

CRE REACH Reflection

Professor Sandra Eades

Chief Investigator and Project Lead

The University of Melbourne



Our Chief Investigators



Our Associate Investigators, Senior Researchers and Trainees/Fellows



Associate Investigators

- Profe Emily Banks (the Australian National University)
- Dr Anna Williamson (the Sax Institute)
- Dr Jessica Stewart (NSW Department of Family and Community Services)
- Dr Cheri Hotu (Baker Institute)
- Prof Fiona Stanley (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Asso Prof Deborah Lehman (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Dr Ofra Leibovich-Kalter (Gertner Institute, Israel)
- Dr Kathleen Abu-Saad (Gertner Institute, Israel)

Senior Researchers

- Dr Patricia Cullen (The University of New South Wales)
- Ms Francine Eades (Western Australia Health, Curtin University, East Metropolitan Health Service WA)
- Dr Kalinda Griffiths (The University of New South Wales, Flinders University)
- Dr Lina Gubhaju (The University of Melbourne, NHMRC)
- Dr Kate Hunter (The George Institute of Global Health)
- Dr Jocelyn Jones (Curtin University)
- Dr Bridgette McNamara (The University of Melbourne, Barwon Health)
- Dr Robyn Williams (Curtin University)

Trainees/Fellows

- Dr Julieann Coombes Patricia Cullen (The George Institute of Global Health)
- Ben Harrap (The University of Melbourne)
- Abby-Rose Cox (Telethon Kids Institute)
- Tessa Cutler (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Karyn Ferguson (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Alison Gibberd (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Mark Hanly (The University of New South Wales)
- Maicee Harrison (Swinburne University of Technology)
- Dr Christina Heris (The Australian National University)
- Dr Ben Jones (The University of Oxford)
- Cat Lloyd-Johnsen (The University of Melbourne)
- Chris McKay (The University of Melbourne)
- Dr Bobby Porikali (The University of New South Wales)
- Asso Prof Courtney Ryder (Flinders University)
- Dr Hayley Williams (The University of Queensland)

The context



A youthful population



Evidence on when to intervene for lasting positive health outcomes is critical



Focus on modifiable and policy-sensitive determinants of adult health:

Health behaviour;

Nutrition and development in the early years of life;

Adolescent health and wellbeing; and

Child removals and Avoidable injury

Ensuring high-quality evidence

High-quality
research led by
Aboriginal
researchers

Growing the
Aboriginal
research
workforce capacity

Nurture future
generations of
Aboriginal
researchers



Vision and aims

“the **Centre for Research Excellence in Aboriginal Child and Adolescent Health** is to lead research that will demonstrate how best to improve Aboriginal child and adolescent health; providing the necessary evidence for timely regional and national policymaking.”

Realising the CRE vision through



- **Collaboration**
- **Engagement**
- **Traineeship/Mentorship**

Priority research areas



Aboriginal child removals

Nutrition and development of 0-5-year-old children

Adolescent and youth mental and physical health trajectories

Smoking uptake and Injury prevention



Research principles and methodologies



Involvement of
Aboriginal people and
communities

Development of a
comprehensive skill
base that covers all key
academic competencies

Incorporation of health
economics and
biostatistics across all
appropriate projects



Research activities – Theme 1

Systematic reviews of literature



Authors	Title	Publicatio	Volume	Number	Pages	Year
Lloyd-Johnsen, Catherine; Ead	A global perspective of Indigenous child health research: a systematic review of longitudinal studies	Internatio	50	5	1554-1568	2021
McKay, Christopher D; O’Bryan	Potential Determinants of Cardio-Metabolic Risk among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review	Internatio	19	15	9180	2022
Lloyd-Johnsen, Catherine; Ead	What's data got to do with it? A scoping review of data used as evidence in policies promoting the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the Northern Territory, Australia	Health Pro	34	2	443-471	2023
Thai, Thao TH; Engel, Lidia; Per	A systematic review of health state utility values and psychometric performance of generic preference-based instruments for children and adolescents with mental health problems	Quality of Life Research				Jan-22 2023
O’Bryan, Eamon; McKay, Christ	Cardiometabolic Risk Markers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Youths: A Systematic Review of Data Quality and Population Prevalence	Internatio	20	13	6228	2023

Research activities (*cont.*)

Theme 2: Observational studies to examine the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal women during childbearing years and pregnancy and infants, children, adolescents and young adults

- The Next Generation Youth Wellbeing Study Wave 1 (Wave 2 funded and in Planning stage for data collection March 2024)
- A cohort study of child health needs for children aged 0 to 5 years of age in Alice Springs (Feasibility completed led by MCRI)
- Understanding burn injury in Aboriginal children (complete led by UNSW)
- High blood pressure in Aboriginal youth – validation studies and treatment implications (in development for funding application)

Research activities (*cont.*)

Theme 3: Analysis of routinely collected data

- Defying the odds + ICARE (Indigenous Child Removals study)
- Geographical variation and predictors of smoking during pregnancy in Aboriginal women (led by Newcastle University)
- Developmental disability in Aboriginal children and access to early intervention and NDIS (funded and in development)

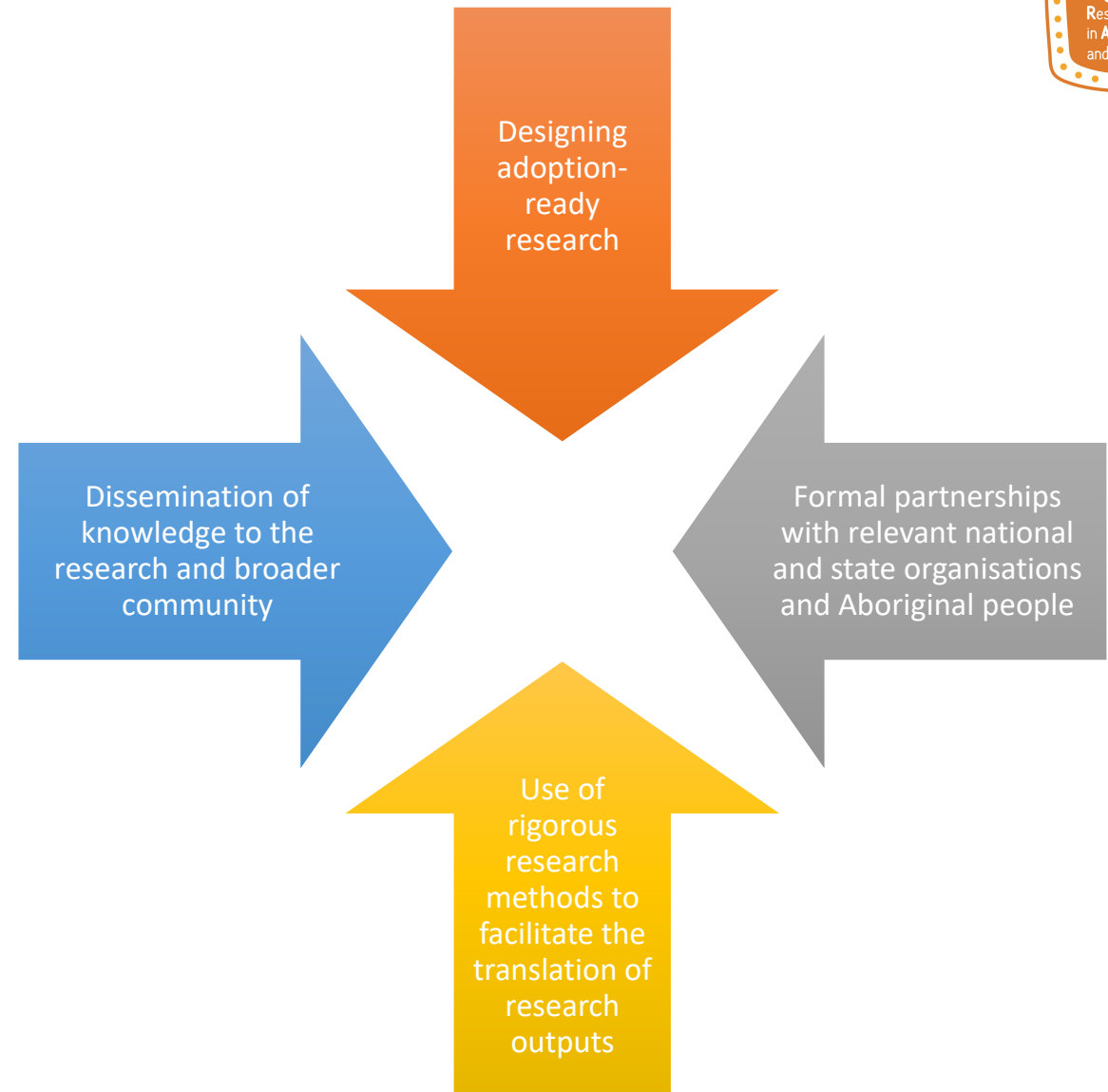
Research activities (*cont.*)

Theme 4: Interventions to improve health outcomes

- Youth mental health service navigation trial (begins recruitment October 2023)
- Increasing youth health checks and preventive care

13

Planned translational activities





Future leaders in making

Plan for increasing the number of Industry and Aboriginal research higher degree students

Supporting and mentoring postdoctoral fellows to become independently competitive and self-sustaining

Developing research capacity among the Aboriginal health workforce

Annual Training and Leadership Workshop

Additional strategies to support PhD students and Fellows

Online and face-to-face courses in nutritional epidemiology





Thank you

