



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



ABORIGINAL RESEARCH FOOTPRINT

'Reach, Value and Impact' in Partnership with the
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

adelaide.edu.au



As one of Australia's most research-intensive institutions, the University of Adelaide delivers both social and economic benefits to the Aboriginal community.

Purpose and Process

We play a significant role in the wellbeing of the nation, through our contributions to the human capital of our graduates, and through the conduct and translation of our research into policy and practice.

We regard the new knowledge created through research as a vital economic and social good, we regard it as being our responsibility to demonstrate the reach, value and impacts.

The intent of the Aboriginal Research Footprint (ARF) is to continue to partner with Aboriginal communities and undertake world-class collaborative respectful research. It recognises the 'reach, value, and impact' and achievements of Indigenous Research at the University of Adelaide. The ARF is designed to provide the University of Adelaide partners, stakeholders and broader community with an understanding of the many and varied ways our researchers are working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to address community identified issues. The beneficial consequences of our research are far reaching, translation is cumulative and strengthens over time beyond the research, leaving an indelible footprint.

Our Research Areas of Action

Linking Aboriginal communities and the data they generate to a global framework

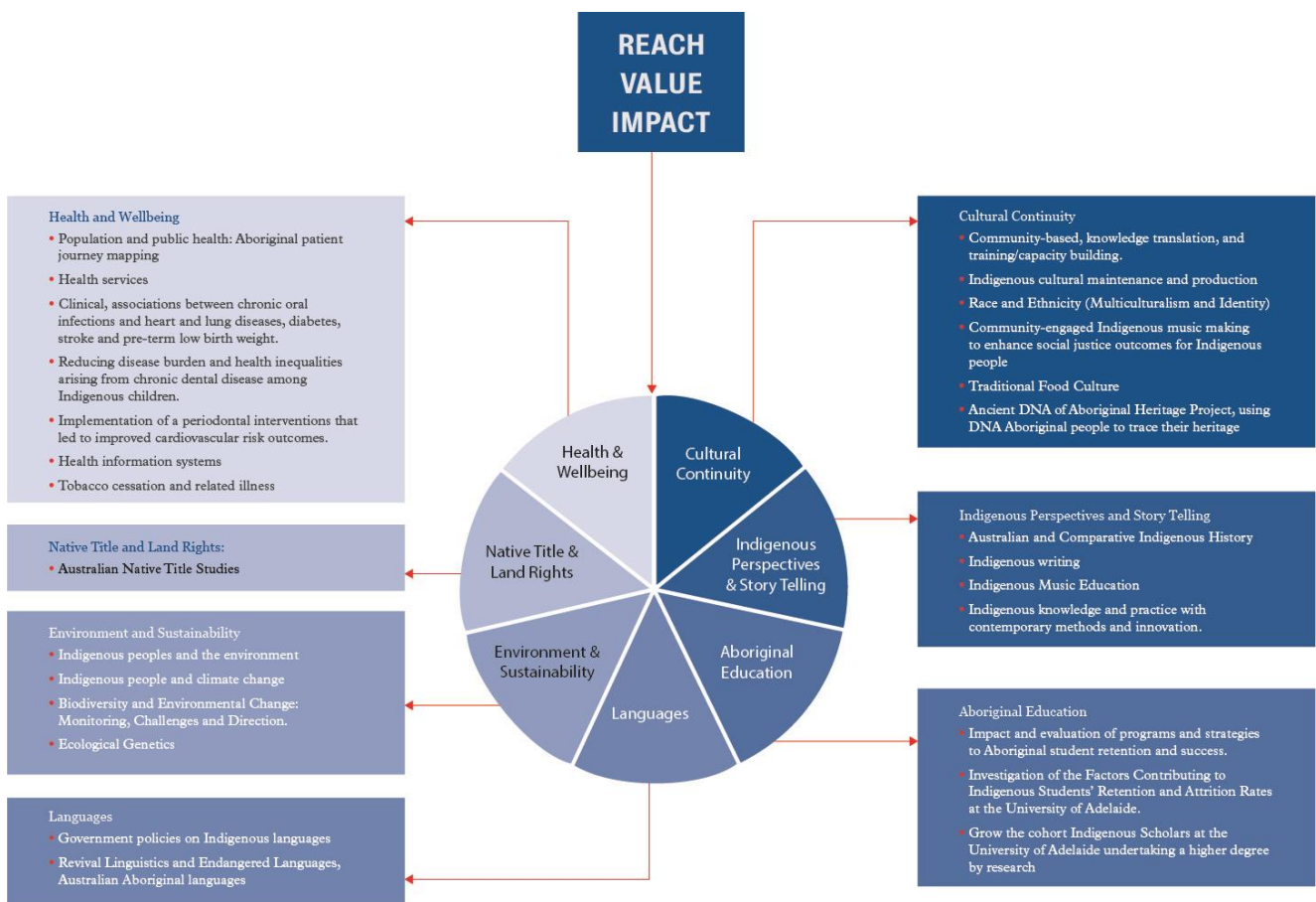
Aboriginal research at the University of Adelaide takes place on many levels and involves investigators from many fields of academia. We focus on increasing the production of relevant, rigorous, quality research that contributes to closing the gap in Aboriginal disadvantage, upholding intrinsic rights to self-determination and identifying new ways of thinking about, understanding and learning from Aboriginal cultures. Our capacity to solve community problems through the provision of knowledge based solutions is testament to our commitment to empower Aboriginal people.



Pillars of Research, Leadership and Partnership

Our research is far reaching, tackling the ‘big challenges’ faced by Aboriginal people and delivering real ‘value and impact’. This means working across traditional disciplines to find unique and workable solutions to maximise societal impact. As a university, we have had significant influence across the health sector, contributed towards new knowledge in cultural continuity, Land Rights and environmental sustainability; we have sought to revive lost languages, provide a platform for Indigenous story-telling and increase the number of Indigenous peoples progressing through education pathways.

Such research is based on vigorous debate and rigorous science and on the continuous building and strengthening of research capacity. The research inspires new ways of understanding Aboriginal history and contemporary lived experience. The below ‘Practice Map’ highlights these areas of research, and the unique social outcomes we are achieving within them.



Authentic Engagement and Relationship Building

Collaboration and meaningful engagement with Indigenous researchers, Aboriginal community groups and stakeholders is the cornerstone of our Aboriginal Research footprint.

Our research is based on relationships, allowing us to conduct research that is relevant to and prioritised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Through proactive dialogue and engagement with community, we can identify solutions that can be wholly owned by those most impacted by them.

As a university, we are constantly developing a network of professionals, communities and organisations interested and involved in improving outcomes for Indigenous Australians. This allows us to have far reaching value and impact across a diverse range of academic areas.

Our Research Projects

Shared Respect Trust and Commitment

Current research projects are improving health and wellbeing, informing public policy, creating change in public health practice and service delivery, reducing risk behaviours, morbidity and premature mortality, translating Indigenous perspectives into Western frameworks and unveiling new historical knowledge about the world's oldest continuing culture.

Specifically, current projects and activities include:

- Aboriginal Patient Journey mapping - Aboriginal experiences of the health sectors to identify specific barriers and enablers to care, thus improving patient outcomes.
- Tackling chronic Indigenous health threat - a major collaborative investigation into an apparent link between chronic kidney disease and periodontal (gum) disease, which is present among Indigenous communities at similarly alarming levels.
- Building a native food industry - documenting and building on Indigenous Australians' native food knowledge to establish a viable "bush foods" industry to support local Aboriginal communities.
- Reclaiming language - With the University of Adelaide's help, South Australia's Barngarla people are speaking their Indigenous language for the first time in half a century, it's significantly improving community health and wellbeing.

Research Project

Case Study

Ancient DNA: Aboriginal Heritage Project



"The permanence of populations is unlike anything seen around the world. It helps explain why connection to Country is so central to Indigenous Australian culture and suggests modern Indigenous communities' diversity is a result of their adaptation to local environments for many millennia."

Building on a foundation of respectful engagement, the University of Adelaide is working in partnership with Aboriginal communities to enhance wellbeing and deepen understanding of a remarkable cultural history.

Investigating Indigenous Australians' 50,000-year connection to Country. Indigenous Australians' history has long been recognised as among the world's oldest. Archaeological records indicate the first Australians arrived on the continent around 50,000 years ago, very soon after the first wave of humans moved out of Africa. Yet until now almost nothing has been known of how they subsequently evolved and survived.

Read more:

<https://blogs.adelaide.edu.au/research/2018/10/06/first-nations-first-principles/>

advancement of science and has benefits, for Aboriginal people globally.

Next Generation of Researchers

Central to our goal of generating research outcomes that are of value to the Aboriginal community is the ongoing maintenance of community control and self-determination as guiding principles. The University of Adelaide empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to take up the mantle of research, offering their unique perspectives and experiences to local and global problems. The inclusion of perspectives and worldviews of all peoples will result in stronger and meaningful research. We are cultivating the pipeline and creating the foundation for a holistic research ecosystem to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as researchers and as citizens.



A Deeper Aboriginal Research Footprint

Underpinned by rigorous, evidence-based methodology, in all our partnerships we add value by taking a long term approach focusing on delivering tangible results and creating knowledge for sustainable impact and solidifying long term partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Through proactive dialogue and engagement with community, we can identify solutions that can be wholly owned by those most impacted by them.

Our research is both evidence base and relevant to Indigenous people and to Australian society in general. The depth and breadth of our research activity demonstrates our commitment to forge strategic collaborative engagements with the Aboriginal community. We will continue to take responsibility and produce research that contributes positively towards the