



MEDIA RELEASE

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Commit to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focused and led research says the Indigenous National Health Leadership Forum

The National Health Leadership Forum (NHLF) has called for Research Australia to ensure that the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) commits to funding genuine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research.

The call comes after the announcement of an additional \$3.2 billion investment into the MRFF. The NHLF acknowledges the positive impact that medical research can have on all our lives, but too often medical research been conducted on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and not for or by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

“The Lowitja Institute has demonstrated what can be achieved when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, knowledges, priorities and leadership are at the centre of research that focuses on improving the health and wellbeing of our peoples”, said Ms Janine Mohamed, CEO Lowitja Institute

“There are serious concerns with research undertaken on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples but without genuine engagement and does not include knowledge translation”

The covid-19 pandemic has illustrated what can be achieved when the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership is included in the response, which highlights the strength of self-determination in promoting health and wellbeing. However, the pandemic has also highlighted the impact on racism and discrimination within our health care system and the impact on access to good health care.

It is important for good research to continue, but it needs to reflect Australia’s cultural diversity, and especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural diversity. To this end the NHLF calls for Research Australia to continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and research institutes to ensure our voices and knowledges are reflected in research priorities and grant allocations. A key priority for us is to ensure research is utilised and translated for action.

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