



WAAHEC

Western Australian
Aboriginal
Health Ethics Committee

Summaries of Approved Projects

July – December 2016

This lay summary is for projects approved between January to June 2016. This document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public search for projects have ethics approval from the Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee.

Project Title	2016 / 729 Is acute appendicitis less common in Australian Indigenous people?		
Chief Investigator	Marwan Al - Hayo		
Institution	WACHS		
Region	Kalgoorlie		
Start Date	01/06/2016	Finish Date	01/08/2016
Project Summary	Retrospective study to compare incidence of appendicitis in Indigenous and non – Indigenous populations over 8 years in Kalgoorlie regional hospital.		

Project Title	2016 / 730 <i>Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) Programme Evaluation</i>		
Chief Investigator	Ashley Faure Brac		
Institution	Cultural and Indigenous Research Centre Australia (CIRCA)		
Region	National		
Start Date	01/08/2016	Finish Date	30/06/2018
Project Summary	<p>National Evaluation, CIRCA has been contracted by the Department of Health to conduct the evaluation of the entire TIS programme. This evaluation will be approached in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fit between the TIS programme and the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (appropriateness) - How well is the TIS programme progressing towards achieving the long term outcomes - Level of change that has occurred through the TIS programme (effectiveness) 		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 731 - The prevalence of autism among Aboriginal children: findings from 17 years of surveillance in Western Australia</i>		
Chief Investigator	Emma Glasson		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	State – wide		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	December 2017
Project Summary	<p>Data Linkage project – collect data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe diagnosis rates among Aboriginal children compared to non – Aboriginal children collected over the period 1999 -2015 - Describe whether the diagnostic profile of the Aboriginal children differs significantly from non – Aboriginal children, including age at diagnosis, type of autism diagnosis, gender, intellectual functioning and autism severity 		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 732 – Cleft lip and palate – a comparative psychosocial perspective</i>		
Chief Investigator	Wendy Nicholls		
Institution	Princess Margaret Hospital		
Region	Kimberley		
Start Date	30/05/2017	Finish Date	30/05/2019
Project Summary	<p>The study aims to assess the health outcomes, mental health status and health services utilisation of people with cleft conditions and compare these to the general population. This will include the number and type of hospital admissions, reason for admission (primary and secondary), procedures undertaken, length of stay, mental health admissions, deaths, community mental health occasions of service, ambulatory and emergency visits will be assessed.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 734 – Research Master Class Evaluation</i>		
Chief Investigator	Alex Brown		
Institution	South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI)		
Region	Kimberley		
Start Date	June 2016	Finish Date	December 2016
Project Summary	<p>Wardliparringa Aboriginal Research Unit, SAHMRI has developed two Research Master classes – Understanding Research and Undertaking Research. Over 130 staff from 140 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and their peak bodies have already undertaken at least one of these two day face – to – face master classes.</p> <p>A short feedback survey sent at each session are well received and anecdotal evidence suggests that there are some positive long term outcomes.</p> <p>The Master Class Evaluation will focus on three primary objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify any changes to awareness, understanding or behavior that participants feel have resulted from attending a Master Class - Identify and describe any outcomes that participants believe have been influenced by or are a direct result of attending a Master Class - To explore ways in which participants believe future master classes and / or associated resources and support could be improved. 		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 736 – Retrospective audit of the clinical presentation, management and outcomes of adults with skin and soft tissue infections requiring hospitalisation in the Kimberley region</i>		
Chief Investigator	Kaspar Wilson		
Institution	WACHS		
Region	Kimberley		
Start Date	01/08/2016	Finish Date	01/02/2017
Project Summary	<p>Data Linkage project: All patients admitted to Broome Hospital with skin and soft tissue infections between July and December 2016. Study designed to inform clinicians about the types of patients who suffer from the most severe disease and how the antibiotics used affects outcomes.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 737 – Kadadjiny Dwank Project Otitis Media (OM) from an urban Aboriginal perspective</i>		
Chief Investigator	Rosemary Walley		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	Perth Metro (Kwinana/Rockingham and Armadale)		
Start Date	October 2016	Finish Date	December 2019
Project Summary	<p>Providing an urban perspective to the body of knowledge of OM, assisting with preventing middle ear infections in young children we hope to help maintain the delicate function of the middle ear that enables a child to hear sounds of his / her mother of an environment and culture.</p> <p>Conducted with focus groups, semi structured questionnaires and yarning, the aim of the research aims to address three broad questions:</p> <p>What people know and do about ear infections? What are the barriers to accessing care? How does OM impact on the child and family?</p> <p>Intended to consider possible interventions and strategies that could reduce the impact on poor ear health for children, and their families in an urban environment.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 738 – The Epidemiology of Amphetamine Type Stimulant Related Hospital Presentations and Admissions in Hedland, Western Australia</i>		
Chief Investigator	Mathew Condon		
Institution	Department of Health		
Region	Pilbara		
Start Date	September 2016	Finish Date	December 2016
Project Summary	<p>Retrospective Study – to determine the epidemiology of amphetamine type stimulant (ATS) hospital related presentations and admissions to Hedland Health Campus between 2011 – 2015, document trends over time, document demographic features including gender, ethnic background and age.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 739 – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) History in the Pilbara: An evidence – based prevention intervention</i>		
Chief Investigator	James Fitzpatrick		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	Pilbara		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	December 2020
Project Summary	Evaluating the effectiveness of an evidence based FASD prevention intervention to reduce the rates of alcohol use in pregnancy among Aboriginal women in three communities in the remote Pilbara region in Western Australia.		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 717 – Baseline for monitoring the burden of rheumatic heart disease in Australian jurisdictions: Western Australia component</i>		
Chief Investigator	Judith Katzenellenbogen		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	State - Wide		
Start Date	October 2016	Finish Date	December 2020
Project Summary	<p>This baseline study seeks to establish the current burden and distribution of ARF and RHD in Western Australia, using de-identified linked data from existing routinely collected administrative data sources. De-identified linked data will be used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To determine the burden (incidence, prevalence, mortality) of ARF/RHD by Aboriginal status, remoteness/ location, and jurisdiction. 2. To estimate ARF recurrence and its determinants in first-ever cases. 3. To characterise progression of the disease and determinants of progression within 1, 2 and 5 years. 4. To estimate hospital utilisation and costs associated with ARF/RHD. 5. To develop methods to increase the robustness of estimates of ARF/RHD burden. <p>This baseline project will document current disease burden and establish the processes and data infrastructures which may be used for subsequent analyses and measurement of trends, and will contribute to the development of a sustainable data analysis and indicator measurement system.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 744 – Working with Aboriginal women to tackle smoking in the Pilbara (for community purposes ‘Tackling Aboriginal Women’s Smoking’</i>		
Chief Investigator	Roz Walker		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	Pilbara		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	June 2018
Project Summary	<p>The research will be using a woman – centered approach, the team seeks to understand the reasons for the high rates of smoking among Aboriginal women living in Hedland and Newman and surrounding communities in Pilbara, Western Australia.</p> <p>There are gaps of understanding the factors linked with Aboriginal women’s decision – making, experience and ability to quit smoking before, during and after pregnancy. This project can be used to create strategies able to be used by primary health care providers to support and assist women in their efforts to change behaviours which are harmful to their health.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 746 – The Squeaky Clean Kids program</i>		
Chief Investigator	Claire Huppatz		
Institution	WACHS		
Region	Kimberley		
Start Date	September 2016	Finish Date	December 2018
Project Summary	<p>The Squeaky Clean Kids Program goal is to reduce the incidence of infectious diseases (trachoma, skin infections and diarrheal disease) in Aboriginal children living in trachoma endemic communities and those communities ‘at risk’ of resurgence in WA by June 2018.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 747 – Gastrostomy for children with severe disability</i>		
Chief Investigator	Jenny Downs		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	State- wide		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	December 2020
Project Summary	Data Linkage Project from across Western Australia, in this study we will find out how often complications occur. We will also find out whether having a gastrostomy reduces the number of hospital admissions for chest infections or poorly controlled epilepsy.		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 749 – A review of coroner’s recommendations following Indigenous deaths in custody and Indigenous deaths up to one after release from prison</i>		
Chief Investigator	Luke Martin		
Institution	Monash University		
Region	National		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	December 2019
Project Summary	This research aims to identify risk factors and health issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners in different regions of Australia. Examining these issues will assist health and correctional services to better work with communities to reduce preventable Indigenous deaths in custody and deaths following release from prison.		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 750 – Understanding burn injuries in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children: treatment, access to services and outcomes</i>		
Chief Investigator	Rebecca Ivers		
Institution	The George Institute		
Region	National		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	April 2018
Project Summary	<p>The three aims of this sub – study investigating ‘Models of Care’ are:</p> <p>Map burn care: Health services mapping will be used to examine models of care and use of operational guidelines for burn management by healthcare professionals. The mapping will include both structure - the organisation, communication, referral processes, rehabilitation and community outpatient care in place; and processes - the use and implementation of structured care plans, clinical pathways, assessment protocols, rehabilitation prescriptions, and post-discharge management pathways in each site.</p> <p>Analyse enactment of burn care: To identify enactment of and attitudes to care at the institutional level, knowledge, attitudes, practices and perceived needs of patients by healthcare professionals involved in the management of burn injury will be evaluated. The consultation will focus on management of burns, and perceived barriers to treatment, with a particular focus on system level approaches to establish a clear representation of how operational guidelines are enacted.</p> <p>Inform the development of a national burn injury model of care informed that is culturally safe.</p>		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 751 – How did we survive? Aboriginal women sharing their lived experiences and knowledge of lessons learned in life through story-telling</i>		
Chief Investigator	Jasmine Gregory		
Institution	Student – Adelaide University		
Region	Mid - West		
Start Date	January 2017	Finish Date	July 2018
Project Summary	<p>The aim of this study is to understand what contributes to the resilience of Aboriginal women. The outcome will include sharing this knowledge and the insights to guide future policy and program development for Aboriginal women.</p> <p>A reference group made up of at least 5 Aboriginal women, who are well known and can be easily identified by members of communities involved will be established. This reference group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help to identify and invite participants for the study - Guide the Research and; - Help to interpret the results 		

Project Title	<i>2016 / 752 – Skin health situational analysis to inform skin disease control programs for the Kimberley</i>		
Chief Investigator	Asha Bowen		
Institution	Telethon Kids Institute		
Region	Kimberley		
Start Date	December 2016	Finish Date	June 2017
Project Summary	<p>The aim of the project is to conduct situational analysis of the skin health services and activities currently available for managing skin infection. This project provides opportunity to deliver a report to Kimberley stakeholders that documents the current skin health management resources available, and the gaps that need to be filled for designing a comprehensive skin disease control program</p>		