



## Participant Information Sheet and Informed Consent Form

**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):** Tara Lewis, Donna Murray, Kylie Stothers, 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 Aboriginal 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 Tara Lewis, Donna Murray, Kylie Stothers, Keona Wilson, Jed Fraser, Paul Gibson and Ruth Barker who work for Indigenous Allied Health. 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 value and impact of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce in providing safe, responsive and holistic care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. 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 choose to withdraw your data from this project, you will need to do this within two weeks after an individual yarning session. You will not be able to withdraw your data from a group yarning session due to the collective nature of the discussions and the impracticality of isolating individual contributions. 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?

The researcher(s) will guide you through a semi-structured yarn (conversation) to explore some of your perspectives and ideas on the research questions. The research team will then transcribe the conversation and analyse your contributions alongside those of your peers to identify common themes.

The research will happen at the beginning of 2025 either online or at a mutually convenient location.

You will not be paid for your time. Sharing your time and your insights will be a valuable way of contributing to IAHA to shape meaningful change and ensure its ongoing success and impact for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce.

It will require approximately one hour of your time to complete the yarning session. Additional time will be required to complete a review of our findings.

### **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 de-identified in data collection and storage, with the ability to re-identify 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. This would take less than 30 minutes of your time. You can also choose not to be quoted directly or have your input attributed to you.

You will retain any Intellectual Property from your own personal interview recordings.

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

The researcher(s) will provide you with a copy of all research outputs, and the opportunity for review prior to publication. This could take 30-60 minutes of your time.

### **What are the potential risks?**

IAHA foresee that the risks associated with the research are low, and intend to take a strength-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 Research Advisory Group. Although unlikely, should you feel distressed, you will have the opportunity to debrief with a member of the research team during or after the yarning sessions. Should you require other support, including crisis support, services you can contact support services that are listed below (Contact and Support)

### **Data storage**

During the project, the data will be stored in password protected computers within drives only accessible to the research team. Any paper-based materials, such as consent forms, will be scanned and stored securely and then shredded.

The information will be kept for a period of five (5) years.

### **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 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**

If you have queries about the research you 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 you require other support, including crisis support, services you 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 (for rural and remote students and professionals) 1800 805 391

### **Complaints**

If you have a complaint about this research, you can contact:

- The Chief Executive Officer, IAHA, 9 – 11 Napier Close, Deakin ACT 2600.
- 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 you 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.