

# CRE REACH Reflection

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Chief Investigator and Project Lead

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# Our Chief Investigators



# Our Associate Investigators, Senior Researchers and Trainees/Fellows



## Associate Investigators

- Profe Emily Banks (the Australian National University)
- Dr Anna Williamson (the Sax Institute)
- Dr Jessica Stewart (NSW Department of Family and Community Services)
- Dr Cheri Hotu (Baker Institute)
- Prof Fiona Stanley (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Asso Prof Deborah Lehman (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Dr Ofra Leibovich-Kalter (Gertner Institute, Israel)
- Dr Kathleen Abu-Saad (Gertner Institute, Israel)

## Senior Researchers

- Dr Patricia Cullen (The University of New South Wales)
- Ms Francine Eades (Western Australia Health, Curtin University, East Metropolitan Health Service WA)
- Dr Kalinda Griffiths (The University of New South Wales, Flinders University)
- Dr Lina Gubhaju (The University of Melbourne, NHMRC)
- Dr Kate Hunter (The George Institute of Global Health)
- Dr Jocelyn Jones (Curtin University)
- Dr Bridgette McNamara (The University of Melbourne, Barwon Health)
- Dr Robyn Williams (Curtin University)

## Trainees/Fellows

- Dr Julieann Coombes Patricia Cullen (The George Institute of Global Health)
- Ben Harrap (The University of Melbourne)
- Abby-Rose Cox (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Tessa Cutler (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Karyn Ferguson (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Alison Gibberd (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Mark Hanly (The University of New South Wales)
- Maicee Harrison (Swinburne University of Technology)
- Dr Christina Heris (The Australian National University)
- Dr Ben Jones (The University of Oxford)
- Cat Lloyd-Johnsen (The University of Melbourne)
- Chris McKay (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Bobby Porikali (The University of New South Wales)
- Asso Prof Courtney Ryder (Flinders University)
- Dr Hayley Williams (The University of Queensland)

# The context



A youthful population



Evidence on when to intervene for lasting positive health outcomes is critical



Focus on modifiable and policy-sensitive determinants of adult health:

Health behaviour;

Nutrition and development in the early years of life;

Adolescent health and wellbeing; and

Child removals and Avoidable injury

# Ensuring high-quality evidence

High-quality  
research led by  
Aboriginal  
researchers

Growing the  
Aboriginal  
research  
workforce capacity

Nurture future  
generations of  
Aboriginal  
researchers





# Vision and aims

“the **Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Child and Adolescent Health** is to lead research that will demonstrate how best to improve Aboriginal child and adolescent health; providing the necessary evidence for timely regional and national policymaking.”



# Realising the CRE vision through



- **Collaboration**
- **Engagement**
- **Traineeship/Mentorship**

# Priority research areas



Aboriginal child removals

Nutrition and development of 0-5-year-old children

Adolescent and youth mental and physical health trajectories

Smoking uptake and Injury prevention





# Research principles and methodologies



Involvement of  
Aboriginal people and  
communities

Development of a  
comprehensive skill  
base that covers all key  
academic competencies

Incorporation of health  
economics and  
biostatistics across all  
appropriate projects



# Research activities – Theme 1

## Systematic reviews of literature



Authors	Title	Publicatio	Volume	Number	Pages	Year
Lloyd-Johnsen, Catherine; Ead	A global perspective of Indigenous child health research: a systematic review of longitudinal studies	Internatio	50	5	1554-1568	2021
McKay, Christopher D; O’Bryan	Potential Determinants of Cardio-Metabolic Risk among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review	Internatio	19	15	9180	2022
Lloyd-Johnsen, Catherine; Ead	What's data got to do with it? A scoping review of data used as evidence in policies promoting the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Northern Territory, Australia	Health Pro	34	2	443-471	2023
Thai, Thao TH; Engel, Lidia; Per	A systematic review of health state utility values and psychometric performance of generic preference-based instruments for children and adolescents with mental health problems	Quality of Life Research				Jan-22 2023
O’Bryan, Eamon; McKay, Christ	Cardiometabolic Risk Markers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Youths: A Systematic Review of Data Quality and Population Prevalence	Internatio	20	13	6228	2023

# Research activities (*cont.*)

## Theme 2: Observational studies to examine the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal women during childbearing years and pregnancy and infants, children, adolescents and young adults

- The Next Generation Youth Wellbeing Study Wave 1 (Wave 2 funded and in Planning stage for data collection March 2024)
- A cohort study of child health needs for children aged 0 to 5 years of age in Alice Springs (Feasibility completed led by MCRI)
- Understanding burn injury in Aboriginal children (complete led by UNSW)
- High blood pressure in Aboriginal youth – validation studies and treatment implications (in development for funding application)

# Research activities (*cont.*)

## Theme 3: Analysis of routinely collected data

- Defying the odds + ICARE (Indigenous Child Removals study)
- Geographical variation and predictors of smoking during pregnancy in Aboriginal women (led by Newcastle University)
- Developmental disability in Aboriginal children and access to early intervention and NDIS (funded and in development)

# Research activities (*cont.*)

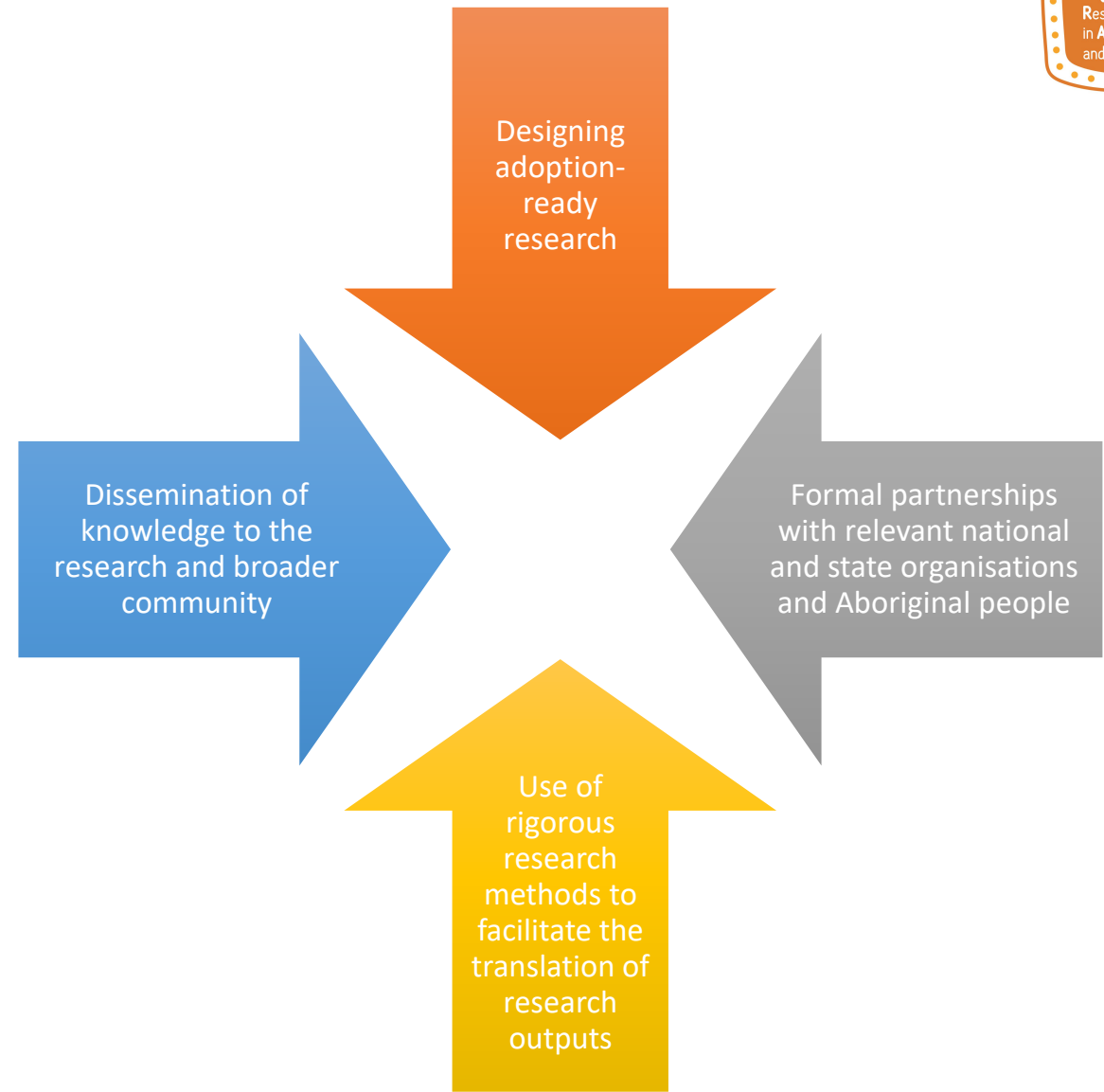
## Theme 4: Interventions to improve health outcomes

- Youth mental health service navigation trial (begins recruitment October 2023)
- Increasing youth health checks and preventive care

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# Planned translational activities





# Future leaders in making

Plan for increasing the number of Industry and Aboriginal research higher degree students

Supporting and mentoring postdoctoral fellows to become independently competitive and self-sustaining

Developing research capacity among the Aboriginal health workforce

Annual Training and Leadership Workshop

Additional strategies to support PhD students and Fellows

Online and face-to-face courses in nutritional epidemiology





Thank you

