



WARDLIPARINGGA



Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity Research Theme is a partnership between South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) and the University of Adelaide, led by Professor Alex Brown.

Our vision is to create an equitable nation through research that improves the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Wardliparingga's fundamental objective is to create an equitable nation through research that improves the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Our research priorities are informed by community needs and aspirations, and target the leading causes of morbidity and mortality experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Our approaches involve understanding the biological, psychosocial and health system determinants of health and wellbeing, and how best to respond and achieve these.

Half of our team identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, enabling us to more completely understand the strengths of culture and the importance of context in building solutions to difficult challenges facing Indigenous communities.

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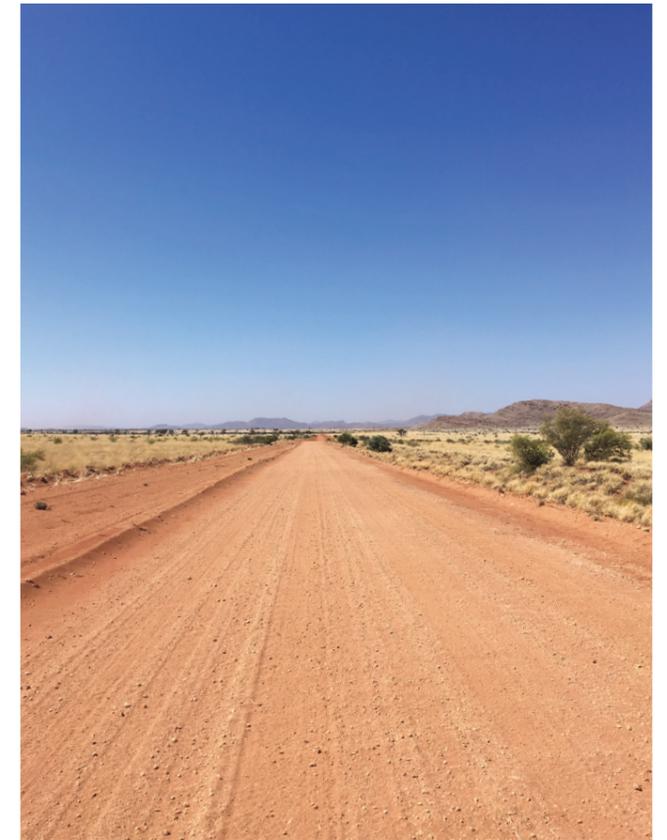
Community: the Heart of Our Work

Our Theme has an unwavering commitment to do research the right way with Aboriginal Communities. This means responding to needs that communities identify as priorities and making sure that all projects represent genuine collaborations with Aboriginal people, their community and representative organisations.

For the last 7 years we have undertaken extensive consultation with community, to identify priorities in research and to understand the way in which our research ought to be undertaken. This led to the development of the South Australian Aboriginal Health Research Accord and has enabled us to seek community guidance and partnership in all that we do, from developing methods and implementing research projects, to interpreting results and sharing findings.

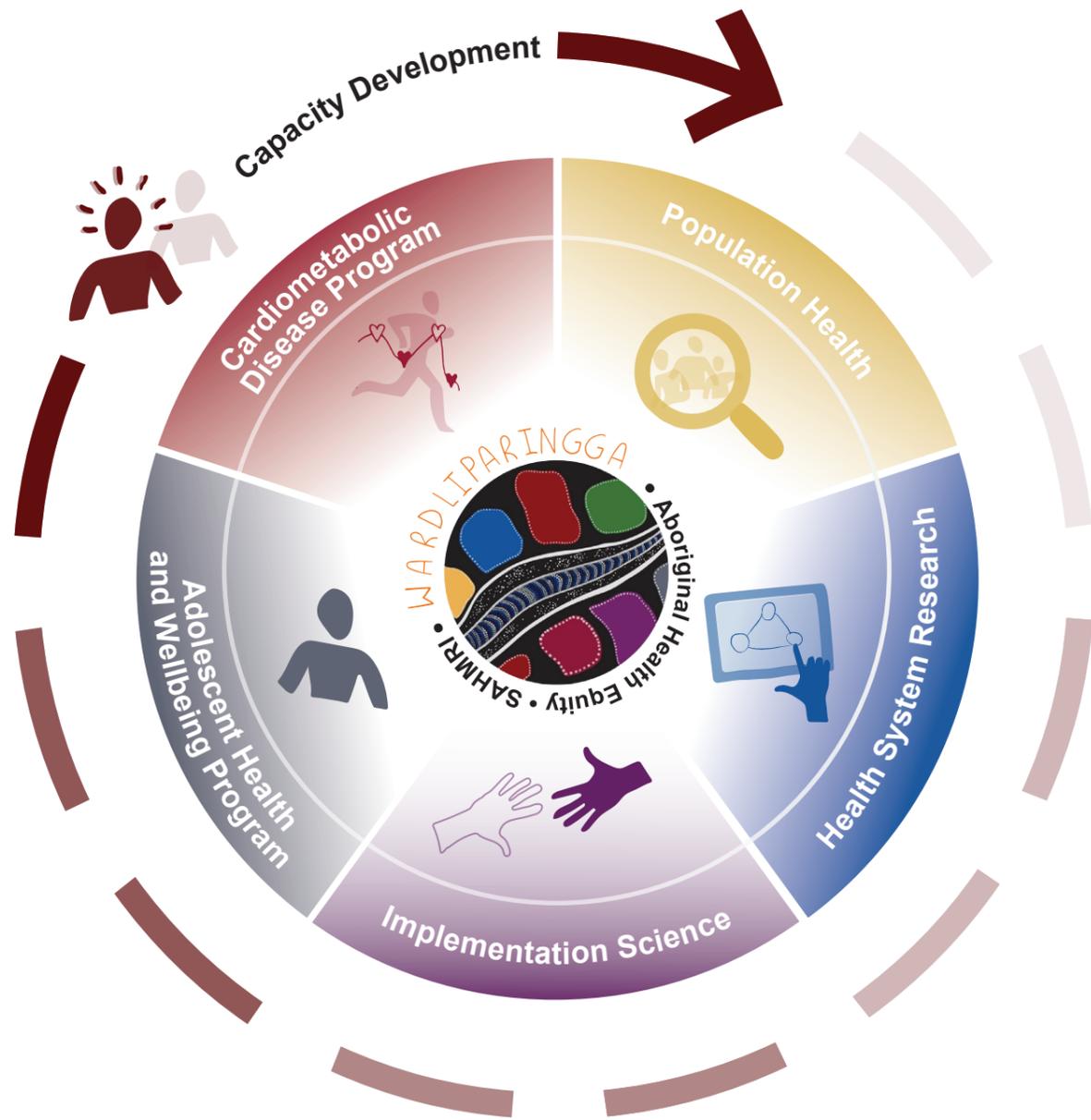
All of Wardliparingga's studies incorporate Aboriginal community leadership and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, researchers and clinicians to develop and strengthen their research skills.

In partnership with community, Wardliparingga has facilitated extensive policy development and sought new ways to overcome Aboriginal health inequalities, primarily in relation to CVD, diabetes and cancer services. Each of these policy development processes had Aboriginal people at the centre of the governance and priority setting process.



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Ways of Working

“Our research spans from the bench to the bedside and beyond...”

Our research spans from the bench to the bedside and beyond, into population health and public health policy. This includes translational research into the patterns and burden of disease, biological underpinnings of cardiometabolic risk in vulnerable populations, pharmacological and non-pharmacological trials, mixed method and qualitative health systems research, epidemiological surveillance, monitoring and evaluation, guideline development, systematic reviews and policy relevant research at all government levels.

Our research rests on the following core programs and platforms:

- Cardiometabolic Disease Program
- Population Health Platform
- Health Systems Research Platform
- Implementation Science Platform
- Capacity Development Platform;
- Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Program; and
- Sexual Health, Wellbeing and Drug Use Program



Program Lead
• Professor Alex Brown

Cardiometabolic Disease

Alex Brown is an Aboriginal medical doctor with an MPH and PhD and is a NHMRC Fellow. He has family connections to Nowra, Wreck Bay and Wallaga Lake on the far south coast of NSW and joined SAHMRI in 2012 to lead the Aboriginal Health Equity Theme. Alex’s internationally renowned research focuses on heart disease and diabetes in Aboriginal people and the impacts of psychosocial determinants on cardiovascular disease. His flagship cohort is examining the “multi-omic” underpinnings of diabetes in hope of applying insights to comprehensively understand, diagnose, predict, treat and prevent T2D and its complications among high-risk populations. Alex engages extensively with local and international governments and lead agencies on setting the agenda for cardiovascular disease management and chronic disease policy, to improve health equity for First Nations Populations.



Program Lead
• Dr Natasha Howard

Implementation Science

Natasha’s background spans the health and social sciences, utilising public health approaches to investigate how the places in which people live enable and promote cardiometabolic health and social and emotional well-being. She works in partnership with community, practitioners and policy makers, demonstrating expertise in project design, data collection, analysis and translation.



Program Lead
• Alisa Duff

Capacity Development

Alisa Duff is SAHMRI’s Reconciliation Action Plan officer; she previously undertook the RAP Officer role at the City of Darwin in Darwin, prior to moving to Adelaide earlier this year. Originally from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait, Alisa is of Wuthathi and Torres Strait Islander descent, and has experience working across the sectors of Government, Education and the Arts.

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Program Lead and Co-Theme Leader
• Dr Odette Pearson

Population Health

Odette is a Kuku Yalanji & Torres Strait Islander woman, and has worked in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health for 24 years. Odette combines her experience in remote area primary health care provision, health policy development and population health research to better understand the effect of institutional policies and practices on health equity. This includes a focus on supporting self-determination by providing Communities with data to help inform and monitor their health and wellbeing priorities and advocate for meaningful improvements.



Program Lead and Co-Theme Leader
• Ms Kim Morey

Health Systems Research

Kim is an Eastern Arrernte/ Anmatyerre woman, with family connections to Central Australia, and has over 25 years’ experience in Aboriginal health and community services. She has extensive knowledge of public sector systems, policy development, strategic advice, monitoring and has strong working relationships across Government, NGOs, and with Aboriginal Community and health leaders.



Program Lead
• A/Prof Peter Azzopardi

Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Program

Pete trained as a paediatrician and worked with Aboriginal communities across Victoria and the Northern Territory. Recognising that the needs of adolescents were largely overlooked, he undertook a PhD to better understand health needs to better inform effective actions. Pete also leads a research group at the Burnet Institute, where his work focuses on improving adolescent health in the Asia Pacific region.