



RESEARCHING WITH APUNIPIMA

Apunipima, like many other Aboriginal community controlled health services, is frequently approached from external researchers requesting involvement in Indigenous health research projects. There is also research which is generated and conducted by the organisation.

Apunipima recognises the valuable role research can play in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health service delivery, and acknowledges the important role health services can play in translation of research to practice. Many key health considerations in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities require contextual

and cultural considerations informing the best research approach. Apunipima has sought to inform and lead the health and social research governance frameworks for Cape York to ensure an evidence based translation into practice.

Apunipima supports research of high ethical and scientific quality, which is underpinned by community support. All research that is conducted in partnership with Apunipima must receive approval from Apunipima's formally constituted Research Governance Committee (RGC) which has a majority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership.

APUNIPIMA CAPE YORK HEALTH COUNCIL IS A COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HEALTH ORGANISATION GOVERNED BY AN INDIGENOUS BOARD, REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITIES OF CAPE YORK INCLUDING:

- > **MAPOON**
- > **NAPRANUM**
- > **LOCKHART RIVER**
- > **AURUKUN**
- > **COEN**
- > **PORMPURA AW**
- > **KOWANYAMA**
- > **LAURA**
- > **HOPE VALE**
- > **WUJAL WUJAL**
- > **MOSSMAN GORGE**
- > **NORTHERN PENINSULA AREA**

ENGAGING WITH US IN RESEARCH

RESEARCH VISION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, LEAD A RESEARCH AGENDA WHICH IMPROVES HEALTH AND WELLBEING OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE AND STRENGTHENS RESEARCH CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY.



RESEARCH VALUES

We value research which:

- Acknowledges the history and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and applies a social justice and human rights lens to the research
- Is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led or directed and which privileges the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and honours their culture, kinship and knowledge systems
- Is meaningful, strengths based and which benefits Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Builds and/or strengthens the capacity and capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to lead and/or effectively engage in research and research related activities at community, state, national and international level
- Is sustainable, adds to an evidence base, and which facilitates knowledge translation to influence policy and practice to improve outcomes.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

- 1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander informed evaluation of Apunipima Cape York Health Council as a primary health care service
- 2 Research which incorporates a focus on culture as an enabler of wellbeing
- 3 Discipline and/or population group specific research which addresses the priorities and needs of communities identified at national, state and local levels
- 4 Research which informs the establishment and maintenance of a qualified, productive and culturally competent workforce.

ENGAGING IN RESEARCH

Researchers wanting to engage with Apunipima in research projects should be aware of the following:

- Where Apunipima is a partner or key stakeholder in the research, researchers are required to ensure co-design of the project
- Apunipima as a community controlled health service does not have the infrastructure, administrative or financial support that universities and research institutions may have, so research project budgets must cater for costs that Apunipima will bear as part of the project
- Researchers are required to provide a one page progress report to Apunipima every twelve months during the conduct of the research, highlighting progress against the research milestones
- All publications and presentations resulting from the research must be discussed with and/or co-written with relevant Apunipima staff or relevant community members and approved by the RGC prior to publishing.

PROCESS

Process for Engaging in Research with Apunipima

Researchers wanting to enter into research with Apunipima as partners, participants or facilitators are required to undertake the following:

- Read Apunipima's Research Policy and Procedure Guide (www.apunipima.org.au)
- Make initial contact with the Research Coordinator (research@apunipima.org.au)
- Complete a Research Request Form (www.apunipima.org.au)
- The research proposal will be reviewed by the Research Governance Committee (RGC)
- If the research proposes a partnership with Apunipima or has staffing or financial resource implications – the proposal is reviewed by the Opportunity Assessment Panel (OAP)
- Researchers are made aware of the outcome of their request.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESEARCHERS

Refer to National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) documents:

- **NHMRC Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders (2018)**
- **NHMRC Keeping research on track II: A companion document to Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders (2018)**

CONSIDER THESE KEY QUESTIONS:

- How will Apunipima/communities be involved in the design and conduct of the research?
- What is the time frame for the study and how long will researchers be in the community?
- In what ways will the results of the research benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the organisation in the short and long term?
- Will local people in community receive relevant resources, training and/or be employed in the research?
- Have funds been allocated in the budget to Apunipima to cover the costs of involvement in the research?
- Will community members assisting with the research be reimbursed for their skills, time and expenses?
- Does the research fit with or support community aspirations and/or other projects in the community?
- How will the privacy of participants and communities be protected?
- Are there issues regarding intellectual property and, if so, how will the issues be addressed?
- How will researchers ensure ongoing feedback to participants, community, council, community health action teams and the organisation during and at the end of the research?
- What is the researchers' plan for knowledge dissemination and translation at the local and broader level?