

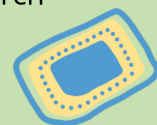
## What research means

The original investigation undertaken to gain knowledge, understanding and insight. It is a broad concept and there is no simple, single way to define research for all disciplines.<sup>1</sup>



## Where do research ideas come from

Often, the topics for research come from outside our communities, driven by government, academic or professional interests. While many researchers strive to ensure that their work is led by Aboriginal people or conducted in true partnership with local community members and ACCHOs, the reality is that the outcomes of these studies often do not benefit or empower our communities at the grassroots level.<sup>3, 4</sup>



## A little bit of background

For decades, our communities on the Eyre and Far West Coast of South Australia, alongside our Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHOs), have been involved in health-related research. Aboriginal people have been extensively studied, making them one of the most researched population groups in history.<sup>2</sup>



## Why research is good for our Mob

Research can bring positive change when it respects and values our knowledge, culture and priorities. It helps us understand health issues, find better solutions, and ensures our voices are heard in decision-making. When done in the right way, research can support our goals for better health and wellbeing.



For more information contact [research.data@sawcan.org.au](mailto:research.data@sawcan.org.au) or scan the QR code

For more information  
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<sup>1</sup> National Health and Medical Research Council, January 2016, A Consumer Guide to Principles for accessing and using publicly funded data for health research

<sup>2</sup> Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

<sup>3</sup> National Health and Medical Research Council, August 2018 Publisher, Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Historical context of research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

<sup>4</sup> Hunt J, October 2013, Issues paper no. 5 produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse, Engaging with Indigenous Australia exploring the conditions for effective relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities



## Guiding principles statement

Researchers must align with our expectations and commitment to achieving continuous improvement and meaningful health outcomes in Aboriginal health and wellbeing across the Eyre and Far West Coast of South Australia. Approaches **MUST** be community-centered, focusing on delivering culturally-safe care that addresses the physical, social, environmental, spiritual and overall wellbeing needs of our people. We prioritise holding researchers accountable, ensuring shared decision-making and alignment with our research guiding principles. We expect research knowledge translation to support service delivery which strengthens our healthcare system.

## Our research principles

To collaborate with our region, your research proposal must adhere to the following principles:

1. **Ownership and Empowerment** - Our ACCHOs / ACCHOs Board and Community members will hold ownership and drive research and data activities.
2. **Inclusive Engagement** - ACCHOs and Community members will be involved at every stage of research and in data processes.
3. **Knowledge and Respect** - Our ACCHOs and Community members will be acknowledged and respected for their knowledge and wisdom.
4. **Capacity Building** - Researchers will work to build research and data skills within the community.
5. **Relationship Building** - Researchers will establish trusting relationships and rapport with ACCHOs and Community members.
6. **Transparent Communication** - Researchers will provide regular updates to ACCHOs and Community members on project progression.
7. **Participatory Interpretation** - ACCHOs and Community members will be included in the interpretation and evaluation of programs and projects.
8. **Indigenous Data Sovereignty** - We recognise and uphold Indigenous data sovereignty principles.
9. **Our Data, Knowledges and Experiences** - Any information learnt or accessed through research is owned by the local Aboriginal peoples.