. Graduate

What's Next?

- Distribute *working together* guidelines
- Finalise local cultural protocols for researchers
- Continue to engage with ACCHS and AMSANT to trial the CQI processes for research coordination and administration.

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