



The South Australian
**Aboriginal Health
Research Accord
2026-2036**

Aboriginal Research the Right Way



The Accord Principles

Aboriginal Priorities

Research is based on priorities defined by Aboriginal people, communities and organisations.

Aboriginal Leadership and Involvement

Aboriginal people, communities and organisations govern and lead research. Aboriginal people are involved in all stages of the research process, including relationship building and engagement, conceptualisation, study design, implementation, interpretation, translation and evaluation.

Equitable Partnerships

Recognise and mitigate inherent power imbalances to achieve equitable partnerships and establish respectful relationships, mutual trust, and the ability to work competently across cultures.

Privileging Indigenous Knowledges

Respect and prioritise Indigenous knowledge, knowledge systems and the ownership and custodianship of that knowledge in research. Indigenous research methodologies are Indigenous led and non-Indigenous methods and methodological paradigms are sought to be decolonised.

Communication

Culturally and community relevant communication is open, appropriately positioned, and respectful across the research process, alongside ongoing, transparent, two-way communication that incorporates a willingness to engage, listen, and learn.

Reciprocal Benefit

Research is a fair exchange to prevent benefits disproportionately favouring researchers and institutions. Aboriginal people, communities and organisations gain tangible benefits from research, including for their contributions, time and data.

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)

Institutions and individuals respect and uphold the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities to maintain, control, protect and develop their knowledge systems and cultural expressions (cultural heritage) in Accordance with Article 31 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Institutions must not claim rights over Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to own, control, govern and make decisions about data relating to them, their communities, culture and Country. Be informed by the Aboriginal community and individuals, at the outset of the research, about what is required to enable Indigenous Data Sovereignty, including the institutions' role in data stewardship, and act to achieve this.

Knowledge Translation

Research findings are translated into processes, practices and policies that lead to positive, sustainable, structural change that benefits the Aboriginal community. Knowledge translation is considered throughout the research process and actively informed by community and end-users.

Invest in Aboriginal Researchers

Prioritise investment in developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research leaders and culturally safe strategies that grow and retain the workforce. Articulate the roles, responsibilities and ways of working of non-Indigenous people in Aboriginal research.

Morey, K., D'Antoine, M., Ataata, T., Charles, J., Clinch, N., Glover, K., Keech, W., Larkin, M., Mackean, T., Nikolof, A., Owen, K., Rogers, K., Sullivan, C., & Pearson, O. (2026). South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord 2026-2036. Adelaide: South Australia.