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# Participant Information Sheet

**Project Title:** Examining the scope and value of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce in Australia from a cultural and economic lens

**Researcher(s):** Donna Murray, Kylie Stothers, Tara Lewis, Keona Wilson, Jed Fraser, Paul Gibson and Ruth Barker.

**Organisation(s):** Indigenous Allied Health Australia

**What is the project about?**

The aim of this research project is to gain a greater understanding of the contribution by and Torres Strait Islander allied health practitioners to the holistic wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities, as a basis for understanding the value of this workforce.

**Who is involved in the project?**

This research project is being conducted by Donna Murray, Kylie Stothers, Tara Lewis, Keona Wilson, Jed Fraser, Paul Gibson and Ruth Barker who work for Indigenous Allied Health for the period of 1 November 2023 to 31 December 2024.

The research is supported by a grant received from the Lowitja Institute.

**Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited to participate because of your cultural and professional knowledges and your ability to provide insights into the role and impact of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workorce in providing safe, responsive and holisitic care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This study builds on previous interviews conducted with 16 members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Workforce. We now seek your input through small group discussions to review and validate our findings.

It is expected that this project will support IAHA in informing policies and programs nationally, and to more strongly advocate for the value and impact of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce, and improve investment into the development of the workforce.

You can pull out at any time and it won’t change your relationship with the researcher(s) or anyone else. If you do decide to pull out of the project, you will need to do this prior to publication of materials. The researchers will provide opportunities to review and amend materials and remind you of your right to withdraw.

**What will the researcher(s) do and when?**

If you agree to participate, the researchers will ask you to join a series of small group yarns at the National IAHA Conference. The yarns will focus on three key themes that emerged from their initial interviews. You will be asked to reflect on these findings and share your thoughts on whether they resonate with your experiences and perspectives.

The session will follow a "World Café" format, where you will rotate between different themed yarn tables, to build on the ideas shared by others. At each table, during the yarn, the host will ask you to use sticky notes to jot down key points, ideas, or reflections and then at the end of the yarn, they will ask you to summarise the most important insights which will be recorded by a scribe.

At the end of the session, the research team will then clarify, modify or expand the original themes if required and then confirm that they accurately reflect your perspectives.

It will require approximately one hour of your time to participate in the session.

**What will happen to my information?**

Your information will be used to create a range of materials which may include community reports, published papers, presentations, submissions to policy and program processes, and promotional materials about the value of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health.

Any information that is obtained in connection with this research project and that can be identified with you will remain confidential unless otherwise permitted by you, or as required by law. The procedures for ensuring the confidentiality of your information during the collection phase and the later publication of results are that information will be identified in data collection and storage, with the ability to re-idenify you should the research team wish to attribute input to you. If this is the case, you will be provided with the opportunity to review the content in context, with the ability to amend or withdraw prior to publication.

Copyright will be owned by Indigenous Aliled Heath Australia, which as a community controlled organisation, is owned by its members.

The researcher(s) will provide you with a copy of the all research outputs, including with the opportunity for review prior to publication if IAHA would like to directly quote or attribute input to you.

**What are the potential risks?**

IAHA foresee that the risks associated with the research are low, and intend to take a strengths-based and culturally responsive approach to the research and all the work. To protect you from any risks, a strict consent process is in place, and the project will be oversighted by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group.

**Data storage**

During the project, the data will be stored in password protected computers within drives only accessible to the research team. Any hard copy materials, such as sticky notes, will be stored within locked filing cabinets. Identification codes will be stored separately.

The information will be kept for a period of five (5) years. A data management plan is available on request.

**Culturally restricted information**

While IAHA anticipate that responses will be informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews, perspectives and lived experiences, the generalised nature of the project should avoid the collection of culturally restricted information. Where potentially culturally restricted information is collected, this will be managed through the IAHA Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property policy and through a strict consent process.

**Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

The project will focus on the perspectives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce. Participants will identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

People under the age of 18 will not be eligible to participate.

**Contact and support**

I know that if I have queries about the research I can contact Paul Gibson, Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships via email to [paul@iaha.com.au](mailto:paul@iaha.com.au) or via (02) 6285 1010

Should I require other support, including crisis support, services I can contact include:

* 13YARN
* Lifeline 13 11 14
* Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
* Beyond Blue Support Service 1300 224 636
* Bush Support Services (rural and remote students and professionals) 1800 805 391

**Complaints**

I know that I can complain to:

* The Chief Exectuvie Officer, IAHA, PO Box 323 Deakin, ACT, 2600 (e) [ceo@iaha.com.au](mailto:ceo@iaha.com.au), (p) (02) 6285 1010.
* The Executive Director of Research, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) [ethics@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ethics@aiatsis.gov.au)
* The Chair of the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee, AIATSIS, 51 Lawson Crescent, Acton ACT 2601, (e) [ethics@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:ethics@aiatsis.gov.au)
* If I think there has been a breach of my privacy I can write to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001 or call 1300 363 992.

**Ethics Committee Clearance**

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the AIATSIS Research Ethics Committee.