

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025

Catch up on all exciting things we've been up to in 2025! From commencement of new projects to memorable milestones and events. Our latest newsletter gives you an inside look at what we've accomplished so far.

Achievements and Awards

SANDRA EADES AWARD

Yvonne Clark was honored to win the 2024 Sandra Eades Investigator Grand Award in March. She travelled to Canberra for the NHMRC Research Excellence Awards. This award is named after the first Indigenous medical practitioner to be awarded a Doctor of Philosophy and recognizes the highest-ranked Indigenous researcher in the emerging leadership category.



GLADYS ELPHICK

In 2024 Karen Glover was nominated for the Gladys Elphick perpetual lifetime achievement award. She attended the awards night as a finalist at government house in August which she ended up winning on the night.



PROJECT UPDATES

LATERAL VIOLENCE, LATERAL EMPOWERMENT

The project about improving wellbeing and enabling empowerment to prevent lateral violence for young people has been progressing since 2020 and will continue in various ways until 2029. So far, we have produced two comprehensive scoping reviews. We have also held many community consultations. The key messages combined indicates the need for an importance of; awareness and education about lateral violence and empowerment; connection to identity and wellbeing; young people's experience of lateral violence are unique to them; co-design of programs are inclusive of young people's voices.

Our next step is to yarn more intensively with young mob about the types of resources and interventions that will help their wellbeing and prevent lateral violence.

[READ MORE](#)

ICARE

Community consultations have been held in both SA and WA to seek feedback in input on streams 1-3 of ICARE. We are currently submitting site specific ethics for our proposed sites in SA and are hoping to start recruitment mid-year.

For more information and updates about the project please contact:

The ICARE team

E: coolamon@sahmri.com

M: 0474 427 462

[READ HERE](#)

KEEPING DADS STRONG FOR FAMILY

The aim of the Keeping Dads Strong for Family is to identify the strengths of new and expectant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fathers. We aim to do this with exploring the current state of wellbeing of the new and upcoming dads and discuss their needs through yarning circles to develop suitable supports and/or interventions.

[READ MORE](#)

Our Past Events

Adelaide Policy and Practice Forum 2025

We're excited to share the success of our recent policy and practice forum alongside the Stronger Futures Centre of Research Excellence team in the SAHMRI auditorium. It was an inspiring day filled with thought-provoking discussions, valuable insights and collaborative ideas on the shaping of future policy and practice.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to making it such a productive and engaging event.



Melbourne Policy and Practice Forum 2025

The Stronger Futures Centre of Research Excellence held a two day policy and practice forum in Melbourne on 25th and 26th June. The forum was focused on evidence produced dedicated to breaking intergenerational cycles of trauma and social inequity in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and in refugee background communities. Over the two days, we heard about successful programs addressing: adult survivors of child sexual abuse; need for prevention and healing focus not only crisis; young people's voices to shape initiatives; Community led initiatives; importance of partnerships. Consistent messages about strong partnerships and being stronger together, breaking down silos; strength based approaches, connectedness to wellbeing including SEWB wheel domains and surrounding environment including political. There were also some well received gems quoted from some of the key speakers 'only measure what you are prepared to change'; when times are urgent, time to slow down; the familiar gets funded so need to develop ways to talk about trauma; it is ok if it is not scaleable; networking is ongoing and develops as we go.

Policy briefs and other information including publications is on the strongerfutures.org.au website.

Meet our new team members

Katherine Moore Senior Project Officer

Katherine is a proud Ngarrindjeri and Kurna woman living on Kurna Yarta. She has joined the ACRA team as a Senior Project Officer working on the Aboriginal Families Study. She has worked in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia, including spending time in some beautiful remote communities in the Northern Territory. Kath has a background in Aboriginal health, research, education and the arts. Connecting to culture is important to her and she connects to culture through painting and telling the stories of her ancestors. She believes that telling our stories helps with the journey of reconciliation.

Michael Collard

Senior Project Officer

Michael comes from various Indigenous Australian groups. His paternal lineage is from two distinct Noongar clans from WA; the Balardung and Bibbulman mob. On his maternal side he is a Ngarrindjeri, Southern Arrernte and Luritja from NT. Michael is the senior project officer on the Keeping Dads Strong for Family project - he will also support other initiatives within the ACRA team.

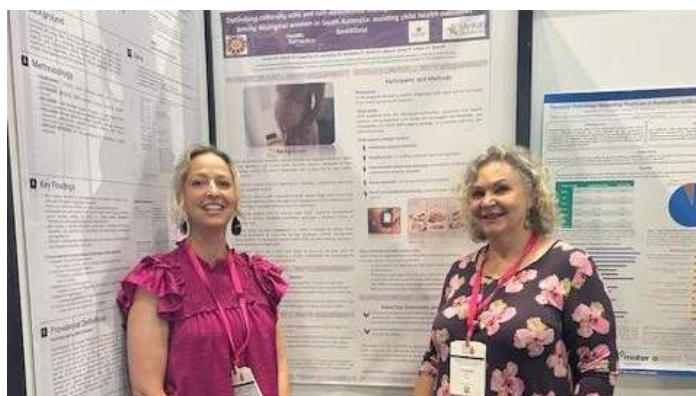
Michael is an artist in his personal time specialising in Hip Hip and RnB music. He is also a member of a musical group called Tha Deadly Boyz, which has been actively releasing music in recent years. Michael is deeply passionate about music and aspires to integrate this enthusiasm into relevant projects where possible.

Renae Jordan

Executive Assistant

Renae is excited to have joined the ACRA team as an Executive Assistant to Yvonne and Karen. She will support them in all areas of diary management, administration and logistics to help reduce their administrative workload. Renae has previously been with SAHMRI and WCHRI for over 15 years taking on various roles and projects. Outside of work Renae spends time running her kids around to sports; dance, netball, karate, basketball, football! They like to try everything. Her kids are her biggest achievement and she lives nothing more than supporting them in the things they love.

Highlights



Rachael, Renae and Yvonne travelled to Brisbane Yvonne, Renae and Rachel attended the PSANZ annual conference in Brisbane in March where they presented some of ACRA's work. The Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) is a multidisciplinary society dedicated to improving the health and long term outcomes for mothers and their babies. PSANZ encompasses and strongly encourages research focused on mothers and babies during pregnancy and at birth as well as the health of the newborn as its development continues after birth.



Diana, Imani, Feda and Yvonne travelled to Sydney to attend the 4th International Indigenous Psychologist Association (IIPA) in March.

the vital role of grassroots, community-led suicide prevention initiatives across Australia and Aotearoa and included a diverse range of speakers with differing lived experiences. The event strengthened connections between experts, community leaders, and practitioners, fostering shared learning and collaboration.



Michael, Tegan, Renae and Diana all attended Reconciliation in the West, which is an annual event held during National Reconciliation Wee. It brings together First Nations and Non-Aboriginal people to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and Identity to support Reconciliation in South Australia.

Lowitja Conference 2025



Our team was honoured to attend the 4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference 2025. A powerful gathering that brought together voices from across the globe to advance Indigenous-led health research, practice and policy.

This year's theme **Strong, Fearless, Together**, paid tribute to the extraordinary legacy of our co-patron and namesake, the late Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG. Her pioneering spirit and unwavering commitment to justice and equity were felt throughout the event and continue to inspire our work.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect, learn and reflect alongside passionate leaders, researchers and community members dedicated to improving health and wellbeing for Indigenous peoples everywhere. We had 4 members of our team present at the conference - Karen, Arwen, Renae and Yvonne.

We return energised, informed, and deeply moved and we look forward to building on the insights and connections made during this unforgettable event.

Opportunity for Aboriginal Youth

We're proud to be establishing a Youth Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, to ensure their voices are meaningfully included in research that affects their lives and communities. This group will play a vital role in guiding culturally appropriate, strengths-based approaches to research design, implementation and knowledge sharing. By centering Aboriginal youth perspectives, we aim to foster genuine partnerships, build trust and support leadership pathways for young people in the research space.



If you are or know someone who might be interested in joining this exciting opportunity, we'd love to hear from you!

[Find out more >>](#)

Celebrations & Congratulations



Congratulations to Renae

Renae who was recently engaged tied the knot with her now husband Klint. They invited everyone to what we thought was their engagement party - which ended up to be their wedding. We wish them a life full of lots of love and laughs.

Congratulations to Casey

Casey welcomed Elsie into the world at the end of January. Both mum and bub are well and everyone in the office got the opportunity to meet Elsie in April.





**SAHMRI WOMEN
AND KIDS**



[Home](#) | [Our Research](#) | [Contact](#)

North Terrace, Adelaide 5000, South Australia

acra@sahmri.com | www.sahmri.org.au