

Institute for Urban Indigenous Health

Knowledge and Research Governance Framework

V1.1

2026



iuih.org.au

Contents

Contents	2
Law of Obligation	3
Section 1: Context	4
About Us	4
The IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre	4
Governing policy	4
Application and scope	4
Section 2: The Ways Statement and Cultural Integrity Investment Framework.....	5
Section 3: Core principles and obligations	6
Research conduct	7
Research Governance	7
Legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements	7
Intellectual Property and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property	8
Research grants and funding	8
Collaborations and Partnerships	8
Research Data	8
Dissemination of Research	9
Supervision, training and Education	9
Research Integrity	9
Concerns about research conduct	9
Section 4: Monitoring, review, and assurance.....	10
Section 5: Glossary.....	11

Law of Obligation

We honour the many Goori Tribal Nations in whose territories we live and work.

We honour the legacy and the vision of those who paved the way and those who continue to guide us.

We honour our future generations by maintaining the vision with focused determination.

Section 1: Context

About Us

The Institute for Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) is a regional, not-for-profit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) established in 2009 by its founding ACCHOs operating in South East Queensland. Today, the IUIH network includes IUIH and our three Network Partner organisations; and two additional IUIH-run services:

Network Partners

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (ATSICHS) Brisbane Limited
- Kalwun Development Corporation Limited (Kalwun Health Service)
- Yulu-Burri-Ba Aboriginal Corporation for Community Health (YBB)

IUIH run Services

- Moreton Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service (Moreton ATSICHS)
- Pamela Mam Health Centre

The IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre

Our Vision

Our Wisdom, through Our Voice, with Our Community.

The IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre oversees all research on behalf of the IUIH Network. It is the site of knowledge stewardship for Southeast Queensland where we honour and uplift the voices and wisdom of Our People and are accountable to Our Community. It is governed by the IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Governance Committee.

Governing policy

This Knowledge and Research Governance Framework (Framework) is subject to the IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Policy Statement.

Application and scope

This Framework applies to everyone who conducts, supports, or administrates research for, at, or on behalf of the IUIH Network. This includes employees, contractors, students, trainees, volunteers, and collaborators.

This Framework applies to all stages of the research lifecycle, including planning, design, approval, conduct, data management and analysis, reporting, evaluation, and dissemination.

Where IUIH specific policies and procedures are referenced, employees of Network Partner organisations are to follow the relevant policies and procedures of their employing organisation.

Section 2: The Ways Statement and Cultural Integrity Investment Framework

The Ways Statement and Cultural Integrity Investment Framework guide our approach to the responsible conduct of research. We embed the following knowledges in all aspects of research:

- **Ways of Seeing:** Grounds us in reflectively instilling a very deep sense of our collective obligations to the stewardship of research as a tool for the freedom and liberation of Our people.
- **Ways of Knowing:** We understand that research, as an academic institutional practice, has long been shaped by colonised systems that sought to control and silence us, producing the very outcomes we seek to change. This means we stay alert to the ways that knowledge is never neutral.
- **Ways of Doing:** Doing research in Propa ways means more than ethical or regulatory compliance. We bring a conscious, decolonising lens to how we research, challenging dominant paradigms, translating knowledge through our own terms of reference, and refusing to replicate the harms of conventional research practices. It's about integrity, reciprocity, relationally and responsibly, aligning our actions with Aboriginal Ways and celebrating the autonomy of our community and people. We work as stewards, not extractors of knowledge and honour our obligations as owners and runners of Country, to each other, and to future generations.
- **Ways of Being:** We are coming together as stewards of knowledge, to decolonise and disrupt dominant research systems. We assert our rightful ownership and leadership over research that affects our communities.
- **Ways of Belonging:** Knowledge is not something we individually own, it is a collective responsibility, entrusted to us as stewards, shaped through time, cared for by those who came before us, and grounded in deep connection to Country. We uphold our obligations to protect and nurture this knowledge with integrity and respect. We research in ways that celebrate who we are together, centring collective strength over individual gain. In doing so, we create relational environments of care and support, where everyone is looked after, and where the wellbeing of mob is prioritised.

Section 3: Core principles and obligations

1. The following principles are Wayonised from the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (the Code for Responsible Research) to reflect The Ways Statement. They apply to all research activities across the UIIH Network:
 - a. **Accountability** – We develop, conduct, and report research responsibly, in line with our cultural obligations, relevant legislation and policies, and through wise stewardship of cultural knowledges and public resources. We respect the autonomy of UIIH Network members whilst also ensuring collective effort to respond to community priorities.
 - b. **Honesty** – We present information truthfully and accurately when developing, undertaking, and reporting research activities. In our context, this means being transparent, accurate, and accountable in how we produce, interpret and share information, ensuring that nothing is misrepresented and that community contributions are reflected respectfully and truthfully. This includes ‘truth telling, sharing contextual histories and ongoing realities in a way that honours community strength, resilience and lived experience.
 - c. **Rigour** – We apply careful, thoughtful and culturally responsive approaches to research design, knowledge translation, and impact, ensuring our processes are robust, technically strong, secure, transparent and accountable to Our Community.
 - d. **Transparency** – We are relational and communicative in our research approaches, methodologies, and data and knowledge sharing. We share the outcomes of the research openly, responsibly and accurately in ways that uphold our obligations to Our People. We are reflective, identifying and disclosing relevant interests and managing conflicts of interest.
 - e. **Fairness and Stewardship** – We acknowledge where knowledge comes from, including Acknowledging Country and local knowledges. We reference and cite the work of others and give credit through authorship and acknowledgements to the people, Countries, and Nations who contribute to research.
 - f. **Respect** – We show respect for Country, for research participants, cultural knowledges, co-workers, students, the wider community, and animals.
 - g. **Recognition, agency, and self-determination** – We ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities lead, direct, and shape our research priorities, decisions, processes and outcomes.
 - h. **Promotion of responsible research practices** – We actively promote and contribute to a research culture that supports culturally responsive, ethical, respectful, and responsible research practice.
 - i. Every action we take and every decision we make, reflects our shared vision and obligation to safeguard the wellbeing of the children and young people involved in research.
2. We conduct all research activities in accordance with:
 - a. the [Code for Responsible Research](#); and
 - b. [Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders 2018](#).
 - c. [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) (2025).
3. We also demonstrate engagement with:
 - a. the [AIATSIS Code](#); and
 - b. [Keeping Research on Track II 2018](#).

Research conduct

4. As researchers working across the IUIH Network we:
 - a. Uphold the relevant laws, regulations, guidelines, disciplinary standards, codes of practice and institutional policies related to the respectful and responsible conduct of research.
 - b. Enact the principles and uphold our responsibilities as described in the [Code for Responsible Research](#).
 - c. Disclosure all interests (actual, potential, or perceived) relevant to the research grants in which we are involved.
 - d. Speak up if we have concerns about improper research conduct. This includes suspected breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research.
 - e. Honour our contractual and professional obligations, delivering reports and information on time, and managing projects with integrity, care, and accountability.
5. In addition, everyone who conducts, assists with, or administrates research at or on behalf of IUIH:
 - a. Upholds the standards and requirements set out in the relevant code:
 - i. Researcher Obligations (Code of Conduct)
 - ii. Employee Obligation Guidelines (Code of Conduct)
 - iii. IUIH's Requirement of Employees
 - iv. Our obligations (Code of Conduct) for interacting with children and young people
 - v. Employee records guideline
 - b. Discloses all interests (actual, potential, or perceived) that are relevant, or could appear to be relevant, to their employment and / or research with IUIH. This includes any potential foreign interference risks and external employment.

Research Governance

6. As per the Knowledge and Research Policy Statement, the Knowledge and Research Centre has responsibility for overseeing all research on behalf of the IUIH Network.
7. Accountability for the conduct of research activities at IUIH sits with the Chief Executive Officer, IUIH.
8. The Knowledge and Research Governance Committee, a sub-committee of the IUIH Network CEO Forum, is responsible for research governance across the IUIH Network, ensuring that research practices reflect the collective values and priorities of our peoples and Communities.
9. The Director of the IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre is responsible for the leadership of the IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre.

Legal, ethical, and regulatory requirements

10. The Research Governance Pathway describes the process for the ethical review, authorisation, and monitoring of all research across the Network.
11. Researchers are responsible for obtaining and maintaining relevant approvals and ensuring compliance with any conditions or requirements for approvals.
12. Child safeguarding is everyone's business. Keeping our Jarjums Safe: Our Ways and Obligations (Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy) articulates the roles and responsibilities of everyone who works with IUIH to ensure the culturally responsive, ethical, and lawful safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people.
13. When undertaking research involving individuals for whom a guardian has provided valid and legal consent for participation, assent is sought in line with the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#) (2025).

Intellectual Property and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property

14. Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) refers to the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over cultural heritage, traditional knowledges, cultural expressions, languages, ecological knowledge, and genetic resources. ICIP is governed by local cultural laws and protocols, with authority residing in community-controlled governance structures rather than individual ownership.
15. Intellectual Property (IP) rights under Australian law refers to statutory rights protecting inventions, artistic works, designs, trademarks, and other creations fixed in material form. At IUIH and its Knowledge and Research Centre, IP generated through research or program development may be legally vested in the organisation.
16. We have an obligation to Our Community to uphold the self-determination and autonomy of Our People through the adherence to cultural governance protocols and rigorous custodianship of health data and ICIP.
17. We are committed to making every reasonable effort to gain benefit for our Community and Australia from Intellectual Property (IP).
18. The IP and ICIP Policy and statement articulate the IUIH Network position on ICIP as well as IP ownership and pathways for commercialising IP as they relate to research activities.

Research grants and funding

19. NHMRC grant funds must only be spent in accordance with [NHMRC's Direct Research Cost Guidelines](#).
20. Funds received to support research undertaken by IUIH employees are IUIH-managed funds and therefore expenditure must be compliant with IUIH's financial policies. The Finance Policy and Procedure Framework detail's IUIH's policies and procedures associated with the administration and management of funding.
21. At IUIH, research contracts are managed in line with IUIH's contract management framework.

Collaborations and Partnerships

22. All applications to undertake research at or with the IUIH Network are made in accordance with the Research Governance Pathway.
23. Where an IUIH Network employee, volunteer, student, trainee, or contractor is approached by an external entity about involvement in research as part of their IUIH Network work, the Director of the Knowledge and Research Centre must be immediately informed and no engagement, commitment, or agreement may occur until authorisation has been granted by the Knowledge and Research Governance Committee.
24. The IUIH Network does not partner with institutions named in applications to the [National Redress Scheme](#) for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Redress Scheme) that are required to join the Redress Scheme and have not done so within required timeframes.

Research Data

25. IUIH's Management of Data & Information in Research guidance outlines requirements for the management of research data that is entrusted to IUIH by Our People and Our Community.
26. IUIH's Trust, dignity and autonomy: promoting and respecting the privacy of our Mob (Privacy Policy) affirms IUIH's commitment to an open, transparent and culturally responsive approach to promoting and respecting the privacy and handling the personal information of our communities at IUIH.

Dissemination of Research

27. All researchers have a responsibility to disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately, and broadly.
28. The Knowledge Translation Framework outlines the principles, strategies and activities to support timely and effective knowledge translation.
29. The Knowledge and Research Governance Committee strongly encourages open access to all research publications. NHMRC-funded research is required to be open access and all publications supported by NHMRC use a restrictive Creative Commons license CC-BY.
30. Metadata for UIH Network publications are uploaded to UIH's publicly available institutional repository as soon as possible, and no later than three months after publication. This includes a link to the open access manuscript.
31. The principles and requirements associated with authorship are detailed in Authorship on Our Terms.
32. The Knowledge and Research Governance Committee encourages and actively supports the use of, and participation in, peer review to support the publication of high-quality research outputs and the submission of high-quality funding applications.
33. Peer review on Our Terms provides guidance on the conduct of peer review that is strong in culture, fair and balanced, and that amplifies Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices.

Supervision, training and Education

34. We are committed to growing the next generation of leaders and researchers who can continue the work of those who have gone before us. Our approach to supervision, training and education is detailed in the Research Capability Framework.

Research Integrity

35. The UIH Network Knowledge and Research Governance Committee appoints Research Integrity Advisors (RIA) to support and strengthen a culture of respectful, responsible, and ethical research practice across the Network. RIAs are strategically positioned across the Network to provide advice and maintain a level of independence from individual research projects.
36. [Research Integrity Advisors: A guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#)¹ outlines the roles, responsibilities, and scope of RIAs.
37. A current list of RIA's and their contact details is available on UIH's RIA webpage.

Concerns about research conduct

38. We view all issues raised about the conduct of research as an opportunity for reflection, growth, and change.
39. The process for managing complaints about the responsible conduct of research at, or on the behalf of UIH, is outlined in the procedure for managing and investigating research complaints.

¹ Research Integrity Advisors: a guide supporting the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*. National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and Universities Australia. Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra

Section 4: Monitoring, review, and assurance

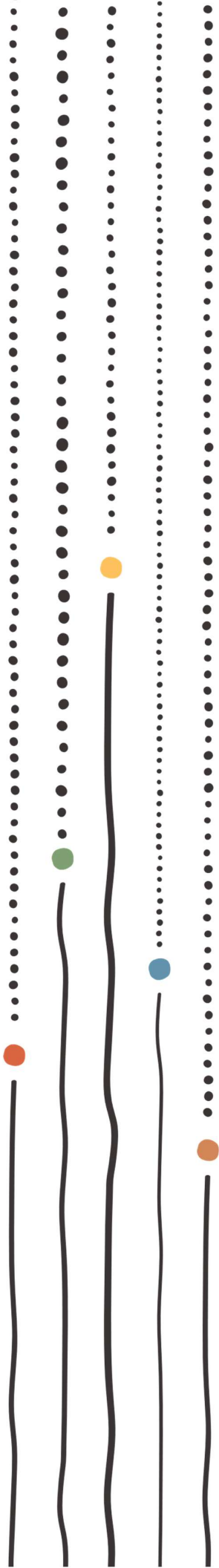
40. The Director, IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre is accountable for the ongoing monitoring and review of this Framework to ensure it remains effective and compliant, and reports to the Knowledge and Research Governance Committee to provide assurance on compliance.
41. Minor amendments such as updating role titles, document names, references, and similar changes do not require endorsement or approval by the Knowledge and Research Governance Committee.
42. Substantive changes must be endorsed by the Knowledge and Research Governance Committee.
43. This Framework is reviewed annually, and any updated versions will be made available:
 - a. on our websites and
 - b. in our internal quality management system.
44. This Framework was last updated on 02/06/2026.

Section 5: Glossary

Common terms used throughout the Knowledge and Research Governance Framework.

Country	Country refers to the site, land or location through which relationships are borne and cultural protocols are embedded.
Elder/s	Respected Community members 50 years old and above.
Goori	Blakfulla from South East Queensland
IUIH Network	Includes IUIH, three Network Partners: ATSICHS Brisbane; Kalwun Health Service; Yulu-Burri-Ba, and additional IUIH-run Services: Moreton ATSICHS; and Pamela Mam Health Centre.
Mob	You people, you guys, family, Community.
Law of Obligation	The moral code that guides Mob in taking the lead in caring for family, community, and country.
Our Community	Who we serve and are accountable to.
Our People	Who we serve and are accountable to.
Our Ways	Ways of Seeing, Knowing, Doing, Being and Belonging
The Ways Statement	A positioning statement that frames our approach to bringing consciousness to Our Ways.
The Cultural Integrity Investment Framework	The practical approach in how we realign and rebalance our systems and processes to Our Ways.
Ways of Seeing	Our cultural compass.
Waying of Knowing	The logic for how we make sense of the world.
Ways of Doing	How we should act / treat each other.
Ways of Belonging	The ways in which the personal and collective identity of people and communities/clans relates directly to location/place.
Ways of Being	The non-competitive, non-hierarchal way in which each other's capabilities are respected and appreciated.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Institute for Urban
Indigenous Health

22 Cox Road
Windsor QLD 4030
reception@iuih.org.au
ABN 32 140 019 290

iuih.org.au