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The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Indigenous Australians
Member for Hasluck**

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$2.6 million for new Indigenous Research Projects

A total of 14 new Indigenous-led research projects worth \$2.6 million will be funded under the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies' (AIATSIS) Indigenous Research Exchange grants program, The Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP announced today.

"The research grants will support a wide range of projects, and notably all will be led by Indigenous people, with half led by Indigenous organisations," Minister Wyatt said.

Projects supported by this round of funding include research into the strengthening of cultural law to improve resilience from natural disaster; improving sexual health education and support for mental health and suicide prevention measures; policy reforms in child welfare; and better mechanisms for how communities engage with government on complex social issues.

The Indigenous Research Exchange was established in 2018. Its key activities are a research grants program and a knowledge exchange platform.

"Many of the projects will use technology to help communities better access education and support services, or to help them with decision-making. Ultimately each project is about achieving a better quality of life for Indigenous communities," Mr Wyatt said.

AIATSIS Chief Executive Officer Craig Ritchie said there was a strong response to the call for applications in this round of funding. "There were some very impressive proposals received by the assessment panel.

"The majority had a strong focus on community wellbeing and health, and supporting Indigenous engagement with the systems that governments use to deliver services.

"Each proposal was considered on its merits, and each of the projects to receive the grants announced today will contribute to strengthening Indigenous communities from within as well as their bonds with their wider communities."

Each funding year, the Indigenous Research Exchange Advisory Board engages with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to establish research theme priorities. These priorities are used by an independent panel of experts to assess and prioritise project proposals for recommendation to AIATSIS. The priorities this year are:

- Valuing Indigenous knowledge and methods
- Cultural resurgence and resilience
- Indigenous governance and prosperity
- Rethinking engagement with governments
- Opportunities provided by technological change.

The projects awarded research grants under this round are:

Applicant	Project title Description	Location of project
The South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute	Insights into supporting the wellbeing of older Aboriginal people What constitutes wellbeing changes over time but remains intrinsic to quality of life. We will explore what sustains the wellbeing of older Aboriginal people experiencing grief, loss and the staff who care for them.	SA
University of Canberra	"Waka Ngurrkanhayngu: Regenerating the existence of life": Reducing the risk of natural and social disasters reviving and strengthening Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples working together two-way to facilitate the remote community Galiwin'ku reviving and strengthening their Yolŋu law, knowledge, culture and governance to heal from and reduce the risk of natural and social disasters.	ACT/NT
University of Melbourne	Stigma Stories Working with ILBIJERRI Theatre Company to co-design and evaluate a theatre-based model for sexual health education in Victoria. The project will generate knowledge around community-engaged, participatory approaches to sexual health education for First Nations communities.	VIC
Centre for Inclusive Design	Breaking the silence Research into a culturally appropriate, co-designed Artificial Intelligence translation tool for Aboriginal visual (sign) language to English. This will support first contact and communication between mainstream justice/health systems and community.	NSW
Taragara Aboriginal Corporation	Mura Maarni: Chasing Mob through the Archives Mura Maarni is an oral history and interdisciplinary multimedia research project that focuses on the Mura of the Corner Country now held in collecting institutions such as archives, galleries and museums.	NSW
Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia Ltd	Taking the next steps: Informing the transformation of the research sector to respond to Aboriginal research priorities and ways of conducting research Health research contributes to improved quality of life and longevity. We aim to inform sector development to achieve equitable outcomes	SA

	through Aboriginal- identified research priorities and principles that inform the conduct of research.	
University of New South Wales	Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience voices in mental health and suicide prevention This project will evaluate the experience of the first cohort of individuals recruited to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lived Experience Centre as they provide input into mental health and suicide prevention initiatives	NSW
UTS Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research	Setting the foundation for Aboriginal community-led child protection research This project will establish Aboriginal community-based frameworks, mechanisms and capabilities to drive child welfare policy reforms that align to Aboriginal values and aspirations, and build the localised evidence-base for Aboriginal child welfare systems and practice.	NSW
Institute for Collaborative Race Research	Still Here: Sovereignty and the Queensland Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector This project explores how the Queensland Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations support communities, exercise sovereignty, and negotiate with state agencies. ACCO partners will reflect on their struggles and achievements, and identify pathways to policy transformation.	QLD
Indigital Pty Ltd	Truth Telling Through Elder Holograms Can Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies such as mixed reality and machine learning reduce emotional, physical and cognitive impacts of educational truth-telling on our Elders?	ACT
Tangentyere Council Aboriginal Corporation	Local Decision-Making: Priority Setting in the Alice Springs Town Camps Utilising our unique Wellness Framework we review surveys and place-based data from Alice Springs Town Camps, identifying priorities, community-controlled approaches to complex issues, and strategy with the NT Government, improving decision-making resulting in social transformation.	NT
Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation	Gulumarri Ngaja: All come together The Juluwarlu Group Aboriginal Corporation seeks to capture, evaluate and report on 20 years of continuing innovative generative practices that have sustained Yindjibarndi Law, Knowledge, and Language and Cultural	WA
Karungkarni Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation	Gurindji Heritage Project/Keeping Place The Gurindji inspired 'Wave Hill Walk-off' was a defining moment for Indigenous recognition in Australia. This project celebrates this by framing a physical and digital heritage project/keeping place meeting traditional owners' aspirations.	NT
University of Technology Sydney	Indigenous Governing Authorities — Creating Jurisdictional Space for the Implementation of Indigenous Law This project explores 'statutory authorities' as a possible response to First Nations' need for pluralist governing structures through which they can exercise land jurisdiction, fulfil responsibilities to Country & manage relationships with settler-colonial governments.	NSW

[Read more about the exchange](#)

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