

# **Central Australia Academic Health Science Network Strategic Plan**

**2020 - 2023**

## **VALUE PROPOSITION**

When Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Government Agencies, Tertiary Education and Research Institutes work together for better health and social outcomes through research that addresses local needs and builds capacity, this will translate into improved policy, practice, systems and knowledge change.

## **VISION**

“CA AHSN will be a platform for Aboriginal community driven research for better health and social outcomes of Aboriginal people living in central Australia and Barkly regions.”

## **ORGANISATIONAL PURPOSE**

- Establish research priorities as identified by the community partners
- Facilitate collaboration and effective utilisation of available resources
- Identify funding opportunities and where appropriate, support collaborative funding applications

## **VALUES & PRINCIPLES**

**Aboriginal Leadership and Self Determination.** CA AHSN values building the capabilities of Aboriginal organisations, researchers and staff to have a central role in determining the research, leading the research and using the research.

**Aboriginal workforce capabilities.** CA AHSN is committed to growing and supporting Aboriginal organisations and individuals in active participation in all aspects of research.

**Strengthening Primary Health Care.** Committed to the broader cultural, social and environmental aspects of primary health care to support comprehensive improvements in health outcomes

**Working Two-Way.** CA AHSN is committed to privileging Aboriginal knowledge systems and ways of working to ensure sharing skills, knowledge and understandings between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal partners is valued and equitable.

**Aboriginal Cultural Competence.** Is embedded in the way we work.

**Research is Community and Health Service driven.** Needs and concerns are raised by communities and services who lead the research approach with partnering research institutes.

**Use a strengths-based approach.** A Strengths focus, in how research is designed, implemented, analysed and translated.

**Aboriginal Data Sovereignty.** Research Data Governance is at the forefront of designing, undertaking, disseminating and translating research to ensure Aboriginal control in how data is used, stored and shared. This is informed by Human Research Ethics Guidelines, privacy and confidentiality legislation.

PURPOSE	Establish Research Priorities – Aboriginal leadership and self-determination; working two-way; Community and health service driven	
STRATEGIC GOALS	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	OPERATIONAL MEASURES
Aboriginal leadership across CA AHSN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase representation of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and individuals on CA AHSN Board and Board committees</li> <li>• Optimise the number of Aboriginal people as researchers and CAAHSN employees</li> <li>• Provide structures to build and support community leadership in understanding of and participation in research</li> <li>• CA AHSN processes and functions privileges Aboriginal knowledge, ways of working and in working two-way</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members</li> <li>• Proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as researchers and employees of CAAHSN</li> <li>• Number and strength of community-controlled health research committees</li> <li>• Proportion of Steering Committees chaired by Aboriginal people.</li> <li>• Proportion of CA AHSN processes and functions - policies, procedures, Terms of Reference, operational planning and priority setting – Aboriginal involvement, leadership and interactive exchange of knowledge, ideas and ways of working.</li> </ul>
Responsive to community and health service needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure regular structured engagement with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, individuals and health services to identify areas of research need, communicating research progress and for raising and addressing any concerns and issues.</li> <li>• Ensure effective and structured communication processes within CA AHSN, between partners, services and the broader community</li> <li>• Ensure an effective mechanism for the sharing of research ideas among the partners</li> <li>• Strengthen awareness of Aboriginal cultural understandings among the non-Aboriginal research workforce.</li> <li>• Establish Community research roundtables for each research priority topic to meet at least twice a year prior to funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement strategy with dedicated resourcing to ensure regular and ongoing contact.</li> <li>• Multi-level Communication strategy developed and implemented alongside Operational Plan</li> <li>• Develop an evidence-based knowledge exchange framework and process which brings together researchers and health and community service organisations to exchange ideas</li> <li>• Opportunities for knowledge exchange are supported, including bi-annual Lead Researcher meetings</li> </ul>

	rounds to establish research priorities, discuss and monitor progress.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included within the CA AHSN research grant applications, Aboriginal cultural safety processes within research planning and implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Facilitate Collaboration and effective utilisation of available resources (assets)</b>	
<b>STRATEGIC GOALS</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL MEASURES</b>
Research impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a mechanism that ensures an evidence-based monitoring and evaluation framework for CA AHSN</li> <li>• Implement a long-term programmatic approach to research priorities</li> <li>• A research translation strategy that strengthens researchers, community organisations and health service partnerships that drives improvements in policy, practice and further research</li> <li>• Engage with accredited training providers and professional accreditation bodies to ensure embodiment of the evidence base in curriculum design and delivery for health professional education and training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework embedded with an Aboriginal approach to capture organisational achievements</li> <li>• Develop a research translation implementation strategy inclusive of health services, community organisations and researchers.</li> <li>• Develop process to work with educators and professional bodies</li> </ul>
Building capabilities in the Aboriginal researcher and research support workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer research leadership opportunities for Aboriginal researchers and research support staff</li> <li>• Facilitate mentoring of Aboriginal researchers to develop research and leadership skills</li> <li>• Ensure all CA AHSN research projects include the involvement and research skill development of Aboriginal people (formal and informal)</li> <li>• Commit to increased employment and capacity building of Aboriginal people in research and administrative roles within CAAHSN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities for skills development among Aboriginal researcher and research support workforce are identified and supported</li> <li>• Opportunities to develop guidelines and policy briefs on doing research in central Australia</li> <li>• Mentoring opportunities are made available to the Aboriginal researcher and research workforce</li> <li>• Proportion of Aboriginal people employed in CAAHSN administration and research projects</li> </ul>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Identify funding opportunities and where appropriate, support collaborative funding applications</b>	
<b>STRATEGIC GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL MEASURES</b>
Ensure a sustainable organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to measure, reflect and review CAAHSN organisational processes and approaches for research impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the Monitoring and Evaluation framework identified in the Research Impact Strategic Goal.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify mechanisms for alternative sources of funding through diversifying activities. For instance, capabilities within partners to take on consultancies for CA AHSN, review CAAHSN membership to diversify skill base.</li> <li>• To identify ways of working together through programs of research</li> <li>• Identify ways of promoting CA AHSN and activities Develop a marketing strategy</li> <li>• Ensure good processes are embedded for optimal functioning of CAAHSN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage a consultant to review and provide advice on a future sustainable model for CAAHSN that includes diversifying sources of funding.</li> <li>• Develop and implement a marketing strategy for CAASHN to attract alternative sources of funding from Philanthropic bodies</li> <li>• Work to ensure national MRFF Missions take RRR interests into account</li> <li>• Number of collaborative projects undertaken by CA AHSN partners within CA AHSN programs of research</li> <li>• Research management processes are in place</li> <li>• Number of new funding sources secured to support collaborative research projects</li> </ul>
Build strong national linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify agencies with similar qualities to work with.</li> <li>• Strengthen relationships with the Department of Health, NH&amp;MRC, NACCHO and Lowitja.</li> <li>• Continue to work with AHRA with an emphasis on the I(R) Network</li> <li>• Work with organisations such as the CSIRO</li> <li>• Expand links to the Spinifex Network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a targeted plan with criteria with engagement principles and criteria to target entities that strengthen and provide leverage to CAAHSN's vision.</li> <li>• Establish formal links with NACCHO and Lowitja</li> <li>• AHRA meetings attended</li> <li>• AHRA initiatives supported/ participated in</li> <li>• Number of organisations working with CA AHSN</li> <li>• Spinifex meetings attended and initiatives supported/ participated in</li> </ul>