



How can Local Health Districts and Networks cultivate anti-racist hospitals? – February 2023



The George Institute
for Global Health Australia

Facts:

- An audit recently applied to Queensland Hospital and Health Services and South Australia Local Health Networks found that most services demonstrated evidence of very high levels of institutional racism.
- In 2018-19, 32% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who did not access health services when they needed to said this was due to discrimination.
- In 2020, 22% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults reported being racially discriminated against by doctors, nurses and/or medical staff in the last 12 months.

Project Cycle:

2023-2027

Partners:

The George Institute

Flinders University

Deakin University

The Lowitja Institute

University of Technology Sydney

The University of Adelaide

Central Australia Health Service

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network

Sydney Children's Hospital Network

Central Coast Local Health District

Supporters:

National Health and Medical Research Council

Background:

- Racism has been clearly identified as a determinant of health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to experience racism and discrimination within the Australian healthcare system.
- Racism is causing dire health consequences and inhibiting access to quality and safe healthcare services.

Aims:

- To comprehensively understand and address the complex dynamics of racism, bias and colonisation in reforming hospital care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families.

Methods:

- Decolonise existing tools such as the Readiness to Change Assessment (RCTA) and Promoting Action on Research Implementation in Health Services (i-PARIHS) framework.
- Evaluate health organisations' readiness to change beliefs, attitudes and processes that maintain inequity.
- Undertake Aboriginal patient journey mapping and review governance structures, workforce development, current quality indicators and processes for implicit bias.
- Develop, implement and evaluate interventions using multiple methods such as co-designing, yarning and deep listening.
- Disseminate findings to translate and scale-up successful interventions to achieve health systems and services change.

Impact:

- Uptake and use of decolonised tools and frameworks to address racism.
- Health organisations will have a better understanding of successful interventions needed to eliminate racism from Australian healthcare services.
- In the long term, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will have increased access to safe and anti-racist health services.

Contact:

To find out more about this project and its principal investigator Associate Professor Tamara MacKean or The George Institute, please contact Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 or twall@georgeinstitute.org.au

The George Institute For Global Health:

We're improving the lives of millions of people worldwide through innovative health research. Working across a broad health landscape, the Institute conducts clinical, population and health system research aimed at changing health practice and policy worldwide.