

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy



# Our strategic alignment

The Adelaide University strategic ambition is the foundation of the Adelaide University Research Strategy and the five Signature Research Themes (SRTs) which are complemented by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy.

## Adelaide University Research Strategy

The Adelaide University Research Strategy is guided by the Adelaide University vision, ambitions, strategic drivers, and operating model. Our vision for research is to be Australia's premier for-purpose research university, delivering outstanding locally-embedded, globally relevant research that has impact.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy supports the Adelaide University Research Strategy.

## Creative & Cultural

### Food, Agriculture & Wine

### Defence & National Security

### Sustainable Green Transition

### Personal & Societal Health

## Our research ambitions



Be recognised among the world's top 100 universities on an ongoing basis.



Be globally recognised as Australia's leading for-purpose research university.



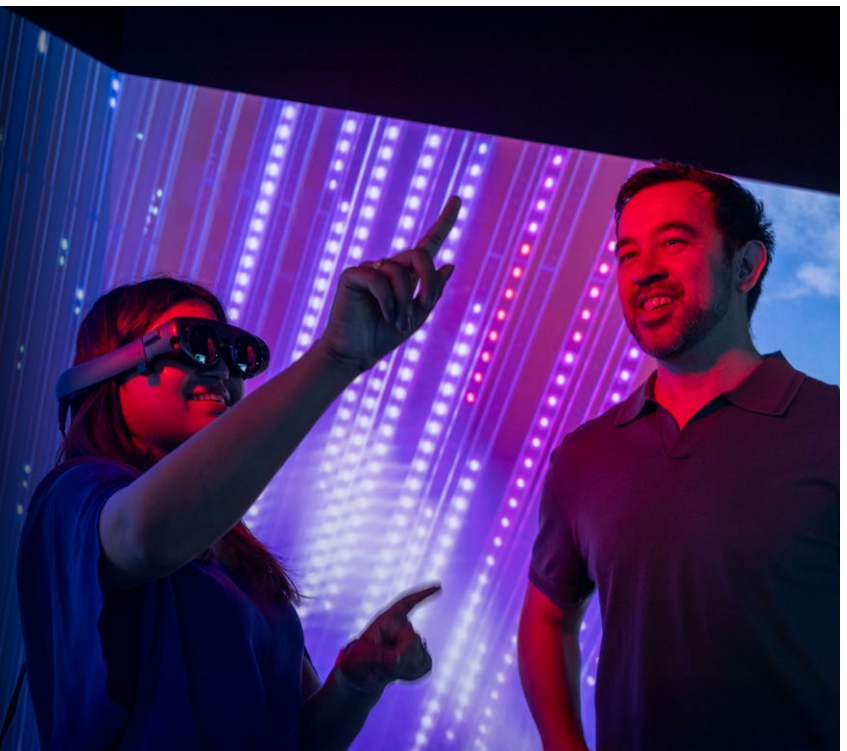
Rank first in Australia for industry income in research.



Be the destination of choice for the best global researchers, innovators, thinkers, and entrepreneurs in our priority areas.



Be Australia's most connected university, partnering with the communities we serve, and an engine for innovation, productivity and growth.





## Tirkangkaku

Meaning *Place of Learning*, Tirkangkaku is the Aboriginal name bestowed upon Adelaide University by the Kurna People, the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains.

Adelaide University is the first university in Australia to have provision for an Aboriginal name in our founding legislation. Positive change requires collective action, and this is a significant first step in embedding First Nations culture and truth-telling for new generations.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy is informed by 'proppa' engagement to strengthen research and two-way knowledge exchange while addressing complex research questions. Aboriginal Knowledges contribute to research activity which is self-determined, collaborative and impactful.



# Our vision, purpose and goals

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy has a vision, a purpose and goals to generate research outcomes and drive impact.

## Vision

We prioritise transformative, community-led and responsive research that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and creates meaningful outcomes with communities.

## Purpose

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy enables a vibrant, inclusive and responsive research environment. Adelaide University recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities as knowers, thinkers, and innovators in the creation of knowledge and discovery.



# Goals

- 1** **Advance an inclusive and responsive institution** with appropriate training, policies and procedures to foster a research environment grounded in understanding, respect and celebration of Aboriginal ways of knowing (epistemologies), being (ontologies) and doing (axiologies).
- 2** **Support the growth of the research talent pipeline to ensure the future** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research across the institution. Develop and upskill graduate researchers and early and mid-career research staff. Seek sustainable internal and external funding opportunities.
- 3** **Strengthen Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP)** by developing and implementing new and best practice policy, procedures and legally binding agreements to ensure ICIP is appropriately recognised and reflected at Adelaide University.
- 4** **Ensure that knowledge and research findings are shared and disseminated** with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to maximise impact, transparency and accountability in the spirit of reciprocity.
- 5** **Grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Partnerships** by seeking internal and external research partnerships that are ethical, sustainable and exemplify two-way knowledge sharing, reciprocity, mutual respect, and understanding.
- 6** **Elevate visibility and impact of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research locally, nationally, and globally** by establishing frameworks to celebrate and evaluate the impacts, outcomes and benefits of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research at Adelaide University. Ensure systems and infrastructure can accurately capture and record research and research outputs.



# Our strengths and differentiators

The value proposition for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy is built on the existing unique strengths of Adelaide University.







## The Adelaide University Act 2023

A commitment to using resources and expertise in teaching, research and advancement of knowledge activities to realise the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

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*Embed Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and learning across our activities to become the university of choice for First Nations People across Australia.*

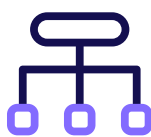


## Purkarninthe – Elders Advisory Committee

Provides guidance from Aboriginal Elders who have kinship ties from across South Australia and is a critical mechanism for engaging with Aboriginal peoples on an ongoing basis.

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*Elders hold a wealth of knowledge and experience and play a critical role in embedding Aboriginal knowledges and culture within the university.*



## Embedded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research priorities

Adelaide University embeds Aboriginal research priorities and ways of Knowing, Being and Doing across its Signature Research Themes.

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*Ensuring visibility and accountability of research priorities across the institution.*



## Ongoing partnerships

A collaborative approach to research partnerships where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities determine research priorities and participate as full partners.

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*Trusted and authentic partnerships with Aboriginal Peoples and Communities that centre reciprocity and respect.*



## Existing research capabilities

Honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research that predates colonisation, and the people and communities that provide a solid foundation of expertise that will enable us to deliver high-quality, impactful research outcomes.

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*Celebrating the history and commitment to Aboriginal research, education and engagement.*

# Our pillars of research focus and prioritites

Centred on five core principles, Adelaide University is positioned to achieve culturally-safe and responsive research.

Context

The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation and Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous will jointly lead the implementation of the strategy, which must be properly resourced and supported by clear governance structures, policies, and accountability measures to ensure its success.

## Pillars of research focus

1  
Recognition  
and celebration

Adelaide University recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research predates colonisation.

Priorities

The University celebrates the research strengths, methodologies, resilience, and responsibilities inherent in carrying and passing on knowledges to future generations.

2  
Self-determination

Recognises the right to determine whether any research undertaken with Aboriginal Peoples is relevant, meaningful and beneficial to the community.

Aboriginal Communities determine research priorities, approaches and methodologies, and research upholds the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent and data sovereignty.

3  
Decolonisation

A two-way approach will work towards recovery from the effects of the colonial terra nullius doctrine.

Adelaide University is committed to eradicating colonial practices and logics and will work towards recovery from the effects and impact of coloniality and its denial of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples’ capacity to self-determine.





## 4

### Accountability

Adelaide University acknowledges past injustices in research and Australian educational institutions.

Adelaide University recognises the need for institutional accountability in truth-telling and reparation and the role individuals play in fostering a culturally responsive, inclusive and collaborative research environment.

## 5

### Equity and intersectionality

Recognition of the cultural diversity and different experiences of colonisation within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities.

Recognising the diversity within the population, valuing differing standpoints and not universalising experiences. It also recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples intersect within, and across, most equity groups.

# Our initiatives and strategic enablers

Pursuing two initiatives, supported by strategic enablers, generates value for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy.

## Strategic initiatives

These concepts will help us to deliver on our priorities:

### First Nations Academy

Development of an academy that provides a coherent structure across and within the SRTs, colleges and institutes to support research activities.

### Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property (ICIP)

A commitment to embedding new and best practice ICIP practices at Adelaide University. Leveraging institutional resources to empower Aboriginal models of governance to meet contemporary needs, inclusive of data sovereignty.





# Strategic enablers

Institutional capabilities support our research efforts:

## Aboriginal Knowledges Centre

A welcoming environment to support connection and engagement between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, building cultural awareness and understanding within the broader community.

## Cultural Capability Framework

Invest in experiential learning, long-term cultural safety and responsiveness and capability development for all researchers and staff, ensuring respectful engagement and culturally-informed research methodologies.

## Governance and leadership

Establish strong governance frameworks led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to guide strategy development, decision-making and accountability underpinned by genuine authority and influence.

## Research support and appropriate funding

Dedicated, tailored support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers to enable success across all research income streams underpinned by systems and structures that sustain and record their success, building a pipeline of future researchers.

## Community research partnerships

Develop and support community-led research initiatives and priorities. Strengthen and develop relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, communities, organisations and peak bodies.



The implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Research Strategy will support University-wide cultural capability focusing on experiential learning and talent development to support best practice research.

## Further enquiries

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