



Building and supporting Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation

QUT Indigenous Australian
Research Strategy 2022–2025

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QUT Indigenous Australian Research Strategy

As a university it is important that QUT recognises the historical and ongoing role research plays in the lives of Indigenous Australians. Since colonisation, Indigenous Australians have been positioned as objects of research. This research has a legacy of extraction, often undertaken without consent, invasive of Indigenous peoples' rights, and contrary to their benefit. As a thought leader in the wider Australian community, QUT acknowledges its responsibility to address this situation. Through implementation of our research strategy, QUT presents a vision focused on building and supporting Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation by:

- growing the body of Indigenous Australian-led and Indigenous Australian-partnered research
- undertaking research that is transformative and beneficial for Indigenous Australian communities

- raising the cultural competency standards of university research staff and students
- demonstrating high value and respect for Indigenous Australian knowledges and perspectives and their contribution to the intellectual, social and cultural capital of the university
- operationalising Indigenous Australian knowledges, ethics, protocols and methodologies within our research
- growing a critical mass of Indigenous Australian researchers
- decolonising understandings of Indigenous Australians' social and economic contributions.

We thank everyone who contributed to the development of this strategy and look forward to working together to achieve its vision, goal and outcomes.



Professor Christopher Barner-Kowollik
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and
Vice President (Research)



Angela Barney-Leitch
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
(Indigenous Australians)

QUT acknowledges the Turrbal and Yugara, as the First Nations owners of the lands where QUT now stands. We pay respect to their Elders, lores, customs and creation spirits. We recognise that these lands have always been places of teaching, research and learning.



Our commitment to Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation

QUT has a long history and is a recognised leader in cultivating Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation. More recently QUT has established the Carumba Institute to unify and empower its efforts to build a world-class Indigenous Australian research environment. The creation of the Carumba Institute clearly signals the high profile and priority QUT places on Indigenous Australian research within the university's overall research strategy and structure. The university is also home to the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) which is now in its legacy phase. A major aim of NIRAKN is to build a critical mass of skilled and qualified researchers to address the needs of Indigenous Australian communities through the delivery of culturally appropriate research.

QUT's Indigenous Australian academics, researchers and alumni continue to make significant research contributions at national and international levels. Their contributions greatly enrich the intellectual and cultural depth of the university and play an integral role in fostering Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation. As a university we are committed to investing in developing long-term research partnerships with Indigenous Australian communities that are meaningful, respectful and mutually beneficial.

Our established partnerships with key community organisations including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, Brisbane Indigenous Media Association, and Institute for Urban Indigenous Health are an important dimension of decolonising understandings of

Indigenous Australians' social and economic contributions while also celebrating Indigenous Australian knowledge, culture and perspectives. The International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies (<https://ijcis.qut.edu.au/>), which is edited and published at QUT, offers a virtual intellectual space for disseminating international scholarship and scope for critical international engagement and debate by bringing together emergent and ground-breaking research in Critical Indigenous Studies.

QUT's Indigenous Australian Research Strategy capitalises on the progress we have already made, and outlines actions we are taking now and into the future to deliver our vision for building and supporting Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation. Our strategy will have a key role in ensuring:

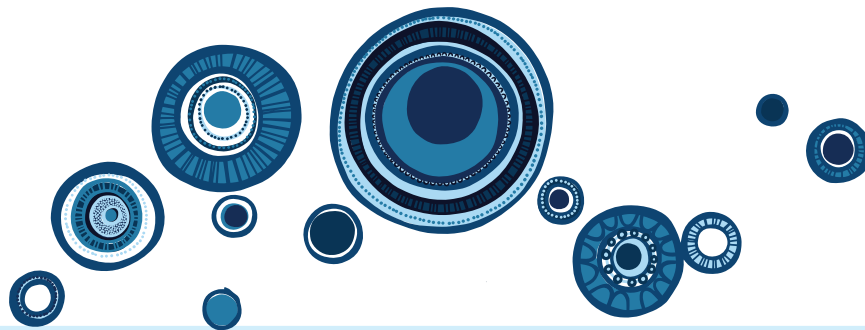
- Indigenous Australian research students are supported and have access to facilities and resources they need to excel
- Indigenous Australian communities feel confident in engaging with the university
- Indigenous Australian research students are supported to completion and become confident and competent job-ready graduates
- research staff and services are culturally capable and effective
- enhanced supervision of Indigenous Australian research students
- increased representation of Indigenous Australian academics
- improved embedding of Indigenous Australian perspectives, contributing to the strengthening of Indigenous Australian research at QUT
- improved career outcomes for Indigenous Australian research students of QUT.

QUT Indigenous Australian Research Strategy

VISION: Building and supporting Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation

| Our goal Deliver transformative Indigenous Australian research | | |
|---|---|--|
| This will be achieved through <i>Our objectives</i> | Growing a critical mass of Indigenous Australian researchers | Building a world-class Indigenous Australian research environment |
| As an organisation we will uphold <i>Our values</i> | Excellence and integrity We will promote excellence in research, including maintaining the highest ethical standards and supporting integrity in our research in accordance with university and Indigenous Australian ethical frameworks and protocols. | Anti-Racism We will counter racism by engaging Indigenous Australians in research that impacts them; recognising and respecting their rights, knowledges and perspectives; and decolonising our research practices, structures and policies ¹ that operate to the detriment of Indigenous Australians. |
| With an emphasis on <i>Our focus areas</i> | Support and invest in Indigenous Australian research talent and excellence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commit research investment from the University Research Budget to build high-calibre Indigenous Australian research capacity and support recruitment of Indigenous Australian researchers in line with the QUT Indigenous Australian Employment Strategy and Academic Plan.• Maximise opportunities for Indigenous Australian Higher Degree Research (HDR) students, Early Career Researchers (ECRs) and Mid-Career Researchers (MCRs) to become world-class researchers through participation in mentoring, sponsorship and leadership programs offered through the Office of Research Services, Research Centres, Schools and Faculties.• Implement targeted strategies that celebrate, promote and showcase Indigenous Australian research excellence to the broader QUT community through channels such as QUT media and communications and the Research Update e-newsletter.• Implement a suite of research training components which expose and inspire Indigenous Australian undergraduate students to explore research opportunities and build research interest and aptitude while completing undergraduate courses leading to Honours and HDR study.• Cultivate partnerships with community and industry sectors to increase real world learning experiences and create opportunities to stimulate interest of Indigenous Australian undergraduate students to undertake a research degree. | Grow the body of Indigenous Australian-led and co-designed research <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invest in high-quality, interdisciplinary research opportunities through the QUT Ignite Scheme for ECRs/MCRs to work with Indigenous Australian community organisations on priorities of relevance and importance to their communities.• Develop local, national and international research collaborations to deliver research with mutual benefit and impact in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.• Formally acknowledge the role of place, country and culture in research endeavours including written acknowledgement in theses, research publications and presentations.• Implement a Visiting Indigenous Scholars Program to strengthen engagement with Indigenous Australian-led research and connect Indigenous Australian scholars and academics with the QUT community. |
| Our success will be measured by | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase in the number of Indigenous Australian HDR student enrolments and completions.• Increase in the body of Indigenous Australian-led and co-designed research.• Indigenous Australian research ethics, methods and methodologies embedded in QUT's research curricula.• Strengthened cultural competency of research and researchers.• Increase in the number of Indigenous Australian researchers publishing research and applying for grants and scholarships. | |

2022–2025



Building Indigenous Australian research capacity across the university

Strengthening engagement with Indigenous Australian communities

Relevance, quality and impact

We will prioritise partnerships and high-quality research that matter to Indigenous Australians and realise real world transformation with direct benefits for Indigenous Australian communities.

Relationships

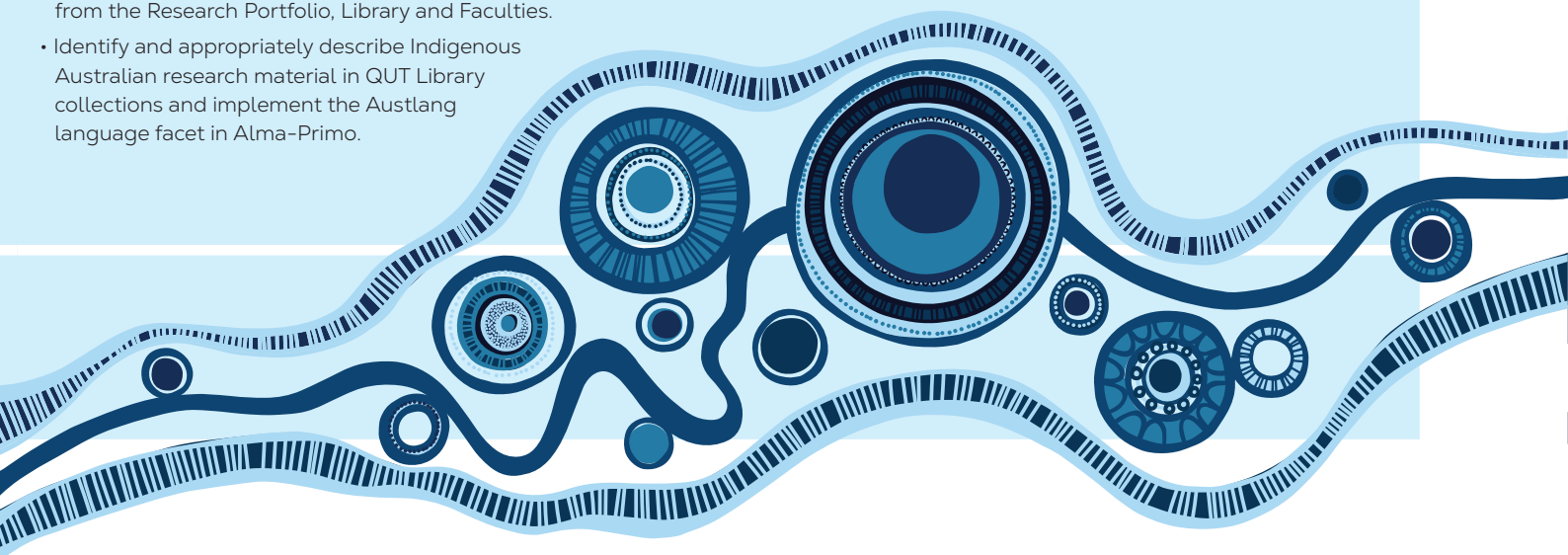
We will commit to developing long-term research partnerships with Indigenous Australian communities that are meaningful, respectful and mutually beneficial.

Build institutional capability to foster Indigenous Australian research excellence

- Establish systemic procedures through the Research Information System and Support (RISS) team to actively capture, record and increase visibility of QUT Indigenous Australian research outputs and outcomes.
- Develop and deliver Indigenous Australian research ethics competency training to researchers that supports standards expressed in the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (<https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research/code-ethics>) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities (www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-conduct-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-and-communities).
- Embed training on Indigenous Australian research methodologies into core HDR supervisor and HDR student training through Graduate Research Education and Development (GRE+D)² and the Office for Scholarly Communication (OSC)³.
- Embed content on Indigenous Australian research methodologies into selected university-wide research curricula⁴.
- Develop and implement professional development resources to build the cultural competency of staff, initially targeting staff from the Research Portfolio, Library and Faculties.
- Identify and appropriately describe Indigenous Australian research material in QUT Library collections and implement the Austlang language facet in Alma-Primo.

Develop cohort support to enable Indigenous intellectual excellence

- Create a pipeline to transition Indigenous Australian HDR students into academic and research positions by implementing the Indigenous Australian PhD/Professional Doctorate to Postdoctoral Fellowship (P2P) program.
- Develop and deliver an integrated and coordinated model of research training and support services for Indigenous Australian staff and students through the OSC, GRE+D, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity (OREI) and Carumba Institute.
- Provide access through the Carumba Institute to an environment where Indigenous Australian intellectual sovereignty and excellence can be nurtured, and where Indigenous Australian researchers can access the facilities and resources they need to flourish.
- Support opportunities for Indigenous Australian HDR students, ECRs and MCRs to attend and present research papers at domestic and international conferences and academic forums.
- Develop an Indigenous Australian HDR Student Ambassador program to support recruitment and provide peer support to commencing Indigenous Australian HDR students.





Indigenous Australian research vision

Build and support Indigenous Australian research excellence and innovation

Indigenous Australian research goal

Deliver transformative Indigenous Australian research

To achieve our goal, we will focus on:

- supporting and investing in Indigenous Australian research talent and excellence
- growing the body of Indigenous Australian-led and co-designed research
- building institutional capability to foster Indigenous Australian research excellence
- developing cohort support to enable Indigenous Australian intellectual excellence.

“Working in genuine partnership with QUT has been a refreshing experience. The collective knowledge, skills and experience will put BIMA in good stead to honour the strong history and legacy of BIMA and become a sustainable First Nations enterprise for generations to come.”

Jyi Lawton,
Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane Indigenous Media Association (BIMA)

Indigenous Australian research outcomes

- Grow a critical mass of Indigenous Australian researchers
- Build a world-class Indigenous Australian research environment
- Strengthened Indigenous Australian research capacity across the university
- Strengthened engagement with Indigenous Australian communities.

Delivering our research strategy

The development of the QUT Indigenous Australian Research Strategy is a whole-of-university framework with responsibility and accountability for its implementation being shared across the whole university. It will be led by the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Research) and delivered in collaboration with faculties, divisions, key stakeholders and the wider QUT community.

Strategic alignment

The development and implementation of this strategy supports and enables the QUT Indigenous Australian Academic Plan's vision for building, sustaining and celebrating a culture of excellence in Indigenous Australian education, research and engagement at QUT. This strategy will also assist the contributions of QUT's research community towards delivery of transformative Indigenous Australian research. Our research community is committed to applying the highest standards in ethics and rigour when engaging in research with and for Indigenous Australian communities in accordance with the:

- NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research
www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018
- NHMRC Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities
www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-conduct-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-and-communities
- AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research
<https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research/code-ethics>
- QUT Code for responsible conduct of research
www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_02_06.jsp

Our strategy is also guided and informed by the following internal and external policies and frameworks:

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap
www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement
- Uluru Statement from the Heart
<https://ulurustatement.org/>
- Australian Council of Graduate Research (ACGR) Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education
www.acgr.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/ACGR-Guidelines-for-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Research-Education-August-2021.pdf
- Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) Review of Australia's Research Training System
<https://acola.org/research-training-system-review-saf13/>
- Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
www.dese.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-higher-education/review-higher-education-access-and-outcomes-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-people
- National Indigenous Higher Education Workforces Strategy
www.dese.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-higher-education/resources/national-indigenous-higher-education-workforce-strategy
- Universities Australia Indigenous Strategy and Guiding Principles for Developing Indigenous Cultural Competency in Australian Universities
www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Guiding-Principles-for-Developing-Indigenous-Cultural-Competency-in-Australian-Universities.pdf
- QUT Indigenous Australian Employment Strategy
www.qut.edu.au/careers/indigenous-employment
- QUT Academic Plan (QUT staff access only).
<https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/staff/governance/planning-and-performance>



Indigenous Australian researcher spotlight

Katrina Wruck is a PhD student in the Resource Transformation group in the School of Mechanical, Medical and Process Engineering. Her research aims to deliver high-tech, innovative solutions in wastewater treatment.

www.qut.edu.au/research/katrina-wruck



Indigenous Australian researcher spotlight

Professor Chelsea Watego has over 20 years of experience working within Indigenous health as a health worker and researcher. Chelsea's work has drawn attention to the role of race in the production of health inequalities. Her current Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Grant seeks to build Indigenist Health Humanities as a new field of research; one that is committed to the survival of Indigenous peoples locally and globally, and foregrounds Indigenous intellectual sovereignty.

www.qut.edu.au/about/our-people/academic-profiles/chelsea.bond

¹ For an explanation of the term “decolonising academia”, refer to Decolonising academia – London Metropolitan University www.londonmet.ac.uk/about/equity/centre-for-equity-and-inclusion/race/decolonising-academia/

² Includes Project Management, Research Integrity in Practice, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership and Communication

³ Includes training such as Advanced Information Research Skills (IFN001)

⁴ Selected research units include:

| Discipline | Course | Unit |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Business | PhD – all 3 units; MPhil – 2 units (BSN 502 is mandatory) | BSN412 Qualitative Research and Analytical Techniques |
| | | BSN414 Quantitative Research Methods |
| | | BSN502 Research Methodology |
| Creative Industries | PhD and MPhil | CPRAC: KKP601 Approaches to Research in Creative Industries |
| | | COM: KKP609 Approaches to Media, Communication and Cultural Research |
| | | DES: KKP624 Approaches to Design Research |
| Education | Doctor of Creative Industries | KKP601 Approaches to Research in Creative Industries (Sem 1) |
| | MPhil | EDN612 Shaping an Educational Research Project |
| | Doctor of Education | EDR703 Advanced Research Studies in Educational Contexts |

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