



# WAAHEC

Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee

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Summaries of Approved Projects

**January – August 2022**

**Aboriginal Health Council of WA**, 450 Beaufort Street, HIGHGATE WA 6003  
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Project Title	HREC1013 - An evaluation of Royal Life Saving WA Talent Pool Program for Increasing Aboriginal Youth Employment
Chief Investigator	Meg Abercromby
Organisation	Royal Life Saving Society WA Inc.
Approval Date	02/May/2022
Project Narrative	The project aims to evaluate Royal Life Saving WA's Talent Pool youth training and employment program. The evaluation aims to measure effectiveness, explore social impacts, track participant experiences and assess community acceptability, with the aim of informing future program delivery and ultimately leading to improved employment outcomes.

Project Title	HREC1016 - Aboriginal Adolescents' Experiences of Racism Study (AAERS)
Chief Investigator	Bep Uink
Organisation	Murdoch University
Approval Date	31/January/2022
Project Narrative	The study explores the experiences and effects of racism among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents, as well as non-Indigenous adults' capacity to support these young people and to combat racism in the broader society. Findings will contribute to the development of anti-racist interventions in health care and education.

Project Title	HREC1045 - An Evaluation of the Royal Life Saving WA Remote Aboriginal Pool program; Cool Pools
Chief Investigator	Meg Abercromby
Organisation	Royal Life Saving Society WA Inc.
Approval Date	02/May/2022
Project Narrative	The project aims to understand the unique relationship between people living in remote Aboriginal communities and their local swimming pool. The research will explore the impact of pools in remote Aboriginal communities on health and wellbeing, social, education and justice outcomes.

Project Title	HREC1060 - The incidence and survival of primary liver cancer in Indigenous and non Indigenous Australians 2003-2017
Chief Investigator	Michael Wallace
Organisation	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Approval Date	17/March/2022

Project Narrative	
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Project Title	HREC1073 - Investigating Aboriginal community knowledge and awareness of stillbirth risks
Chief Investigator	Carrington Shepherd
Organisation	Curtin University
Approval Date	15/June/2021
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1104 - The PREVENT Project
Chief Investigator	Aime Powell
Organisation	University of Notre Dame Australia.
Approval Date	03/February/2022
Project Narrative	The PREVENT Project's aim is to work collaboratively with local stakeholders to deliver a new and portable cervical screening model that will be delivered by the Kimberley Obstetrics and Gynaecology team. It is hoped that this cervical screening model will be preferred and accepted by women, especially those who live in rural and remote locations.

Project Title	HREC1105 - WA Country Health Service Myringoplasty Audit
Chief Investigator	Jafri Kuthubutheen
Organisation	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Approval Date	17/March/2022
Project Narrative	The project aims to determine the success rate of one of the most common ear procedures performed in the Kimberley – myringoplasty. Myringoplasty is a surgical procedure that involves closing the hole in the ear drum. At present, the success rate of this common procedure, as well as factors that determine its success is not known.

Project Title	HREC1108 - Developing an evidence-based guideline for ear health and hearing checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under six years in primary health care settings
Chief Investigator	Samantha Harkus
Organisation	Macquarie University

Approval Date	17/March/2022
Project Narrative	Over their first two years of life, a child experiences their most important period of growth in listening and communication skills, however, this is also the period in which many Aboriginal children experience ear infection and muted hearing. These ear infections often have no obvious signs: regular checks by primary health practitioners are the only effective way of picking up a problem, but until now there has been no guidance on what effective checks are, and when these should be done. In this project, we are reviewing the evidence and consulting key experts in order to provide recommendations for primary health practitioners on routine ear health and hearing checks for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-5-years-old.

Project Title	HREC1127 - Coronavax: Preparing Community and Government for COVID-19 vaccination (Aboriginal)
Chief Investigator	Samantha Carlson
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	17/March/2022
Project Narrative	Aboriginal people in WA have a lower COVID-19 jab uptake compared to non-Aboriginal people. Our project aims to understand the attitudes and concerns that Aboriginal people in Perth might have towards the COVID-19 jab. We will pass these concerns onto the WA Department of Health and come up with better ways for the government to talk about the COVID-19 jab with the Aboriginal population.

Project Title	HREC1129 - The Staphylococcus aureus Network Adaptive Platform trial (SNAP)
Chief Investigator	Steven Tong
Organisation	Melbourne University
Approval Date	03/February/2022
Project Narrative	<p>The Staphylococcus aureus Network Adaptive Platform (SNAP) is a clinical trial taking place across Australia (and 5 other countries) and will be the largest RCT for patients with Staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections to date. It will also be the first of its kind to include both adults and children in a study of this nature.</p> <p>SNAP aims to improve the treatment outcomes of those diagnosed with Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus) bloodstream infections. In Australia, it is estimated that approximately 5,000 infections occur per year. The rates of S. aureus have been found to be 6x higher for Aboriginal Australians compared to non-Aboriginal Australians. It is anticipated that this trial will improve treatment of S. aureus infections – meaning patients spend less time in hospital and have better health outcomes.</p>

Project Title	HREC1130 - Blow, Breathe, Cough (BBC): A telehealth-facilitated randomised-controlled trial utilising a health promotion intervention to resolve otitis media with effusion for children on specialist Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) waiting lists.
Chief Investigator	Christopher Brennan-Jones
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	17/March/2022
Project Narrative	Middle ear infections, also known as 'glue ear' or otitis media, are a big problem for Australian children. A lot of children need to visit doctors at Perth Children's Hospital to treat their glue ear. However, the number of cases is so high that the waitlist is very long to be seen. For some children, glue ear may be able to heal naturally, and this sometimes occurs while they are on the waitlist for surgical treatment. Some simple, low-cost, family-led health promotion programs have been developed to encourage this. The researchers will investigate how successful these health promotion programs are in helping to heal glue ear naturally. The outcomes from this study could help reduce the number of children requiring surgery and the waiting time for treatment.

Project Title	HREC1132 - Preliminary validation of the Child Development Service Caregiver Self-Efficacy Outcome Tool
Chief Investigator	Deborah Flynn
Organisation	CAHS - Community Health
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	The Child Development Service, part of the Child and Adolescent Health Service, has worked with consumers to develop a survey to measure parent/carer belief in their ability to support their child's developmental needs. This research will test and validate the survey with 250 parents/carers. In the future, the survey will be used to show where the service is helping parents/carers feel more confident to support their child's development and will also identify where the service needs to improve.

Project Title	HREC1135 - Evaluation of the Pathway to Employment for Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women
Chief Investigator	Shona Hyde
Organisation	Department of Justice
Approval Date	22/December/2021
Project Narrative	The Pathway to Employment for Boronia Pre-release Centre for Women is a pilot program that supports and provides pathways to employment for Aboriginal women prisoners. This evaluation will assess whether the pilot has improved participants' social and emotional wellbeing; educational and employment; and rehabilitation and reintegration outcomes.

Project Title	HREC1136 - Closing the Gap for Aboriginal Head and Neck Cancer Outcomes
Chief Investigator	Andrew Redfern
Organisation	Fiona Stanley Hospital Cancer Centre
Approval Date	03/February/2022
Project Narrative	<p>The widest gap in cancer survival for Aboriginal people is seen in head and neck cancer where 25% more Aboriginal people who get the disease die from it compared to non-Aboriginal people. It is known that the remoteness of residence for many Aboriginal people, larger distances to travel for treatment and reduced amount of treatment offered only explains some of this gap.</p> <p>This project looks to explain the rest of this gap, by looking at possible differences in the types of head and neck cancer diagnosed, finding out what has caused the cancers and how well treatments work in Aboriginal people compared to non-Aboriginal people. With the knowledge discovered we hope to improve the survival of Aboriginal people with head and neck cancer.</p>

Project Title	HREC1137 - Changing the paradigm to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care
Chief Investigator	Bradley Farrant
Organisation	Perth Children's Hospital
Approval Date	03/February/2022
Project Narrative	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are significantly overrepresented in the out of home care sector. This project will work with children in the care of three foster care agencies to develop individualized cultural plans for children and provide cultural awareness training to foster care agency staff and carers. The process will be evaluated using a comprehensive evaluation framework to determine what works, what doesn't work and why.</p>

Project Title	HREC1138 - Characterising the epidemiology of RSV and other respiratory infections through record linkage: clinical burden, outcomes, risk factors and impacts of interventions
Chief Investigator	Hannah Moore
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This project is about understanding the health impacts of respiratory viruses, like respiratory syncytial virus, in the total population of children in Western Australia. It will provide information needed to help develop prevention programs, like immunisations.</p>

Project Title	HREC1139 - The Australian Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) National Data (ATBIND) Project: Parts 3 and 4: Establishing the incidence, determinants and predictors of outcomes (Part 3) plus the quality indicators (Part 4) for moderate to severe TBI, including among Indige
Chief Investigator	Gerard O'Reilly
Organisation	Monash University
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major cause of death and long-term disability, but there is a lack of nationwide data in Australia about the incidence of TBI, and factors that predict good or bad outcomes for patients. The purpose of this research is to investigate the incidence of moderate to severe TBI in Australia, identify factors that predict patient outcomes, and develop a set of quality indicators for TBI care, including among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. That is, for the acute care and outcomes of TBI, what do Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people consider as "quality"? The information gained from this study can be used to improve the quality of TBI care around Australia, and improve the experiences and outcomes of TBI patients.

Project Title	HREC1140 - New insights for reducing Aboriginal stillbirth: Community-led, integrated evidence for change (Phase 2a)
Chief Investigator	Carrington Shepherd
Organisation	Curtin University
Approval Date	17/March/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1141 - Mullewa Empowering Aboriginal Voices: Building the Health and Wellbeing of Mullewa Community
Chief Investigator	Charmaine Green
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	The Mullewa Empowering Aboriginal Voices is a qualitative research project with a core aim of building the health and well-being of the Mullewa Community through yarning and narrative inquiry approach. The project aims to identify and address Mullewa community needs with a focus on relationships, sense of belonging and leadership empowerment.

Project Title	HREC1142 - Improving aftercare for young people who present to the emergency department for self-harm and suicide crisis.
Chief Investigator	Ashleigh Lin
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This project seeks to improve engagement in aftercare services among children and young people (aged 10-17) who present to the emergency department (ED) for deliberate self-harm (DSH). We are aiming to co-design a culturally appropriate version of brief collaborative psychological intervention called Therapeutic Assessment (TA) for Aboriginal young people. In later phases, we will implement the TA and determine it's effectiveness. We will identify the modifiable contextual factors (e.g., availability and access to community services) that influence the effectiveness of the TA intervention across different populations and clinical settings (e.g., metropolitan and regional).</p> <p>The development of a specialized and evidence-based, brief intervention that supports positive outcomes for young people across multiple clinical and cultural contexts would be a significant step forward in the management and prevention of DSH and suicide in young Australians.</p>

Project Title	HREC1143 - Expanded HTLV-1 surveillance in Australia
Chief Investigator	John Kaldor
Organisation	UNSW
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1144 - Development and evaluation of a culturally appropriate media training for responsible reporting of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and suicide
Chief Investigator	Pat Dudgeon
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This project aims to understand and address the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to effectively engage with media representatives in a culturally safe way, when talking about mental health and suicide issues. This research project will inform the design and development of culturally safe media reporting guidelines and a training program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples when talking about these issues.</p>



Project Title	HREC1146 - Exploring the experiences of the consent process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people having cardiac surgery and participating in medical research.
Chief Investigator	Julieann Coombes
Organisation	The George Institute for Global Health
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	This study will assist in better understanding informed consent experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people undergoing heart surgery and participating in research. It will inform the development of strategies to ensure that informed consent processes are culturally safe and assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in making informed decisions about their health. This study will also provide greater context to better understanding the costs associated with undergoing heart surgery among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Project Title	HREC1147 - A roadmap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescent health: Defining priority health needs and actions through the empowerment & capacity development of young people
Chief Investigator	Peter Azzopardi
Organisation	SAHMRI
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1148 - A cross-sectional observational study on the causes of otitis media in Western Australia: OMinWA
Chief Investigator	Lea-Ann Kirkham
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	This project is collecting biological samples to determine which bacteria are causing ear infections (otitis media) in Western Australian (WA) Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children. Otitis media is the most common childhood illness, responsible for the greatest number of GP visits, antibiotic prescriptions, hearing loss and grommet surgeries, and for which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are disproportionately impacted. By knowing what causes otitis media in WA we will be better informed on how to treat, and even prevent, otitis media so all children are able to listen and learn.

Project Title	HREC1149 - Indigenous engagement and leadership in the evaluation of Indigenous health and wellbeing programs: Taking steps to improve government and non-government commissioning practices.
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Chief Investigator	Summer Finlay
Organisation	University of Wollongong
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1150 - Substance use in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women of reproductive age
Chief Investigator	Jocelyn Jones
Organisation	Curtin University
Approval Date	28/April/2022
Project Narrative	Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use in pregnancy are one of the leading preventable causes of adverse perinatal outcomes, as well as a range of harms across the child's lifespan ranging from neurodevelopmental impairment, poor mental health, and a greater risk of substance use and suicide. While the underlying determinants of substance use in pregnancy are complex, as a key modifiable risk factor, it presents an important opportunity to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander maternal and infant health outcomes. Therefore, there is a strong need to consult with Aboriginal women, as well as consumers and key stakeholders, to gain a deeper understanding of women's experiences seeking support for their substance use and how they may be better supported during pregnancy.

Project Title	HREC1151 - Co-designing an alternative to the emergency department for youth at risk of suicide in the Peel region: The Youth Safe Haven Café Project
Chief Investigator	Ashleigh Lin
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	The aim of this project is to work with the Peel community to co-design a Youth Safe Haven Café that could be located at the Peel Health Hub. The Youth Safe Haven Café would provide a safe, alternative option to the emergency department for young people in the Peel region who are experiencing suicidal behaviour (including thoughts and ideation). This project will also provide information on the experiences and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people when they are having a mental health crisis.

Project Title	HREC1153 - Co-creating new music to support language, culture and wellbeing using trauma-informed methods through the Sound FX music residencies at Baya Gaway Buga yani Jandu yani u
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Chief Investigator	Gillian Howell
Organisation	University of Melbourne
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	This participatory action research involves early childhood educators at Baya Gaway Buga yani Jandu yani u, Fitzroy Crossing, working alongside musicians from Tura New Music to co-create songs in local heritage languages for use in early childhood education and care. Language is a cultural determinant of health, and the incorporation of heritage languages into early childhood education and care supports the health and wellbeing of children, families, and local educators, creating a positive, culturally nourishing learning environment for all. The project will support community knowledge of and engagement with heritage languages; develop educators' confidence to lead music activities in heritage languages, investigate and refine the musical co-creation process, and improve our systems for community access to arts-based language resources.

Project Title	HREC1154 - Pregnant women and new mothers accessing culturally safe health care and support through #SWAMSmob, mobile phone application
Chief Investigator	Loretta Musgrave
Organisation	University of Technology Sydney
Approval Date	02/May/2022
Project Narrative	This project will design and deliver a mobile phone app that will provide contemporaneous evidence-based information on pregnancy, birth and the early parenting period. Information provided within the app platform will provide details on how and when pregnant women should contact their care provider. Who they should contact and how to contact them. The development of the app seeks to enhance access to evidence-based care and engagement in health care. This project provides an opportunity to evaluate the acceptability, functionality, and engagement with mobile health apps for Aboriginal women. Through the use and evaluation of #SWAMSmob, it is possible to tailor evidence-based education to specific community groups and the findings will inform a larger study.

Project Title	HREC1155 - A study of renal transplant survival among indigenous Australians in New England local health district compared to a national cohort of indigenous renal transplant recipients
Chief Investigator	Nuha Ibrahim
Organisation	Tamworth hospital
Approval Date	02/May/2022

Project Narrative	
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Project Title	HREC1156 - Climate change and the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia
Chief Investigator	Naomi Godden
Organisation	Edith Cowan University
Approval Date	13/June/2022
Project Narrative	This project aims to understand how climate change affects the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in Western Australia. The data will support Aboriginal community leaders, academics, practitioners and young people to co-design an inclusive, robust framework to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people as they confront the realities of climate change. This framework will support WA mental health and youth organisations and policy makers to enhance policies, programs, and service delivery, and empower organisations to respond more appropriately to the mental health and wellbeing impacts of climate change on children and young people.

Project Title	HREC1157 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS) 2022–23
Chief Investigator	Juanita Pettit
Organisation	Indigenous and Social Information Branch, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
Approval Date	19/May/2022
Project Narrative	The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Measures Survey (NATSIHMS) will collect blood and urine samples from approximately 4,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants aged 5 years and over across Australia to test for nutrient levels and markers of chronic conditions. A nationally representative dataset will be created, to analyse rates and whether they have changed since the last NATSIHMS in 2012-13. This new information will be used to assess health risks for population groups and provide a platform for further research into health patterns and will be achieved by combining the results of biomedical tests with self-reported survey-based results from other ABS survey data. NATSIHMS can contribute to improving health policy and can provide the community with vital information for measuring the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Project Title	HREC1158 - Understanding the mechanisms of change in the Cultural, Social, and Emotional Wellbeing Program and Kimberley Empowerment Healing and Leadership Program
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Chief Investigator	Pat Dudgeon
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	To understand the mechanisms of change of the Cultural, Social and Emotional Wellbeing (CSEWB) Program and the Kimberley Empowerment, Healing and Leadership Program (KEHLP). This understanding will inform the development of an adapted CSEWB Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The development of an adapted CSEWB Program for young people will contribute to improving the cultural, social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, to strengthen self-determination and resilience, and address the high suicide rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. In the longer term, an improved social and emotional wellbeing will increase resilience in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples and protect against suicidal thoughts and behaviours.

Project Title	HREC1160 - Voice of the 'Other': A Creative Response to Nyoongar Oral Histories for Aboriginal People - A Doctoral Thesis
Chief Investigator	Elizabeth Hayden
Organisation	Curtin University
Approval Date	02/May/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1161 - Linking for Life: Understanding and reducing mental health, suicide and self-harm in children and young people in Western Australia
Chief Investigator	David Preen
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	This project will use existing data to investigate mental health, suicide and self-harm in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people in Western Australia (WA). The outcomes of this project will contribute to the understanding of mental health in children and young people, their wellbeing and how it is impacted by various modifiable risk factors. These findings will help inform agencies, service providers, and communities in creating pathways to improve and support the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Project Title	HREC1162 - Monitoring and Evaluation of the Perth Central Business District Accommodation for Rough Sleepers Project (Boorloo Bidee Mia)
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Chief Investigator	Tom Alves
Organisation	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)
Approval Date	19/May/2022
Project Narrative	This project is an evaluation of Boorloo Bidee Mia, which provides supported accommodation in the Perth CBD to people who have experienced long term homelessness. Boorloo Bidee Mia is being delivered through a partnership between WA Department of Communities, Wungening Aboriginal Corporation and Noongar Mia Mia. Boorloo Biddee Mia has been designed specifically to provide culturally safe accommodation and support to Aboriginal people who have been homeless. This evaluation uses a mixed methods approach to evaluate the outcomes and impacts of Boorloo Bidee Mia and inform the ongoing improvement and delivery of the service.

Project Title	HREC1163 - Evaluation of Noongar Mia Mia Tenancy Support Services
Chief Investigator	Lisa Wood
Organisation	University of Notre Dame
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	This evaluation project is evaluating the Boola Moort Cultural Tenancy Support program that is run by Noongar Mia Mia (Perth's only Aboriginal-led Community Housing provider). Boola Moort Tenancy support is provided to tenants who may require additional support to maintain their home and tenancy, differing from mainstream tenancy support as the program provides Noongar tenants with support from Noongar workers in Noongar ways. The focus of the program is dignity, respect and choice. As the first program of its kind the research will document learnings from the program and how it differs from traditional models.

Project Title	HREC1164 - Co-designing a sanctuary model for young people experiencing suicidal behaviour in Perth: The Youth Sanctuary Model
Chief Investigator	Ashleigh Lin
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	The aim of this project is to work with the community to co-design a Youth Sanctuary for young people (16-24 years) experiencing suicidal ideation. The Youth Sanctuary will provide a short-term residential stay for young people in Western Australia who are experiencing suicidal ideation. The residential stay, which we refer to as the Youth Sanctuary, is based on Maytree ( <a href="https://www.maytree.org.uk">https://www.maytree.org.uk</a> ), which is a short-term sanctuary house for adults in the UK. This is an opportunity to explore how this service model could work among young people in Perth, WA.

Project Title	HREC1165 - Previous hospital attendances for alcohol- related liver disease patient who die in hospital
Chief Investigator	Chloe Attree
Organisation	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Approval Date	19/May/2022
Project Narrative	Recent studies have demonstrated that Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander people with liver disease have had potential missed opportunities for earlier intervention and follow up to optimise health outcomes. This study aims to identify whether patients with alcohol related liver disease engaged with tertiary health services early or late in their disease process. This will establish whether there are opportunities for earlier intervention and possible improvement in patient outcomes including Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander people.

Project Title	HREC1166 - Western Australian Child Development Atlas
Chief Investigator	Rebecca Glauert
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	The Child Development Atlas (CDA) is an online interactive tool that geographically maps data relevant to the health and wellbeing of children and young people aged 0-24 years in Western Australia. The CDA facilitates efforts to address social disadvantage by providing the information to support the development of evidence-based policies. It is a critical tool for all the services that acknowledge the different needs of WA communities.

Project Title	HREC1167 - Journey Ways Prison Project
Chief Investigator	Craig Cumming
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	Aboriginal prisoners have unique needs which are not addressed in conventional rehabilitation programs in the criminal justice system. Without addressing those needs, they will remain in no-man's land, abiding neither by Aboriginal values nor respecting non-Aboriginal values. Beginning 2017, a team of Noongar Elders, Respected Persons and prisoners and a scholar-practitioner of restorative justice designed and delivered an Aboriginal restorative rehabilitation program, known as Journey Ways. The one-day-per-week for 10 weeks program uses a

	<p>range of cultural knowledges supplemented by Aboriginal health and human service work. Journey Ways seeks to (re)connect prisoners to culture and helps them to know their history, attend the damage of their offending, heal selves and initiate mending of relationships with Country, family and community.</p> <p>The Journey Ways Prison Project aims to examine the effectiveness of the Aboriginal restorative rehabilitation program to motivate Aboriginal prisoners to make culturally relevant changes to their lives. The study will investigate how the program fosters the development in awareness of the importance of recovering and upholding Aboriginal values. It will explore how Journey Ways improves awareness/understanding of the role historical racist policies have played in intergenerational trauma and prevailing imprisonment, and the effects of prisoners' own offending. It will evaluate how the program cultivates a mindset for making things right, repairing and building culturally significant relationships and improving wellbeing.</p> <p>More broadly, the Journey Ways Prison Project aims to contribute knowledge to the criminal justice system, Aboriginal stakeholders, and the WA community about what works in crime reduction and rehabilitation for Aboriginal offenders. The research will provide an understanding of how culturally relevant programming can open avenues for privileging Aboriginal voices in guiding restorative rehabilitation within the criminal justice system. The Project seeks to assist in reducing the high rates of Aboriginal incarceration and bringing about social repair and support.</p>
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Project Title	HREC1168 - Exploring the experiences of Aboriginal women accessing supports upon release from prison
Chief Investigator	David Keatley
Organisation	Murdoch University
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This research aims to explore the experiences of Aboriginal women released from Perth metropolitan prisons into the community. The primary focus will be on their experiences and perspectives of accessing postrelease support, and their views on current support services and how they may be improved to better facilitate reintegration. This research focuses on the social context in which Aboriginal women experienced support post-release as well as perspectives from the community and support services (e.g., caseworkers and informal support networks). This research will highlight the services supporting Aboriginal women and their experiences to better understand the critical links of high Aboriginal over-representation in our prison system, and the detrimental impact it has on their social and emotional well-being postrelease. There is a specific need for more detailed, qualitative data to determine the key factors and lived experiences of Aboriginal women, so we may better inform and understand the postrelease process. This research will make a further important contribution to current literature/system gaps, particularly in a Western Australian context.</p>



Project Title	HREC1169 - The role of family-based attitude and belief systems in COVID-19 vaccination decisions among First Nation's People in Australia
Chief Investigator	Chantelle Blanco
Organisation	Edith Cowan University
Approval Date	07/July/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This project examines the role of family-based experiences and relationships in COVID-19 vaccination decisions among First Nations families. It uses a family resilience model to explore the strengths of First Nation's family composition when responding to a pandemic.</p> <p><b>**Emerging findings indicate that mandatory orders were experienced as a repeat of historical cultural repression however they demonstrated resilience in coping with overwhelming changes to family function during the pandemic.**</b></p> <p>Findings from this study will contribute to how Indigenous Communities and families can be better supported during health-related crisis, and specifically what the experiences of First Nations families during the Covid-19 pandemic can tell us about Health and Community planning in respect to future COVID-support measures.</p>

Project Title	HREC1171 - Healing Country: weaving knowledge systems to meet climate challenges
Chief Investigator	Brad Farrant
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	<p>Aboriginal people have close relationships to Country, passing on knowledge about changes that have happened over thousands and thousands of years. Traditional Knowledge is about living in balance with Country - it is why Aboriginal culture is the longest surviving on Earth. This is a community research project that will bring together knowledge to meet climate change challenges.</p>

Project Title	HREC1172 - Mingoke: "Making better"
Chief Investigator	Abby-Rose Cox
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1173 - Validation of the Violence Risk Scale for Australian Prison Populations
Chief Investigator	Emma Ziersch
Organisation	South Australia Department for Correctional Services (DCS)
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	This study will investigate whether the Violence Risk Scale (VRS) is suitable for assessing risk of violent reoffending amongst First Nations peoples. The findings will help to establish whether correctional agencies are adequately measuring risk and considering appropriate rehabilitation and management strategies for Aboriginal persons. This will ensure that we are not engaging in risk assessment practices that further marginalise and discriminate against Aboriginal people in our corrective systems.

Project Title	HREC1175 - Developmental disability in the family: Sibling outcomes in Western Australia, a data linkage study
Chief Investigator	Emma Glasson
Organisation	Telethon Kids Institute
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	This research will find out if siblings of children with developmental disabilities have poorer health and wellbeing compared to siblings from families where there is no disability. The findings will help us understand why some siblings may have better health than others, to recommend ways to improve sibling health and suggest additional types of support where possible.

Project Title	HREC1176 - Bridging the Divide: Investigating the Impact of a Dedicated Statewide Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Multidisciplinary Cancer Service
Chief Investigator	Andrew Redfern
Organisation	Fiona Stanley Hospital
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	Many recent discoveries have been made in WA explaining why Aboriginal women diagnosed with breast cancer have lower survival. These include getting more aggressive breast cancer types, having less intensive and shorter treatment, suffering more drug side effects and having poorer nutrition. This project will monitor a central team of breast cancer experts, including Aboriginal health workers and medical and nursing specialists in breast cancer. This team will be creating a plan using this new knowledge to best treat every Aboriginal woman diagnosed with breast cancer to improve treatment, lessen side effects and improve survival. By collecting information at diagnosis and following

	up later in treatment, then comparing to past results, we are looking to see if this new state-wide team approach leads to better outcomes.
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Project Title	HREC1177 - Ethical Statutory Systems Change Project [working title]
Chief Investigator	Michael Wright
Organisation	Curtin University
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	Two state government agencies; the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist of Western Australia and the Mental Health Advocacy Service, are responsible for ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's human and cultural rights are upheld when they are accessing mental health care and treatment in hospital or in the community. The Ethical Statutory Systems Change Project brings Aboriginal Elders and young people together with staff from the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist and the Mental Health Advocacy Service to co-design more culturally safe ways to respond to the needs and priorities of Aboriginal people, families and communities. The project aim is to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people by building non-Aboriginal service leaders and staff members' understanding of Aboriginal cultural ways of doing things and their ability to work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people.

Project Title	HREC1178 - Linking for Life: pathways of young people born between 1990 and 2015 in contact with multiple government agencies in Western Australia
Chief Investigator	David Preen
Organisation	UWA
Approval Date	29/June/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1180 - The OVARIAN Study.
Chief Investigator	Penelope Webb
Organisation	QIMR Berghofer Medical Research In
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	

Project Title	HREC1183 - A Western Australian cancer registry-based study investigating impacts of Indigenous Status, location, gender, and socio-economic factors on bladder cancer outcomes
Chief Investigator	Mohammed Al-Zubaidi
Organisation	Fiona Stanley Hospital
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	This study will identify the impacts of Indigenous Status, location, gender, and socio-economic factors on bladder cancer outcomes. Therefore, it will improve the bladder cancer survival.

Project Title	HREC1184 - National It's Your Right Health Promotion Campaign Evaluation
Chief Investigator	Margaret Hellard
Organisation	Monash University
Approval Date	15/August/2022
Project Narrative	<p>This project will evaluate the development, outcomes and experience of the It's Your Right campaign, a national health promotion campaign designed to address barriers to accessing hepatitis C testing and treatment for people who inject drugs (PWID).</p> <p>In Australia, an estimated 120,000 people live with hepatitis C. Treatment has advanced in recent years, and hepatitis C is now able to be cured with tablets and few side effects in 8-12 weeks. Despite the availability of new treatments, many barriers to testing and treatment still exist for people from at-risk populations, including PWID and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p> <p>It's Your Right combines a national social marketing campaign with health promotion activities run by peer-based organisations in local areas, to promote the availability of new treatments, and increase access to testing and treatment. This evaluation will determine the outcomes of this approach, and will inform future campaigns aimed at increasing hepatitis C testing and treatment uptake among PWID and other communities at risk of hepatitis C.</p>