

ACRA SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our September newsletter

It's hard to believe we're already in September! The past few months have been full of activity, connection and plenty of highlights across our team. From winter events to important projects and celebrations, we've been busy and can't wait to show you what we've been up to!

Project Updates

ICARE Project Update

We are excited to share that we have received approval to begin recruitment at the Women's and Children's Hospital for Stream 3 of ICARE (The Coolamon Project).

The ICARE team has been actively engaging with hospital staff and services by running information sessions. These sessions have been a great opportunity to explain the purpose of Stream 3, answer questions, and ensure hospital staff feel informed and supported in the process.

We are pleased to announce that recruitment is now underway, with our very first participants recently joining the study. This marks an important milestone for the project, and we look forward to building on this momentum as we continue recruitment in the coming months



Photo: Di and Tegan as they were about to head downstairs to do the 1st enrolment

Visit from the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People



In early August we welcomed the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Dale Agius and his team to SAHMRI.

The visit was an opportunity to share updates on our research projects and discuss how they contribute to better outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people and families. Dale and his team also provided an overview of their current priorities and initiatives, highlighting areas where our work can connect and complement each other.

This helped strengthen our relationship with the Commissioner's office and reinforced the importance of collaboration in driving positive change.

Wellbeing Day

In July we had one of our ACRA wellbeing days. This saw us head out on an excursion to the Art Gallery of South Australia and the South Australian museum.

We headed to David Jones for a lunch all together having yarns before setting off across the road to the museum. Once we arrived at the museum we set up on a scavenger hunt which saw us taking pictures and racing around the place trying to find the answers. During our time at the museum we lost Karen who was later found observing the rocks.



Overall the everyone had a great day exploring the art gallery and museum and having yarns with each other. We all felt very refreshed after and are excited for our next wellbeing day at the end of the year.

Achievements and Awards

Di was announced as the recipient of the Stillbirth CRE 2025 Karrikin Award.

The Karrikin Award recognises Indigenous leaders who stimulate ideas and growth through their dedication and outstanding contribution to reducing stillbirth rates among Indigenous communities.

The work 'karrikin' is derived from 'karrik' - a Western Australian Nyoongar word for 'smoke'. Karrikins in plants stimulate seed germination and growth after a bushfire.

Di is a member of the Stillbirth CRE's Indigenous Advisory Group and has shwon unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for First Nations families through culturally safe and community-led approaches to research and care.

We are proud to celebrate leadership and impact with this award.



(L-R) Professor David Elwood, Valerie Ah Chee, Diana Jans, Professor Vicki Flenady

We're excited to share that Arwen has received the MDHS Indigenous Graduate Research Scholarship to attend the MAI Hui-a-Tau Doctoral Conference in Dunedin, Aotearoa (New Zealand) in November. Hosted by Te Kupenga o MAI, a supportive network of Māori and Indigenous scholars, the conference brings together around 120 Indigenous doctoral students.

It's a unique opportunity to share research, connect with peers on similar journeys, hear from inspiring speakers, and spend time with local hosts on their whenua.

Michael was a member of the RAW (Run And Walk) Indigenous Marathon Foundation (IMF) Semaphore South group and was selected for the Indigenous Marathon Foundation Championships held in August 2025 on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Representing his team as one of the senior runners, alongside a female senior and two junior runners from the APY Lands.

The weekend featured a 3km relay race on Saturday with all RAW teams competing. Each team member completed a 3km run or walk, totalling 12km per team. Michael also had the opportunity to meet the Indigenous Marathon Foundation Ambassadors Lance "Buddy" Franklin and JT Jonathan Thurston.

On the Sunshine Coast Michael chose to complete the 10km race in the EVA Air Marathon. Prior to the event, Michael had a good chat to engaged with Rob de Castella, the founder of the Indigenous Marathon Foundation and a former world champion and Olympic marathon runner. De Castella offered encouraging words before and after the race.

He dedicated the weekend's efforts to his late father, James Collard, who had passed away two weeks prior. Michael's story and determination was met with overwhelming support and encouragement from the



IMF community. "Everyone was super supportive and encouraged me to keep going. Was a great experience, one I won't ever forget"

Lowitja Conference



(L-R) Imani, Renae, Yvonne, Graham Gee, Tegan and Treena Clark

On Wednesday 18 June, the 2025 Lowitja Institute Awards were celebrated in style at a gala event that brought together researchers, community leaders and advocates from across the country and the world.

The evening was filled with energy and celebration with entertainment provided by local Adelaide band Sound Factory, who set the tone with their vibrant live music. Guests were also treated to a special surprise performance by Yorta Yorta rapper, Briggs, whose powerful presence and lyrics added an unforgettable highlight to the night.

The Awards recognise and honour the outstanding contributions of international Indigenous researchers and community organisations who are driving positive change through health research and knowledge translation. The gala provided a platform not only to acknowledge individual excellence, but also to celebrate the collective achievements and impact being made across Indigenous health research internationally.



Briggs performance at the Lowitja Gala Dinner

NAIDOC Week

This year's NAIDOC Week was a wonderful opportunity for our teams to connect with community and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and achievements.

Members of our team joined NAIDOC in the North, where we set up a stall alongside our colleagues from the Wardliparingga team. Diana, Michael, Tegan and Renae spent the day welcoming families, handing out bags and books and running an activity for children. Young people were invited to trace around their hand and write down what job they would like to do when they grow up, an exercise that sparked imagination and some inspiring conversations about the future.

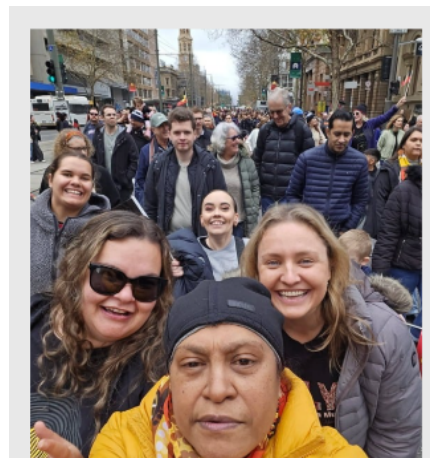
Our presence at NAIDOC in the North was a fantastic way to connect with community members of all ages and share more about the work being done at ACRA.

In addition, members of our team proudly joined the NAIDOC March in Adelaide, walking alongside thousands of others in solidarity and celebration. The march was a powerful reminder of the strength, pride and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and it was an honour for our staff to be part of this important event.

NAIDOC Week once again highlighted the importance of coming together, celebrating culture, and continuing to build strong connections with community.

Photo above: Di, Renae, Anneka Bowman, Imani and Tegan at the Adelaide March 2025

Photo below: The NAIDOC March Adelaide





**SAHMRI WOMEN
AND KIDS**

