

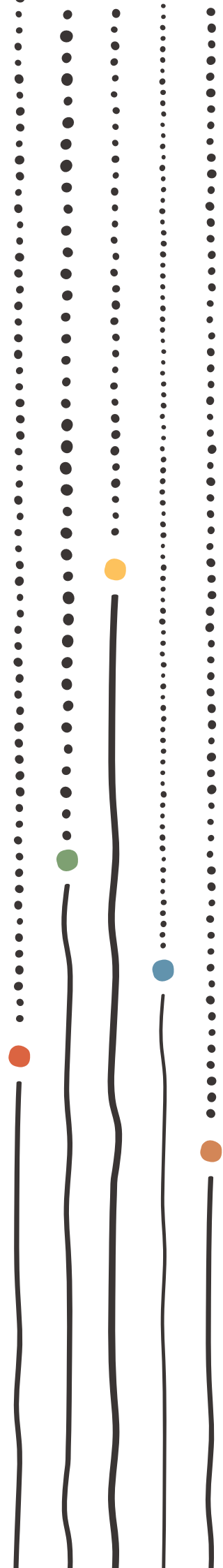
Authorship and publication of research on Our Terms

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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.

Intent and scope

This guide supports a consistent, Propa approach to authorship and publication of IUIH authorised research. It applies to the outputs of all IUIH authorised research, including non-traditional research outputs, research proposals, grant applications, reports for funding agencies, community reports and resources, conference presentations, web-based publications and public commentary about our research. Working this way is a condition of intuitional authorisation.

It is part of the Knowledge and Research Governance Framework and informed by:

- The Ways Statement and Cultural Integrity Investment Framework
- [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018](#) (the Code for Responsible Research)
- [Authorship: A guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and
- [AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research](#) (the AIATSIS code).

Guiding principles

We do research to deliver meaningful change for our communities. We privilege and uplift the knowledge, contributions, and cultural authority of Our People and Communities. The below principles apply to the authorship and publication of IUIH authorised research:

- a. Indigenous leadership: through authorship, cultural authority is recognised.
- b. Self-determination: research outputs reflect the role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had in the design and delivery of research.
- c. Accountability: authors share collective responsibility for the integrity and accuracy of the outputs to which they are named and return knowledge to Community.

Authorship

Eligibility

To be considered for authorship, a person and/or community must have made a significant cultural, intellectual, or academic contribution to the research, and must agree to be listed. [NHMRC](#), [International Committee of Medical Journal Editors](#) (ICMJE) and Journal-specific criteria for authorship are important but must be considered and negotiated to align with Propa ways. A significant contribution must meet at least one, and should include a combination of two or more, of the following:

- a. Contribution of knowledge, where justified, including the intellectual and cultural contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities;
- b. Conception and design of the project or research output;
- c. Collection, analysis or interpretation of research data;
- d. Drafting significant parts of the research output or critically revising it to contribute to its interpretation; and
- e. Coordination of the project

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contributions to research can take many forms that can look very different to the criteria described above. When crediting these contributions through authorship or acknowledgement it can be helpful to the Negotiating Authorship Form (Appendix 1).

Order of authors

The order of authors should consider the rules of the research field and publication guidelines. This can be alphabetical, based on seniority, or most often, based on contributions:

- a. First (lead) author is the person who has made the most significant intellectual, cultural and/or academic contribution to the research.
- b. The second or last author is often the most senior author involved in supervision and/or cultural guidance of the research project.

In multidisciplinary research projects, it is important to talk about the authorship rules of each field early on.

Consent to be an author

Authorship must only be assigned to people who agree and consent to be listed as an author.

It is important to keep everyone working on the research updated at all stages.

Authorship may not always be the priority of Our Peoples and Communities. Any decision to give consent or decline to be recognised as an author or by acknowledgments must always be honoured.

All authors must approve the output before it is submitted and approve the final version before it is published. It is the responsibility of the corresponding author to keep written records of those approvals.

Authorship Agreements

Authorship must be discussed and determined early in the research process. Authorship should also be reviewed as needed, for example, when new members join, or old members leave the research project.

Authorship agreements can take many different forms. For example, the agreement could be an email chain, meeting transcript or the Negotiating Authorship Form (Appendix 1). This form acts as a guide to support yarns about authorship and developing trust between everyone working on the research project.

Authorship agreements should list:

- a. The people who will be credited as authors,
- b. The order of authors, in line with journal requirements and rules of the research field,
- c. The work done by each author towards the research, including what they plan to do,
- d. The corresponding author, and
- e. The people and knowledge that will be credited through acknowledgements.

Corresponding authors have an obligation to keep records of authorship agreements, but each author is also encouraged to keep a copy.

If an author cannot reasonably be contacted, the publication can still go ahead if there is no reason to think they would have objected to being named as an author. If an author has died, do not include any photographs of the person in the research work. A respectful acknowledgement that expresses gratitude for their knowledge and contributions should be included.

Negotiating conflict

When conflict occurs regarding authorship, the below negotiation process should be followed:

- a. Co-authors should yarn through their differences on authorship. This should include fair and honest discussions about authorship. The authorship agreement should be reviewed at this time.
- b. If authorship cannot be negotiated between co-authors, it should be directed to a Research Integrity Advisor for mediation.

- c. If differences cannot be resolved with the help of a Research Integrity Advisor, the Director, Knowledge and Research Centre decides the final outcome and records the reasons.

Authorship negotiations should be handled by the corresponding author's institute but needs to involve collaborative agreements with all authors.

Authors must wait until the authorship negotiations have been completed before submitting the research for publication, in line with the [Australian Code for Responsible Research](#).

Institutional affiliations

IUIH must be properly acknowledged in the research work, as appropriate. For IUIH authorised research, this will be addressed as part of institutional authorisation and monitoring.

For external research activities, written approval from the Director, Knowledge and Research Centre must be obtained before naming IUIH as an affiliation in any external research activity. This includes:

- publications
- grant applications, and/or
- any public materials resulting from research conducted outside a person's IUIH role

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors are encouraged to list their cultural identity as an affiliation to highlight their contributions and build trust in the research work.

Acknowledging contributions

Contributions that do not meet the criteria for authorship must be recognised by acknowledgement.

For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and intellectual contributions this can be done in different ways, such as acknowledgement of Country (including Traditional Owners)¹, and acknowledgement of participant contributions to yarns (where applicable) and acknowledgement of the communities involved.

Publication

Returning knowledge to Community

Every project must report its findings back to the Communities involved in a form that is culturally appropriate, useful, and accessible. Refer to the Knowledge and Research Governance Framework for specific requirements and additional information about dissemination of research and the Knowledge Translation Framework for the principles, strategies and activities to support timely and effective knowledge translation.

Open access

IUIH 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. Refer to the Knowledge and Research Governance Framework for specific requirements and additional information.

Citation

Authors must cite and acknowledge their own work and the work of others, whether published or unpublished, accurately and in line with the conventions of the field.

¹ Country refers to the site, land or location through which relationships are borne and cultural protocols are embedded.

Disclosure of support and interest

Authors must disclose actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest on submission.

All funding bodies must be recognised in relevant outputs clearly and in line with any contractual requirements.

Publication plans

A publication plan must be submitted as part of the application for institutional authorisation. Research will not be authorised without one. The plan is a working document, updated as required. At a minimum, the publication plan must set out:

- a. The outputs the project expects to produce, including community facing output, and the audience for each
- b. How findings will be returned to Community, in what format, by whom, and when
- c. The authorship agreement
- d. How Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and governance will be described in outputs
- e. Who will be responsible for covering the cost of open access publication costs
- f. Who may speak to the media about the research
- g. Risks of misinterpretation or misuse, including risks arising from aggregation, small cell reporting, and generalisation across communities, and how those risks will be managed.

The publication plan serves as the reference point for the final review. Before any output is submitted or released, the Knowledge and Research Governance Committee (or its delegate) will review the final draft against the approved publication plan.

Review and approval of outputs

The Knowledge and Research Governance Committee (or its delegate) must review and approve the release of all outputs produced as a result of IUIH authorised research. Final review considers whether:

- a. The authorship agreement is complete, consented to, and reflected in the author list
- b. The framing is strengths based
- c. Aggregation, small cell reporting, and identifiability have been handled so that no individual, family, or community can be identified without consent
- d. Affiliation, acknowledgements, and funder recognition are correct and in line with our institutional requirements

Approval must be recorded.

Monitoring, review and assurance

The Director, IUIH Network Knowledge and Research Centre is responsible for monitoring the development, compliance and review of this guide.

It is reviewed annually and updated as required.

It was last updated on the 11 August 2026 and approved by the Director, Knowledge and Research Centre on 11 August 2026.

Appendix 1: Negotiating Authorship Form

The IUIH Network negotiating authorship form is designed to help researchers yarn about who should be credited for research work, and to keep a written record of these negotiations.

Title of proposed project:

The corresponding author is the person responsible for managing communication among co-authors, talking to publishers, and keeping written record of the authorship agreement. All co-authors must agree on who the corresponding author will be.

As a group, yarn about who will be trusted with the responsibility of being the corresponding author

Corresponding author:

Only people who have made a substantial contribution to the research should be included as authors.

Individually, spend some time reflecting on the below prompts:

- *How will my skills and knowledge be used in the project?*
- *What are the specific expectations of me in this research project?*

As a group, yarn about:

- *Who made contributions to this research project, and what did their contributions look like (or will look like)?*
- *How will these contributions be delivered? (e.g. group discussions, one-on-one discussions, presentations, editing of documents)*

Proposed list and order of authors (add cells as required):

	Author	Cultural Identity	Affiliation
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Expected contributions of each author (add cells as required):

	Author	Contribution
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

Everyone who helped on the research deserves to receive credit for their contributions. When these contributions do not meet the requirements for authorship, they are recognised through acknowledgement.

As a group, yarn about who else could you not have done the research without:

- *Who are they? Are they an Elder, is it a group of people and/or a mob/nation/tribe/clan specifically that facilitated and contributed to the research?*
- *In line with the naming protocols and processes of Country (and the mob who steward mentioned Country), do specific places (with appropriate language names), figures, histories, traditions need to be acknowledged? Is there a way of doing this that we need to be following and/or is there particular protocol which we need to follow that would honor those mobs ways of doing? Does this way require a unique approach?*
- *How were they involved?*
- *What did their contributions look like?*
- *What did I learn from their contributions?*
- *How do we best engage whoever will be in the acknowledgements in making sure they are aware and consent to being acknowledged in a particular way?*
- *What are the best methods for involvement so that they are actively (if they wish) involved in the acknowledgement process?*
- *What would the acknowledgement look like given our discussions of the contributions of the [groups/individuals/tribes/nations etc.] and how do we best reflect intellectual sovereignty and self-determination through the acknowledgement?*

People who will be recognised through acknowledgement (add cells as required):

Name	Contribution

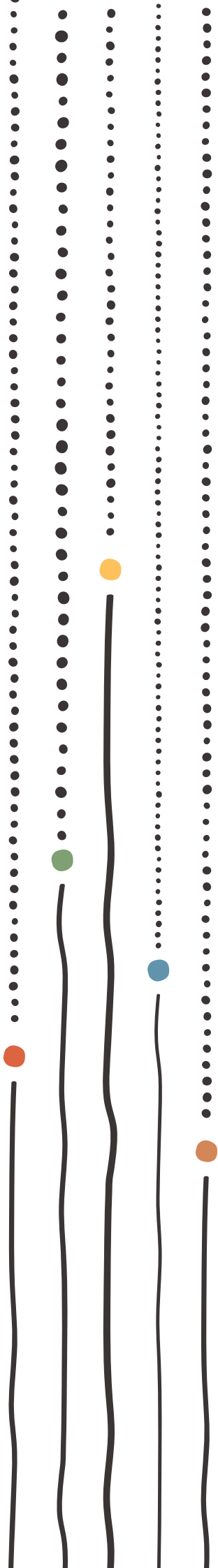
Only include people as authors or in acknowledgements if that have agreed to be included. Once everyone is happy with the authorship decisions, fill out the table below.

Confirmation of agreement (add cells as required):

	Author Name	Date	Signature
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

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