

# Aboriginal Researchers Network

Workshop Report May 2025

**Researcher  
Wappayalawangka**



Supporting and connecting Aboriginal people  
working in health and health-related research.

# Acknowledgements

Thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their contributions to the planning, preparation, delivery and support of the Aboriginal Researcher Network (ARN) held on 21 May 2025 at the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) Training Room at 32 Priest Street, Alice Springs.

- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)
- Zania Liddle Community Researcher Coordinator CAAHSN
- Janey Fowler Communications Coordinator CAAHSN
- John Huigen - CEO CAAHSN
- Wendy-Lea Lechleitner - Research Administration Officer CAAHSN
- Sarah Maidment - Research Assistant & Social Work Cadet Molly Wardaguga Institute for First Nations Birth Rights
- Dr Leisa McCarthy - Deputy Director First Nations Engagement & Research Strategy - Menzies School of Health Research
- Stuart McGifford - Chief Operating Officer CAAHSN
- Lorna Murakami-Gold - Flinders University
- Emma Stubbs - Community Researcher CAAC
- Yasmin Watts - Community Engagement Coordinator History Project Research - CAAC
- GAP's Kitchen Pty Ltd (catering)

CAAHSN thanks its Partners and Members:



# Background and Introduction

The Central Australia Academic Health Science Network (CAAHSN) hosted the Aboriginal Researcher Network (ARN) on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in the CAAC Training Room at 32 Priest Street Alice Springs. This workshop is the fourth in a series hosted by CAAHSN. Previous workshops were held in January 2025, October 2021, and October 2020. Prior to October 2020, there were a series of planning meetings and consultations held with Aboriginal people involved in research and with the CAAHSN Management Committee and Governing Council. CAAHSN is on track to facilitate 3-4 workshops/get-togethers for ARN members in 2025.

This is a report of a 3-hour workshop held on Wednesday 21 May 2025 involving 13 ARN members and guest speakers, three of whom were online via Zoom (See Appendix 2). The four workshop presenters are included in the attendance numbers. The ARN members in attendance all currently work as researchers, largely in the Central Australian region. Apologies received have been noted in the workshop records.

We are encouraged by the support for the ARN shown by researchers from a range of age groups, stakeholder groups, research backgrounds, work roles and current research experience who attended the workshop. The number of researchers on our contact list is now more than 30. This is positive for health and health related research happening in central Australia.

The overall theme of the workshop was learning from Aboriginal people working in research and in particular what approaches researchers have used to progress their own training and development/professional learnings in research. We arranged for four guest speakers, all of whom work as researchers in health and health-related research. The researchers shared stories of their professional learnings and experiences in working in research, how they got into research, what current and past projects they have worked on, and what supports and influences has impacted their work in research. The guest speakers were thanked for their willingness and generosity to share their information and making time to talk with ARN members.

# Summary of Main Topics

The workshop commenced with lunch. Getting together over lunch provided a relaxed and informal setting enabling participants to reconnect and network. Following acknowledgement that we are on the country of central Arrernte peoples, followed by housekeeping, including distribution of the ARN workshop report for 22 January 2025, the purpose of the meeting as well a summary of the main topics to be covered was highlighted, including:

- Getting Aboriginal researchers together to share ideas, knowledge and experiences informally and in structured presentations;
- Understanding CAAHSN's initiatives surrounding support of Aboriginal leadership in research initiatives;
- How on a practical level those initiatives are in place and can be accessed/what researchers need to do to access funding to support their career aspirations/needs;
- Learning from other researchers and what approaches the guest speakers use to progress their training and development aspirations/needs, including working with others, use of mentors, access to financial support, amongst other things; and
- Upcoming professional learning options and opportunities and how to share this information with ARN members.



# Session Summaries

## Session One

### **Background to the Aboriginal Researcher Network (ARN)**

The terms of reference for the ARN are underpinned by CAAHSN's commitment to foster Aboriginal community driven research which facilitates better health and social outcomes for Aboriginal people living in Central Australia. Establishment and ongoing support of the ARN has been a long-term goal for CAAHSN. The purpose of the ARN as per the Terms of Reference is to:

- provide an opportunity for Aboriginal people working in health and health related research to get together to share ideas, knowledge and experiences;
- support the professional development and education and training of Aboriginal people working in research; to promote and support Aboriginal leadership in research;
- assist in monitoring the implementation of Doing it Right across CAAHSN funded research activities; and
- discuss, consider, evaluate and/or make recommendations to the CEO of other culturally appropriate research practices, tools or frameworks.

### **Aboriginal people working in health and health-related research – How CAAHSN can help**

Stuart McGifford, Chief Operations Officer explained the link between CAAHSN's goal to foster Aboriginal Leadership in Research Initiatives and the Aboriginal Researcher Network as well as what CAAHSN can do to assist researchers in progressing their training and development aspirations/priorities. Stuart highlighted various training options and opportunities which CAAHSN can fund:

**Entry Level Qualifications:** CAAHSN can fund the study cost for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members for relevant certificate level or diploma level study. Examples include Certificate III or IV in Aboriginal Health, Diploma of Project Management, Charles Darwin University (CDU) micro-credentialing process, and Diploma of Indigenous Research. Expressions of interest including preferred university, TAFE or institute can be emailed to [info@caahsn.org.au](mailto:info@caahsn.org.au)

**PhD or Masters Stipends (Sponsorships):** Up to four Master or PhD stipends are available to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers who research an area that is relevant to the work of CAAHSN. For students studying full-time, CAAHSN can offer a one-year stipend of around \$39,000 (for full-time students this can be provided as a tax-free stipend). Part time students can receive around \$25,000 (however this amount is taxable for part-time students). The final amount requires approval - from the CAAHSN CEO or a Board committee within CAAHSN. To apply for this support, Expressions of Interest including preferred university or institute and area of study can be emailed to [info@caahsn.org.au](mailto:info@caahsn.org.au)

Questions and discussions amongst participants following the session on **Your Training and Development: How CAAHSN can help** included:

- that some stakeholders e.g., Menzies School of Health Research are not aware of what CAAHSN can offer as well as how to access Charles Darwin University (CDU) for micro-credentialing and the role of the CDU Indigenous Researcher Initiative (IRI) Indigenous Researchers Initiative - Indigenous Knowledge, Language and Culture Services.
- The applicable training and development for Aboriginal Researchers working in health.
- What is needed for micro-credentialing? An opportunity (through your work or voluntary) to participate in a research project. Assessment of skills demonstrated while participating in the research project (usually completed by CDU staff or one of the lead researchers of the project).
- Is Proof of Aboriginality required? Yes. The person participating needs to be recognized/endorsed by a cultural authority as being an appropriate person to be involved in research.

# Session Two

## Learning from Aboriginal Researchers

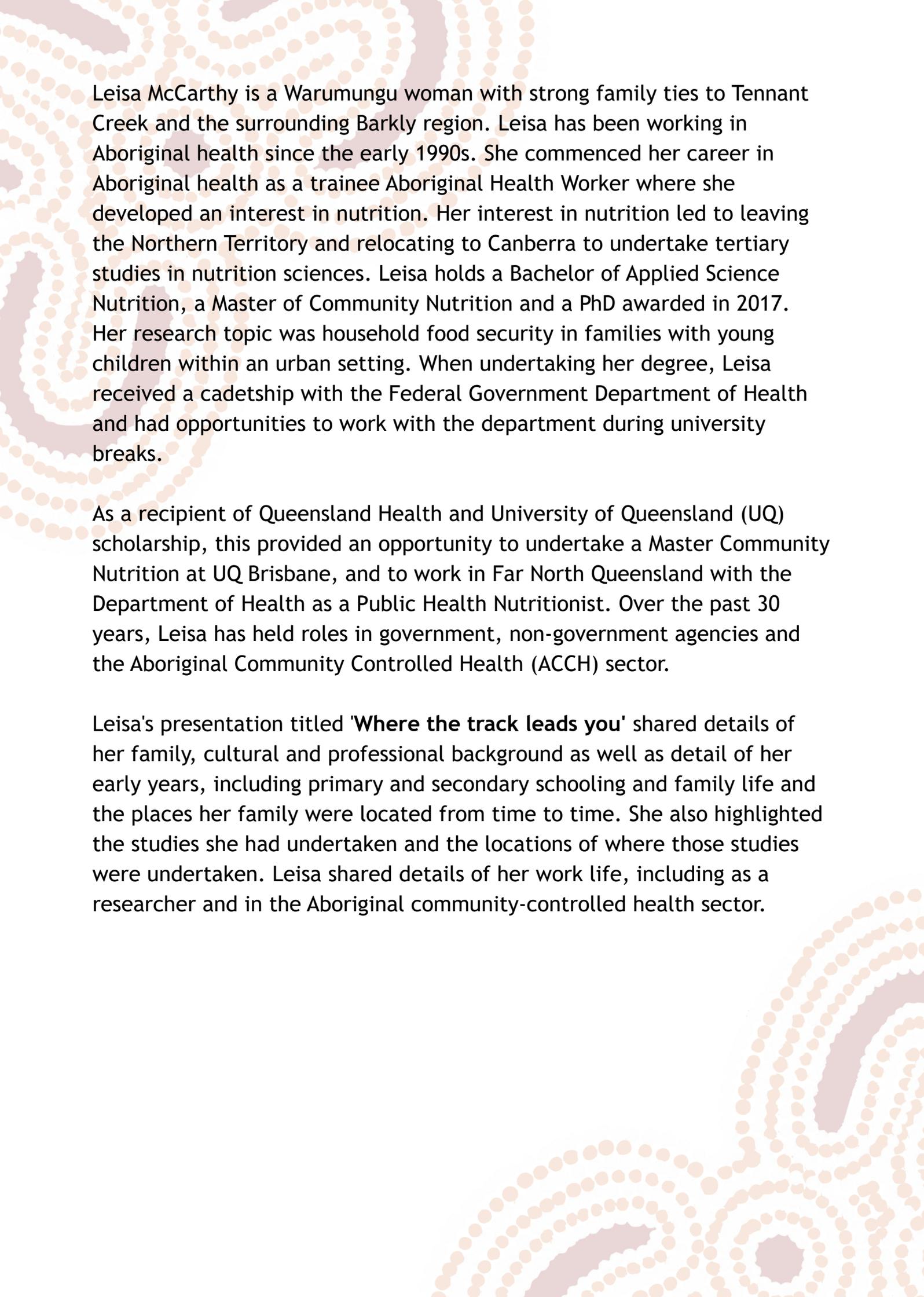
We were fortunate to have input to the ARN from experienced and acknowledged individuals possessing national and local profiles who work in health and health-related research, who shared their professional learning experiences and key learnings with the group. The background to having guest speakers who work in research to share their professional learning stories came from the January 2025 Workshop and Survey Feedback as well as various informal discussions over time with ARN members.

The professional learning experiences and key learnings working in research shared by the guest speakers were comprehensive and diverse. Topics of discussion on experiences, skills and knowledge attained highlighted by the presenters included:

- experience as chief investigator/team leader on research projects, lead and co-author of publications;
- financial support while doing study;
- working as part of research teams;
- marrying academic training and practical insights;
- on the job training and development;
- best practice models for community engagement;
- the main influences in their professional journeys;
- best practice models for cultural safety and respect;
- the potential positive outcomes of research;
- amongst other experiences, skills and learnings.

Prior to the workshop, each guest speaker provided a short bio on their professional experiences, skills, and knowledge. This was circulated to ARN members as part of the workshop program information prior to the 21 May Workshop. Each guest speaker's bio together with a summary of their presentation appears below.

**Learning from Aboriginal Researchers - Dr Leisa McCarthy Deputy Director First Nations Engagement and Research Strategy - Menzies School of Health Research and is the Executive Director of the Top End Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (TEAHRA)**



Leisa McCarthy is a Warumungu woman with strong family ties to Tennant Creek and the surrounding Barkly region. Leisa has been working in Aboriginal health since the early 1990s. She commenced her career in Aboriginal health as a trainee Aboriginal Health Worker where she developed an interest in nutrition. Her interest in nutrition led to leaving the Northern Territory and relocating to Canberra to undertake tertiary studies in nutrition sciences. Leisa holds a Bachelor of Applied Science Nutrition, a Master of Community Nutrition and a PhD awarded in 2017. Her research topic was household food security in families with young children within an urban setting. When undertaking her degree, Leisa received a cadetship with the Federal Government Department of Health and had opportunities to work with the department during university breaks.

As a recipient of Queensland Health and University of Queensland (UQ) scholarship, this provided an opportunity to undertake a Master Community Nutrition at UQ Brisbane, and to work in Far North Queensland with the Department of Health as a Public Health Nutritionist. Over the past 30 years, Leisa has held roles in government, non-government agencies and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health (ACCH) sector.

Leisa's presentation titled '**Where the track leads you**' shared details of her family, cultural and professional background as well as detail of her early years, including primary and secondary schooling and family life and the places her family were located from time to time. She also highlighted the studies she had undertaken and the locations of where those studies were undertaken. Leisa shared details of her work life, including as a researcher and in the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector.

Leisa highlighted that a good starting point for foundational skills in research is Certificate II in Community Research, previously delivered by Menzies School of Health Research, but currently on hold. Certificate II covers key components of working in research such as applied research (case studies), informed consent, approach, observation and motivational interviewing. Furthermore, that good practice in research is shadowing a senior researcher during fieldwork for good professional knowledge facilitation and sharing.

Leisa affirmed that research makes a difference and that common research thinking can impact better health and social outcomes for Aboriginal communities as well as self-determination for Aboriginal peoples. Leisa also advocates for support to foster the professional training and development of Aboriginal people working in research.

### **Learning from Aboriginal Researchers - Sarah Maidment**

*Community Research Assistant & Social Work Cadet - Molly Wardaguga Institute for First Nations Birth Right as well as being a current social work student.*

Sarah Maidment is a proud Central Arrernte woman and mother. She draws on her lived experience to inform her research and community engagement. Sarah holds a Certificate III in Community Services as well as a Diploma of Indigenous Research. She brings both academic training and practical insight to her work. Since 2015, Sarah has contributed to maternal and child health research projects that prioritise the voices and leadership of First Nations families. She has strong qualitative research skills and is committed to supporting the birthing aspirations of First Nations communities.

Sarah shared her story on how she got to where she is, her journey to date, her reflections and some tips and advice. She highlighted her engagement with On-the-job training, mentoring, intensive support and reflective supervision and peer support. Sarah reflected on the education she had gained while being in the role of Community Research Assistant and Social Work Cadet. She has been co-author on publications on participatory action research and capacity building for First Nations health research workforce to improve midwifery practices in urban Australia. Sarah's journey has involved working with her strengths and her expertise in qualitative research has been made available to partner organisations of the Molly Wardaguga Institute.

## **Learning from Aboriginal Researchers - Yasmin Watts**

*Community Engagement Co-ordinator History Project Research - Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)*

Yasmin Watts shared her own research story, discussing the following:

**Overview of Workflow, Community Engagement, Consenting, Cultural Safety and Respect and where she is at in 2024-2025.** She shared the background experience with CAAPU, CAAC and Tangentyere and the space she was in prior to the HTLV-1 Longitudinal Study. Once she was on the HTLV-1 Longitudinal study team, the workflow process included accessing special purpose permits for entry on to Aboriginal lands, engagement with service providers including introducing the study team and identifying elders/leaders of community by way of 1-3 visits, HREC approval, study specific engagement, engagement with local health services to gain support, amongst other things.

Yasmin shared how the HTLV-1 study team worked with communities including the importance of recruitment of males and females for the research team. She also described specifics of the research team visits to communities, including information sessions with separate groups as required and follow-up community visits.

Yasmin also discussed what was involved in obtaining consent from communities and the training of Indigenous team members as venepuncture specialists. She shared what cultural safety and respect looked like for the HTLV-1 project and highlighted such practices as identification of Aboriginal elders and leaders, consideration of times which accommodated community priorities and community leadership in the study, the comprehensive level of participant engagement with the study, amongst other aspects of conducting the research for the HTLV-1 project.

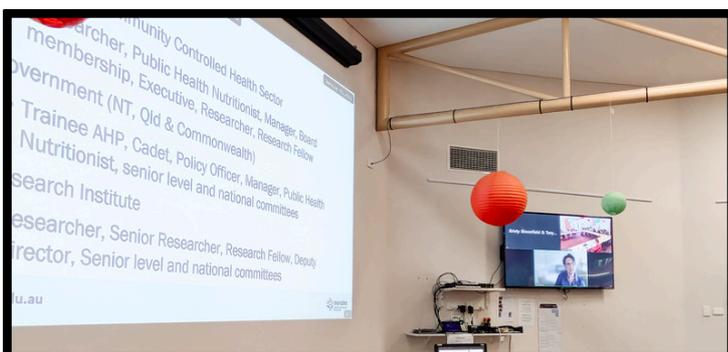
## Learning from Aboriginal Researchers - Emma Stubbs

*Community Researcher, Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC)*

Emma Stubbs is a proud Adnyamathanha, Arabana, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara woman, raised in the APY Lands and now living in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country with her family of six. Emma's identity is grounded in deep kinship ties, cultural knowledge, and the strength of matriarchs in her lineage—her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother—all of whom modelled powerful leadership through care, community, and action. Their example continues to guide Emma's values and approach to life.

With more than 15 years of experience across community services, advocacy, case management and development roles, Emma has spent the last four years as a Community Researcher with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. She believes that Aboriginal people are inherently researchers, drawing on a 60,000-year-old knowledge-sharing system grounded in Tjukurpa (Law, culture and story).

Emma stumbled into research while working as a domestic violence support worker with the NPY Women's Council—an experience that taught her the power of voice, listening, and safe cultural spaces. Encouraged by a strong mentor, she stepped into research, where her lived knowledge and community connections became essential assets. Emma has worked 'Malparara way' (side by side) with project teams on participant recruitment, informed consent, culturally appropriate data collection and analysis, knowledge translation, co-authoring publications, and presenting at conferences. Her work on projects like the ASQ-STEPS pre-testing study has deepened her understanding of tools that can support families, and affirmed her belief in research as a path to meaningful, community-led change.



# Session Three

## Summary and Next Steps

**Circulating Professional Learning Options and Opportunities:** Discussion took place on the best ways to circulate professional learning options and opportunities. It was agreed that we would circulate this information via CAAHSN communications. CAAHSN's Rapid Update was suggested as a suitable communications mechanism. Additional ways to circulate professional learning options and opportunities information to ARN members is being explored.

**An upcoming professional learning opportunity is the Living Well Summit. The Living Well Summit - Knowledge Intersections Symposium and CAAHSN Annual Showcase is scheduled for 9-11 September 2025:** The idea behind the Living Well Summit is to think about health as a wider idea and create a critical mass of ideas and thinking. The outcome of which will be the group coming together on a communique on how we can live well in central Australia. The communique is to be circulated to various agencies including government.

Participants were reminded to register to attend the event  
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/living-well-summit-2025-tickets-1252580494979>,  
to submit an abstract and to complete the survey  
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9K0bhmh1JEkaQQWXOOElWyhZvGBkxWc5FhXRyTOaFIARUQ0RSRERaMFZU00U0QloxVERPSFQ4NlRSVC4u>

Participants were also reminded of the ethics in research workshops scheduled for 2-3 June, i.e., Ethics and Negotiating Cultural Safety in Ethics Applications held at the Centre for Remote Health and facilitated by Associate Professor Robyn Williams, Chair of CDU Ethic Committee. Some members of the ARN attended these workshops.

The next steps from the 21 May workshop include:

| Action  | Progress  |
|---|---|
| <p>Circulate a questionnaire/survey to participants and other interested parties (Survey was open until 3 July). Include results in this report.</p>  | <p>The questionnaire/survey link was sent via email to ARN members on 18 June 2025. The results have been collated and summarised and the results are reported below.</p>   |
| <p>Scheduling and planning and preparation for the September 9 2025 ARN workshop including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - Calendar Invite</li> <li>• - Reminder to register</li> <li>• Preparation of the agenda</li> </ul>  | <p>Results from workshop feedback form sent to ARN members has been received and collated. A draft agenda has been prepared. The <b>Invitation</b> to attend September 9 workshop was emailed to ARN members on 29 July.</p>  |
| <p>Publication and circulation of workshop report</p>   | <p>The electronic version circulated July/August 2025. Limited numbers of hard copy versions to be mailed out soon after.</p>   |
| <p>Circulate information on options and opportunities for Aboriginal researchers for learning, training and professional development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• availability of short courses</li> <li>• relevant VET courses</li> <li>• enabling courses such as the workshops conducted by Poche Centres at Melbourne Uni and Uni Qld on what undertaking a PhD or Masters Philosophy involves</li> <li>• relevant Uni courses.</li> </ul> | <p>Heather D’Antoine (UQ) is available to assist ARN members to navigate options and opportunities to undertake postgraduate studies in a relevant pathway of study to satisfy requirements to access a CAAHSN stipend/scholarship to support postgraduate study. Links will be circulated in CAAHSN newsletter, Rapid Update. Contact Heather via email <a href="mailto:h.dantoine@uq.edu.au">h.dantoine@uq.edu.au</a> to arrange a time to talk via Zoom/Teams.</p> |

## Improving future ARN workshops – Survey results

In addition to the survey, ideas for improving future ARN workshops also comes from other informal and formal discussions. The purpose of the survey was to gather information to improve future ARN workshops/meetings and included a combination of one-word responses and comment responses. From 15 possible responders, 8 people responded to the survey.

Learning from Aboriginal researchers was viewed highly. It is valued by participants and more of it is advocated for. Holding the workshops/meeting 4 times yearly (or seasonally) suits most. There was one suggestion to hold the workshops/meetings monthly.

The time and location suited most. However, one suggestion was to start a bit later (12 noon), and that parking was a problem at the CAAC Training Rooms in Priest Street. It was highlighted that participants left the meeting early and that going straight into the workshop/meeting program and scheduling lunch in the middle may suit more.

Mostly participants would recommend the ARN to others and further, that studying is attainable when combining with work and that the workshops/meetings are a means of circulating information to others about training and development and professional learning options and opportunities.



With reference to what could have been done differently, it was suggested to find ways to encourage more researchers to attend and that more researchers in attendance means more knowledge for researchers to learn from. Improvement in circulation of information about the workshops to be improved was acknowledged. Allowing more time for researchers to share experiences and more time to discuss topics highlighted by the guest speakers would work better.

Suggestions to make the workshops/meetings more engaging included involvement of keynote speakers and research expertise and to include different research relevant topics such as ethics and information about short courses.

Ideas to include in the content for the September 9 workshop/meeting included more Indigenous researchers presenting on what they are doing/have done as well as group [ARN members] input into developing research materials and what works in research. Discussion of research credentials, experience and skills and how these compare across research agencies to attract Indigenous people to work in research was also suggested.

It was suggested that the workshops/meetings could be the opportunity to complete short courses and for participants to walk away with short course qualifications.

As has been recommended from a previous workshop, it was suggested that work colleagues, namely supervisors could be invited to attend ARN workshops/meetings.



# Session Four

## Final Comments Thank you and Close

CAAHSN's commitment to connect and support Aboriginal people working in Aboriginal focused health research includes a willingness to foster ownership of the network to connect and support ARN members, i.e., to be inclusive of Aboriginal people working in health and health-related work across central Australia including remote and very remote, the Barkly and Alice Springs regions and to determine the priorities, content, organisation and accessibility of the workshops/meetings. The form of these professional get-togethers is negotiable and ideas to progress the structure of the workshops/meetings from ARN members is ongoing and welcome.

Furthermore, ARN members have stated at a past ARN workshop that they would like to have access to a tool that shares information about what research is happening in central Australia, including proposed, current and recently completed research projects. CAAHSN remains committed to exploring a tool which details what research is being carried out in central Australia.

CAAHSN CEO, John Huigen thanked participants for their participation and interest in the ARN and encouraged them to share their thoughts on the main highlights and what gave them the most joy from the workshop. A key takeaway from the day included being inspired by listening to other people's stories on developing skills and knowledge and working on research.

# Appendices

## Appendix One: Workshop Program

| <b>ABORIGINAL RESEARCHERS NETWORK</b><br>Central Australia Academic Health Science Network<br>Supporting Aboriginal people working in Health and Health-related research. |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  <b>Wednesday, 21 May 2025</b>   |   |   |
| Time  | Session   | Facilitator(s) /Presenter (s)   |
| 11:30am-12:15pm   | <b>Lunch and Introductions</b>  | Zania Liddle CAAHSN, Wendy-Lea Lechleitner CAAHSN   |
| 12:15pm – 12:30pm   | Welcome and Introductions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>• Background to ARN: Terms of Reference, Aboriginal Leadership in Research Initiatives</li> <li>• Workshop Focus: Learning from Aboriginal Researchers</li> <li>• Your training and development: How CAAHSN can help</li> <li>• Your Questions about progressing your career in research – Group Activity</li> </ul>  | Zania, Wendy-Lea  |
| 12:30pm-1:30pm  | Guest Speakers – Researchers share their professional learning experiences and key learnings (20 mins each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisa's formal training is in public health nutrition, and she holds a Bachelor of Applied Science Nutrition, Master Community Nutrition and PhD awarded in 2017. Her topic was household food insecurity in families with young children within an urban setting.</li> <li>• Sarah has contributed to maternal and child health research projects that prioritize the voices and leadership of First Nations families. She has strong qualitative research skills and is committed to supporting the birthing aspirations of First Nations communities.</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (20 mins)</li> </ul> | <b>Dr Leisa McCarthy</b> Deputy Director First Nations Engagement & Research Strategy Menzies School of Health Research & Executive Director Top End Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (TEAHRA)<br><br><b>Sarah-Jade Maidment</b> Research Assistant & Social Work Cadet Molly Wardaguga Institute for First Nations Birth Rights |
| 1:30-1:40pm   | <b>Break</b>  |   |
| 1:40pm-3:30pm   | Guest Speakers - Researchers share their professional learning experiences and key learnings – central Australian based projects (20 mins each): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yasmin will share her HTLV-1 Researcher story and how it led her into her current role and other projects including becoming a CI.</li> <li>• Emma will share 'How she stumbled onto working in research'</li> <li>• Q &amp; A (10 mins)</li> </ul>   | <b>Yasmin Watts</b> Community Engagement Co-Ordinator History Project Research CAAC<br><br><b>Emma Stubbs</b> Community Researcher CAAC   |
| 3:00pm-3:30pm   | Summary, What's Next and Close: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulating Professional Learning Options &amp; Opportunities – Group Activity</li> <li>• Living Well Summit: September 9 Workshop – theme, content, learnings</li> </ul>  | Zania, John Huigen CEO CAAHSN   |
| 5.30-7pm  | Networking Activity - Get-together for Lawn Bowls at Alice Springs Golf Club, Cromwell Drive  | Pizza and soft drinks provided. \$10 to play bowls.   |



**Congress – 32 Priest Street**

## **Appendix Two: ARN Members and Guests List**

### **ARN Members**

Gloria Baliva (Menzies School of Health Research)  
Lorraine Liddle (Menzies School of Health Research)  
Cheryl Ross (Menzies School of Health Research)  
Leisa McCarthy (Menzies School of Health Research) - Guest Speaker  
Jason White (CAAC)  
Yasmin Watts (CAAC) - Guest Speaker  
Emma Stubbs (CAAC) - Guest Speaker  
Sarah Maidment (Molly Wardaguga Institute) - Guest Speaker  
Lorna Makakami Gold (Flinders)  
Joshua Tranter (Flinders)  
Lorraine St Clair (Charles Darwin University)  
Wendy-Lea Lechleitner (CAAHSN)  
Zania Liddle (CAAHSN)

### **Guests**

Emily Lapinski (Central Land Council)  
Jason Gorman (Central Land Council)  
Stuart McGifford (CAAHSN)  
John Huigen (CAAHSN)

# Appendix Three: Dr Leisa McCarthy (Menzies School of Health Research) presentation slides

## Where the track leads you

Dr Leisa McCarthy  
Deputy Director First Nations Engagement & Research Strategy



## Acknowledgement of Country



Menzies School of Health Research has its Australian offices in Garramilla (Darwin) and Mparntwe (Alice Springs). I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Central Arrente peoples - Traditional Custodians, Elders and Leaders of Mparntwe. I also acknowledge Aboriginal people from other countries here today, and to non-Aboriginal peoples present.

### Who I am

- Warumungu Woman from Jurnkkurakurr (Tennant Creek)
- Patta Clan - Traditional Custodians of Jurnkkurakurr
- Mother, Aunty, Grandmother, sister, cousin
- Deputy Director First Nations Engagement and Research Strategy
- Executive Director of Top End Aboriginal Health Research Alliance (TEAHRA)
- Public Health Nutritionist

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### Early Years & Family Life

- Mother, Father, 3 sisters - extended family
- Jurnkkurakurr, Nauiyu (Daly River) and Mparntwe.
- Primary School Nauiyu and Mparntwe
- High school Mparntwe

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### University Life

- Northern Territory University - Garramilla, Larrakia Country
- University of Canberra - Canberra, Ngunnawal and Ngambri Country
- University of Queensland - Meanjin (Brisbane), Turrbal Country
- Charles Darwin University - Garramilla, Larrakia Country

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### Work Life

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector
  - Researcher, Public Health Nutritionist, Manager, Board membership, Executive, Researcher, Research Fellow Government (NT, Qld & Commonwealth)
  - Trainee AHP, Cadet, Policy Officer, Manager, Public Health Nutritionist, senior level and national committees
- Research Institute
  - Researcher, Senior Researcher, Research Fellow, Deputy Director, Senior level and national committees

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### Future

- Working with Aboriginal people and organisations
- Research that makes a difference:
  - Equal partnerships with Health Services & Aboriginal organisations
  - Aboriginal self-determination, capacity and capability development
  - Formal recognition of Aboriginal researchers' unique skill sets.
  - Contributes to Closing the Gap - builds the research capacity within ACCHS through translational research

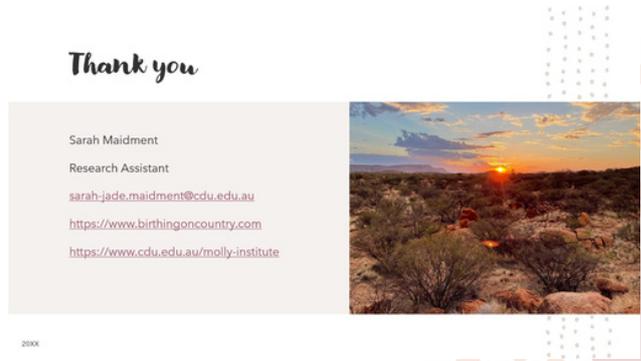
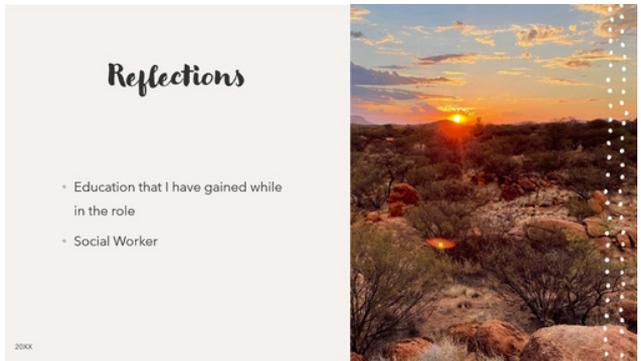
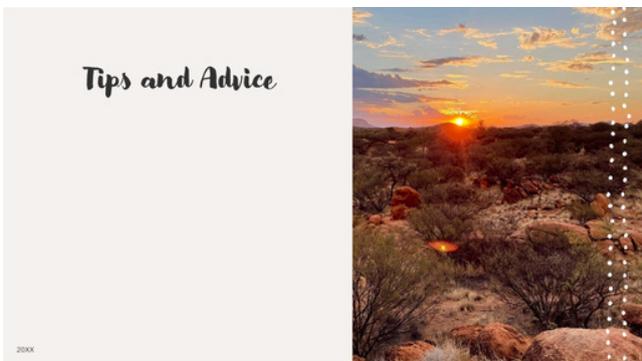
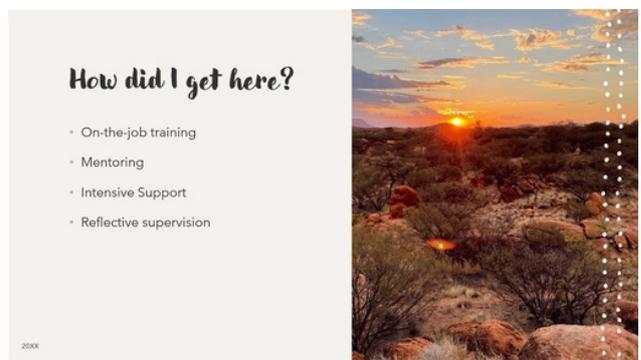
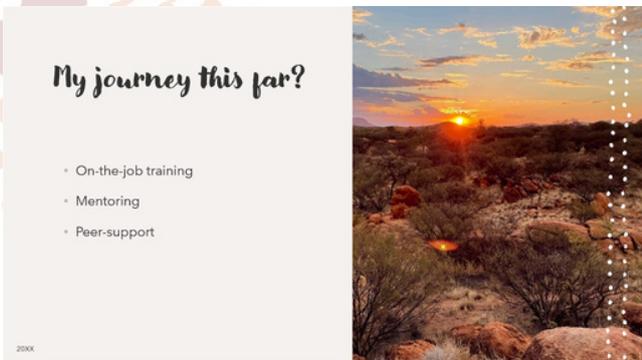
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# Appendix Four: Sarah Maidment (Molly Wardaguga Institute) – Presentation



# Appendix Five: Yasmin Watts Presentation



## Team leader on a Central Australia Research Project.

## Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we meet today.

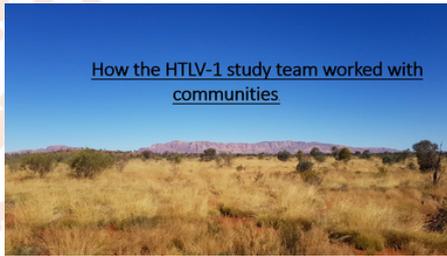
We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.



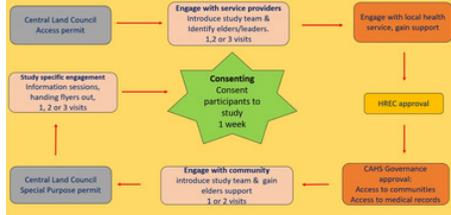
## My research Story

- Background work Caaapu, Caac & Tangentyere.
- I was at a crossroads of where to next (took 3 months of work)
- HTLV-1 Prevalence to Longitudinal study.
- Aboriginal Research engagement team.

## How the HTLV-1 study team worked with communities



## Workflow



## Community Engagement Step 3



Aboriginal research team (male & female) visit community to:

- Engage and follow-up with community & elders.
- Progress of study, CLC, health services etc.
- Work with Aboriginal community liaison officers.
- Talk about HTLV-1 longitudinal study with community members.
- Information sessions with separate groups when required.
- Confirming dates, site and staff.
- Talk about consenting sites.
- Follow-up with community visits, handing out info & flyers.

## Community Engagement Step 1 & 2



Aboriginal research team (male and female) visit communities to:

- Identify Aboriginal Elders/Leaders, talking to community
- Identify Aboriginal community liaison officers.
- Talk with service providers Shire, shop, arts centre health clinic etc.
- Introduce HTLV-1 team & study.
- Keep in regular contact with community.
- Recruit community liaison officers.
- Then talk about HTLV-1 longitudinal study with community elders.
- Information sessions.
- Community engagement.
- Follow-up over time with community visits.

## Trained Indigenous Venepuncture's

- Training received.
- Study had 2 Males and 1 Female.
- Bloods taken.
- Label and fill out forms.
- Give options preference to take blood.
- Respect for culture.
- Client preferences.
- Nurse available.
- Confidence.



## Consenting Community

- Used resources flip books & videos.
- Client decision to accept or decline.
- Consent participants to study.
- Aboriginal liaison helps recruit in local languages when needed.
- Consenting participant bloods taken.
- Each participant received a voucher.
- Pickup, drop off participants within community.



Consenting Team  
- Aboriginal Research team (3 males, 4 females)  
- 1 Study Nurse



## STUDY UPDATES.

- Nganyatjarra HCV WA - 265
- Caac through the clinic - 16
- Baker HTLV-1 team - 3071
- Consented 8 between Caac and CLC communities.
- After Springs Caac clinics outside the clinic.

Total participants recruited across all sites 1302

- Inclusion criteria:
- Aboriginal people 18 years or older (n=1,200)
  - Living in Central Australia region and in Nganyatjarra Lands



## CULTURAL SAFETY & RESPECT.

- Identified Aboriginal Elders and Leaders.
- Used Aboriginal Liaison from the community.
- Kept in regular contact with community.
- Community engagement and followed up over period of time.
- Talk to community about consenting sites.
- Rang ahead to make sure no barriers for us to travel e.g. Sorry & Men's Business
- Respect community by acknowledging times e.g. giving space, when families identified Shake hands for respect.
- Recruitment of Indigenous Males and females, understanding cultural practice, allowing choices.
- Making sure the community leads the study.
- Community fully informed at each step.
- Health Literacy material in local languages.



## Community Engagement

- HTLV-1 Study completed.
- Working at Caac.
- Research projects.
- Meeting Senior Indigenous Researchers.
- Becoming a CIA 1.
- Deciding to go for my Micro credentials as a Indigenous Senior community based Researcher.
- <https://iri.cdu.edu.au/researchers/>



## The HTLV-1 Consortium

# Appendix Six: Emma Stubbs Powerpoint Presentation

## Emma Stubbs: Starting Out in Research at CAAC

A journey into community-driven health research

### Early Interests

- Passionate about community, justice, and cultural knowledge
- Inspired by strong women and leaders in her life
- Participated in local programs and community projects
- Naturally drawn to listening, reflecting, and connecting with people

### Starting at CAAC

- Joined CAAC through community engagement roles
- Gained experience in frontline programs
- Encouraged by senior Aboriginal researchers
- Began contributing cultural insight to community health research

### Co-Authored Research Papers

Emma Stubbs has co-authored several peer-reviewed publications focused on Aboriginal health, child development, maternal wellbeing, and food security.

- Lloyd-Johnson, C., Hampton, A., Stubbs, E., et al. (2023). "It's gotta be done right way": A qualitative study exploring the acceptability of a proposed longitudinal cohort study of young Aboriginal children in Alice Springs. *BMC Health Services Research*, 23, 1210. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-023-10149-z>
- Lloyd-Johnson, C., Hampton, A., Stubbs, E., et al. (2024). "I want to see them thrive": Exploring health service research priorities for young Aboriginal children growing up in Alice Springs – a qualitative study. *BMC Health Services Research*, 24, 205. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-024-10642-8>
- Chappell, E., Chan, E., Stubbs, E., et al. (2024). Using photovoice to generate solutions to improve food security among families in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. *BMC Public Health*, 24, 755. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-024-18200-x>
- D'Aprano, A., Lindera-Morrison, L., Stubbs, E., et al. (2024). Pre-testing a culturally adapted developmental outcome measure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. *Frontiers in Health Literacy*, 2024, 1000314. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fhlt.2024.1000314>
- Chan, E., Deen, C., Stubbs, E., et al. (2023). Remote Food Security Research Project: Applying an Indigenous Research Lens. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hpja.543>
- Lloyd-Johnson, C., Stubbs, E., et al. (2025). Exploring the cultural utility of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires with remote Aboriginal health workers. *BMC Open*, 15(1), e093029. <https://bmsoopen.bmc.com/contents/15/1/e093029>
- Tonkin, E., Stubbs, E., et al. (2023). Diet quality, food security and traditional food intake of pregnant and breastfeeding women, and children 6 months to 5 years, living in eight remote Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. *BMC Public Health*, 23, 1604. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-22815-z>

### WHO IS Emma Stubbs?

- Born in Port Augusta, South Australia
- Raised at Tupul outstation and Amata community in the Musgrave Ranges (APY Lands)
- One of seven children
- Deeply grounded in culture, kinship, and Country

I am a proud Adnyamathanha, Arabana, Pitjantjatjara and Yankurytjatjara woman. I was raised in the APY Lands and I now live in Mparntwe (Alice Springs) on Arrernte Country. I have over 15 years of experience working in community services, case management, advocacy, community development, and research roles. For the past four years, I've worked as a Community Researcher with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress. In my role, I support a number of research projects by working Maljaparra way – side by side – with project staff to ensure our work is culturally safe and grounded. This includes helping with participant recruitment and consent, data collection, analysis, translating findings back to community, co-authoring publications, and presenting at conferences.

### Family and Foundations



### Why Research?

- Sees research as a pathway for truth-telling and change
- Believes research should reflect lived experience and culture
- Committed to Aboriginal-led, culturally grounded research
- Passionate about empowering community voice through data

### Role at CAAC

- Works on RISE Safely (Birthing on Country) and other projects
- Leads community consultation and cultural co-design
- Ensures cultural accuracy and integrity in research
- Bridges Aboriginal and Western knowledge systems