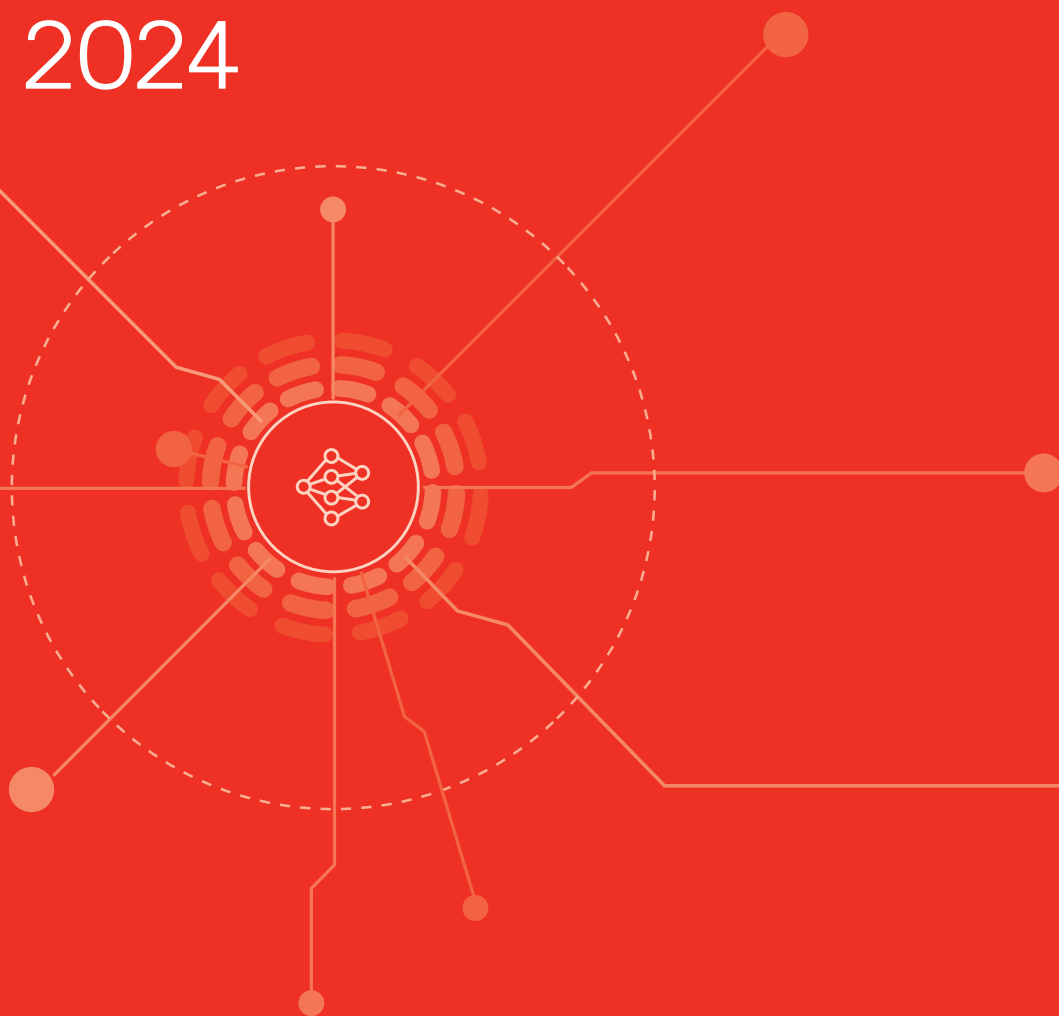


Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous
Education and Research

Annual Report

2024



Who we are

Jumbunna Research is Australia’s leading Indigenous-led research institute, dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and nations in achieving strength, sustainability and wellbeing. Guided by the principle that our work must be driven by Indigenous communities, we employ transformative research and practices to guide meaningful, strategic change.



Transformative Research

We produce world-class research on legal and policy issues that supports Indigenous sovereignty and wellbeing and which holds the Coloniser to account. Our research outputs include articles, case studies, books, legal analysis, policy submissions, contributions to Indigenous methodologies and critical legal theory, engagement with international scholars and contribution to new media.



Transformative Practice

We provide a sophisticated, ethical and expert national strategic professional services apparatus for Indigenous nations operating in the industries of law, governance, policy and new media. In addition to the provision of professional services, we seek to influence the development of new professionals to align with our mission.



Transformative Teaching and Education

Recognising the debt we owe to those who taught us and the importance of fostering future collaborators and allies, we acknowledge the importance of teaching and of the use of education. We use subjects, short courses, professional courses and PhD development to transmit our research and build the next generation of changemakers.



Transformative Story

We recognise the central role of Story and the power of narratives. We are conscious of how we tell our story — and the stories of others — and prioritise community voices and stories of Indigenous sovereignty, strength and vitality.

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Acknowledgement

UTS acknowledges the Gadigal People, the Boorooberongal people of the Dharug Nation, the Bidiagal people and the Gamaygal people upon whose ancestral lands our university stands. We would also like to pay respect to the Elders both past and present, acknowledging them as the traditional custodians of knowledge for these lands.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this report may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

A word from our Director

I am immensely proud to lead the outstanding Jumbunna Research team and their exceptional skills, insight and commitment to Indigenous self-determination.

During 2024, we continued to build on the substantial legacy of Jumbunna's work over decades, making significant and meaningful contributions through our impactful research that drives positive change for our people.

Our centring of Indigenous Research Methods underpins our ability to provide a First Nations perspective on issues that affect our communities and strengthens our advocacy for national and state-based policy reform.

Enduring relationships

Over the year we continued to grow our relationships with Aboriginal-led organisations, including the Goodes O'Loughlin Foundation (GO Foundation), Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education and Training, Coota Girls Aboriginal Foundation, Waminda and Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation.

We continued our strategic work with the **GO Foundation**, providing valuable insights into their students' experiences and building a co-designed Impact Measurement Framework. Our work is helping to strengthen decision making to improve the efficacy of the **GO Scholarship Program** and lead to a better student experience and long-term program outcomes.

We were delighted to continue our partnership with **Tranby** to strengthen culturally safe and supportive lifelong learning. We continue our evaluation of their **Yanalangami Program** for women and in 2024 provided introductory training on the use of Mukurtu content management system (CMS) as a tool for their resources and archival collections.

We have a long history of working with the **Coota Girls Aboriginal Foundation**. In the past year we worked with them to develop the **Coota Girls Survivor Project Digital Archive** recording survivor stories through culturally safe, trauma-informed approaches that support truth-telling and healing. Our team also conducted workshops at the **Coota Girls Survivors Retreat** and worked on a series of documentary films that will be completed in 2025.

We continue as **Waminda's** partner on their work demonstrating the impact of their unique **Nabu** program supporting children and families, combining Jumbunna Research's expertise with Waminda's to strengthen story telling.

Our ongoing work with **Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation** is close to my own heart. This year we partnered with them to support their anniversary event and efforts to develop a comprehensive model of care for Stolen Generations survivors and descendants under the **National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse**.

I am also proud of the work we have done with our key partner, the **National Justice Project** (NJP), on the **Call It Out First Nations Racism Register** — the only Indigenous controlled record of all forms and levels of discrimination experienced by First Nations peoples. It is in its third year of operation and is tracking a disturbing increase in 'lynch-mob' mentality towards our people in the digital space. The 2023-24 Annual Report on this project will be released in early 2025.

Higher Degree Research (HDR)

Jumbunna Research's work with Higher Degree Researchers is an essential component of the work of our team.

Every Indigenous graduating scholar contributes to cultural shift for community and the Academy. The impact is great and far reaching. For the student, their families and communities, and more broadly.

I am particularly proud of the achievements of all our HDR students and the supervisors who supported them. The importance of having a supervisor who understands the needs of students and the challenges of working in research that is, by its nature in parts both historical and deeply personal, cannot be underestimated.

Major projects

Jumbunna Research's three major projects for 2024 were the **ARC Laureate Fellowship**, our ARC funded research into the historical significance of the former **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission** (ATSIC), and the memorandum of understanding to establish a **Centre for Excellence** in 2024.

Our Laureate Fellow, Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO, and her team are taking a **First Nations sovereign approach to decolonising colonial institutions**. The represents the largest ARC Discovery Grant UTS has ever received. The research focusses on addressing historical injustices and elevating First Nations voices, expertise and leadership to strengthen collaboration across Indigenous communities and build research capacity. The multidisciplinary program expands Australia's knowledge base, including in the priority areas of child protection, legal education, anti-racism, and coronial reforms. It also includes the mentoring of early-career researchers and builds national and international research linkages.

The focussed **study of the former ATSIC** Jumbunna Research is undertaking is groundbreaking. Its interdisciplinary research is analysing how the Commission functioned and documenting the stories of those involved. The work will identify ATSIC's place in the wider history of self-determination, map the key elements of ATSIC's functioning that led to its success, and the causes of the challenges it faced. The study will also provide a clear and practical set of recommendations to policy makers on a tried and tested method of Indigenous political representation towards the making of evidence-based and sustainable Indigenous governance.

In September we were part of the establishment of the ARC-funded **Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures**. This seven-year, collaborative project is committed to transformational, community-led, transdisciplinary research.

While embarking upon projects that have outstanding impact, we have continued to grow as an institute, developing nation-leading Indigenous academics and delivering quality returns for our clients and partners resulting in Jumbunna Research earning **over \$3 million** in external revenue for the 2024 calendar year.



**Director of Research, Jumbunna Research,
Professor Lindon Coombes**

A word from our Laureate Fellow

ARC Laureate Fellowship: A First Nations sovereign approach to decolonising colonial institutions

I am incredibly proud of the remarkable achievements of our Laureate Fellowship team. Over the past year, I have witnessed both our established and emerging researchers thrive as they engage in innovative, ground-breaking research that continues to expand the boundaries of knowledge and drive meaningful change.

The dedication, resilience and creativity of our team have not only strengthened our collective research capacity but have also made a profound impact on the communities and institutions we work alongside. It has been inspiring to see early-career researchers grow under the mentorship of our leaders, contributing fresh perspectives and advancing key projects that address some of the most complex and persistent challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The policy work we are undertaking is vital in reshaping systems that have long perpetuated inequities. By embedding Indigenous knowledge systems and prioritising self-determination, our research seeks to decolonise institutional frameworks and foster more just and equitable outcomes. These efforts contribute to addressing historical injustices and supporting the development of policies that centre First Nations voices, expertise and leadership. In a time of continued national reflection on reconciliation and systemic reform, the importance of evidence-based, community-led research cannot be overstated.

Through our collaborative initiatives, we are not only creating new pathways for change but also cultivating a legacy of empowerment and innovation that will endure well beyond the duration of this Fellowship. I extend my deepest gratitude to every member of the team for their contributions and unwavering commitment to excellence. Together, across our five nodes, we are making an enduring difference.

Child Protection Node

Led by Associate Professor (Assoc Prof) Paul Gray, this node focuses on transforming institutions and decision-making processes impacting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. By incorporating international scholarship and evidence, the research reimagines systems and practices to reflect foundational principles of self-determination.

Key achievements include:

- Strengthening research collaborations with Indigenous communities worldwide.
- Supporting a special issue with contributors from Australia, the United States, Canada and New Zealand.
- Hosting a 2025 symposium at UTS to foster international dialogue and innovative research on transferring jurisdiction from settler-colonial authorities to Indigenous communities.

The Node has also built research capacity with industry partners by:

- Developing partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and peak bodies in Queensland, New South Wales (NSW), and Victoria.
- Providing mentorship and capacity-building support for research methodologies and dissemination.

The team remains dedicated to research translation, contributing to policy initiatives such as **Closing the Gap** and **Safe and Supported**, offering alternative frameworks for child protection system reform. They have actively engaged in scoping options for Indigenous community-led research infrastructure.

Legal Education Node

Co-led by Professors (Profs) Marcelle Burns and Nicole Watson, this node has advanced the following initiatives:

- **Indigenous PhD Retreat:** This event led to participant James Beaufils initiating an edited book on PhD research methodologies.
- **Publication of Legal Education Through an Indigenous Lens: *Decolonising the Law School* (Routledge, 2025):** Contributors include notable scholars such as Dist Prof Larissa Behrendt, Prof Terri Libesman and the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Indigenous Research Fellow, Assoc Prof Kirsten Gray.
- **New Journal Initiative:** Prof Nicole Watson has collaborated with UTS ePress since 2023 to establish the First peoples of Australia Law Review.
- **Collaborative Clinical Placement Program:** In partnership with the Jumbunna Legal Strategies Hub and the National Justice Project, a new clinical placement program has been developed, focusing on strategic litigation and practice with capped enrolments for optimal mentorship.

Coronial Inquest Node

Led by Prof Craig Longman, the Node has developed a *National Benchbook on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Legal System*, commissioned by the Australasian Institute for Judicial Administration and funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. This benchbook adopts a strengths-based, self-determination framework and integrates Indigenous knowledges and voices.

Progress highlights include:

- Securing funding, ethics approvals, and appointing a research fellow.
- Conducting consultations with legal practitioners, judges and Indigenous experts.

The Node's outreach efforts include:

- Collaborating with the NSW State Coroner on potential research linkages.
- Participating in coronial reform discussions with the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and legal sector stakeholders.
- Contributing to the First Nations Coronial Forum and international symposiums addressing the Indigenous incarcerated body.

Educational contributions include:

- Training on lawyering practices with Indigenous clients in coronial jurisdictions.
- Developing clinical lawyering programs with the National Justice Project.
- Submitting research to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry into youth justice and incarceration.

Anti-Racism Node

Led by Prof Lindon Coombes, this node focuses on transforming institutions, laws and policies, with a specific emphasis on anti-racism practice that improves the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Key projects include:

- Developing accountability measures for Closing the Gap for the Coalition of Peaks.
- Developing anti-racism practices within workplaces with Reconciliation Action Plans.
- Contributing to the Australian Human Rights Commission's national anti-racism strategy.

The Node's work aims to decolonise policy infrastructure and improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through First Nations-driven approaches.

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship

Led by Prof Juanita Sherwood and Dr. Gemma Sentence, with cultural leadership from Assoc Prof Pauline Clague, the Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship program has prioritised creating culturally safe and empowering spaces.

Key achievements include:

- Hosting five cohort events and facilitating participation at the 40th National Waminda Conference.
- Designing online and in-person activities grounded in the theme of "Burnout to Creativity to Storytelling." Inspired by Helen Milroy's work, these activities foster creativity, connection and cultural resilience.

The Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship's approach integrates cultural practices and social and emotional wellbeing, addressing the exhaustion faced by First Nations scholars while nurturing a supportive and collaborative academic environment.

The ARC Laureate Fellowship continues to make significant strides in decolonising institutional frameworks, supporting transformative research, and enhancing Indigenous leadership across academic and policy domains.

The above program of work is helping us meet the research goals of the Laureate by:

1. Supporting ground-breaking, internationally competitive research

- The Child Protection Node reimagines systems and decision-making processes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by integrating international Indigenous scholarship and evidence-based frameworks.
- The Coronial Inquest Node is developing a National Benchbook that centres Indigenous knowledges, a first-of-its-kind project in Australia, ensuring that its jurisprudence model leads global standards.
- The program's involvement in international symposiums — including, for example, in Aotearoa/New Zealand and Hawaii — contributes to global dialogues on Indigenous incarceration, positioning the research as internationally significant.

2. Training and mentoring early-career researchers

- The Child Protection Node has supported early-career researchers in research methodologies, dissemination, and debates, fostering strong career pathways from undergraduate studies to graduate research.
- The Legal Education Node's Indigenous PhD retreat provided tailored mentorship that led to innovative research projects, including an edited book on PhD research methodologies.

- The Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship has created culturally safe spaces for early-career researchers, providing support and mentorship to navigate academic pressures, burnout and creativity challenges.

3. Building national and international research linkages, including with industry

- The Child Protection Node has built partnerships with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and peak bodies in Queensland, NSW, and Victoria.
- Collaborative initiatives — such as the Legal Education Node's partnerships with the Jumbunna Legal Strategies Hub and the National Justice Project — have strengthened relationships between academia and legal sectors.
- International research linkages have been reinforced through participation in global forums and the hosting of international researchers for collaborative projects.

4. Expanding Australia's knowledge base and research capability

- The Anti-Racism Node's contributions to national anti-racism strategies (for example, for the Australian Human Rights Commission) expand the national knowledge base on Indigenous-led anti-racism practices.
- Publications like *Legal Education Through an Indigenous Lens: Decolonising the Law School* and upcoming journals enhance the national and international academic landscape.
- The Coronial Inquest Node's training and consultation initiatives — including the development of clinical legal education subjects — improve Australia's capacity for Indigenous-led legal reform.
- The establishment of the **ARC Centre for Indigenous People and Work** greatly contributes to the expansion of the Academy's knowledge base. Dist Prof Larissa Behrendt, Gio De Santolo and Jai McAllister collaborated with the **Healing Foundation** to record a series of life stories of members of the Stolen Generations. Eight stories were filmed and edited in collaboration with the participants.

5. Enhancing research in priority areas

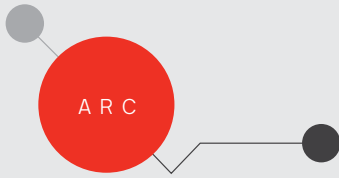
- The Fellowship's focus on child protection, legal education, anti-racism, and coronial reforms aligns with key national priorities such as justice reform, Indigenous self-determination and closing the gap in child welfare outcomes.
- Collaborative projects on systemic issues like the over-incarceration of Indigenous youth and deaths in custody contribute directly to addressing urgent social and legal challenges.

6. Mentoring and capacity building

- The program has created formal mentorship opportunities for Indigenous scholars, including research leadership roles and edited publications.
- The Jumbunna Cultural Resilience Hub and Kathleen Fitzpatrick Fellowship's emphasis on cultural safety ensures that capacity building includes social and emotional wellbeing support.
- By working closely with Indigenous-led organisations and peak bodies, the Fellowship contributes to strengthening community-led research capacity and infrastructure.



Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO



Policy for self-determination: The case study of ATSIC

Led by Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO, the ATSIC Project has made significant progress in its full first year.

A key development was the formation of a Steering Committee to oversee and instruct the research team around the project's direction. The Steering Committee consists of six senior and prestigious Indigenous knowledge holders who are also former members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC, 1990-2005), and is chaired and overseen by Auntie Patricia Turner AM (CEO of ATSIC 1994-8). In 2024, the Committee met twice.

A major milestone was the successful hosting of the first National Workshop which brought together 25 invited guests formerly involved with ATSIC. This workshop featured presentations and roundtable discussions, allowing participants to reflect on their experiences.

In 2024, the Project also began work to establish a digital archive led by Assoc Prof Kirsten Thorpe, using the Mukurtu CMS. This archive will serve as a crucial resource for preserving and sharing ATSIC-related content, ensuring that the history and experiences of involved Indigenous communities are curated and accessible for future generations.

Led by Assoc Prof Alison Holland at Macquarie University, over 500 archival files were accessed through the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia. This includes materials that have remained unopened since ATSIC's abolition.

Two HDR candidates and former senior ATSIC employees also formally enrolled and began their research in 2024 under the supervision of Dist Prof Larissa Behrendt and Profs Daryle Rigney and Lindon Coombes. Shane Hoffman's research focuses on the Community Development Employment Project scheme, while Pauline Brown's project focuses on the experience of Indigenous women within ATSIC.

The Project also obtained ethics approval to conduct up to 100 yarning oral history interviews with key individuals involved in or affected by ATSIC.

Over 2024, three articles were published and work began on three manuscripts that will explore ATSIC's successes and legacy.

Finally, the ATSIC Project has supported Assoc Prof Padraic (Paddy) Gibson's postdoctoral research on 'Black Power: Workers' Power: Socialists, trade unions and the struggle for Aboriginal rights in 20th Century Australia'. Paddy is co-authoring a manuscript on the life of Ray Peckham.

2024 OUTPUTS SNAPSHOT

ARCHIVAL FILES



500+

archival files were accessed through the National Library of Australia and the National Archives of Australia

ORAL HISTORIES



100

up to 100 yarning **oral history interviews** were granted ethics approval

ARTICLES



3

articles published and work began on three manuscripts that will explore ATSIC's successes and legacy

DIGITAL ARCHIVE



100s

establishment of a **digital archive** consisting of hundreds of documents using the Mukurtu CMS

NATIONAL WORKSHOP



1

the first **National Workshop** was successfully hosted, which brought together 25 invited guests formerly involved with ATSIC

HDR CANDIDATES



2

HDR candidates formally enrolled and began their research in 2024

STEERING COMMUNITY



6

Steering Committee members — senior Indigenous knowledge holders — overseeing and instructing the research team's projects

By the numbers - Higher Degree Research highlights

Our 2024 HDR graduates



Kirsten Gray

Kirsten is a Yuwaalaraay and Muruwari woman with family connections to North Western NSW and is a Research Fellow in our Indigenous Policy Hub. Kirsten's thesis explored the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander judicial officers in the Australian legal system.



Lauren Booker

Dr. Lauren Booker is a Garigal woman and a Postdoctoral Fellow in our Indigenous Archives and Data Stewardship Hub. Lauren's PhD research 'Hair Samples as Ancestors and Futures of Community-led Collection Care' (2024) investigated how — in the settler-colonial project of Australia — the racialised sampling of hair from First Nations peoples during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries materialised racial fictions of hair hierarchy, driven by global imperial and colonial agendas.



James Beaufile

James Beaufile is a Gundungurra man and Kanak from New Caledonia. He is a Senior Research Fellow in our Indigenous Law and Justice hub. His doctoral thesis explored the colonial New South Wales Out-of-Home-Care system and the experiences of First Nations people.



Gemma Sentance

Gemma Sentance is a Wiradjuri woman from NSW and is a Research Associate in our Child Protection Hub. Gemma's PHD investigated the experiences of First Nations law graduates in colonial legal institutions.



Monica Galassi

Monica Galassi is an Italian researcher who works as a Research Fellow in the Indigenous Archive and Data Stewardship Hub. Monica's doctoral thesis focused on how knowledge translation in archival studies can support the process of claiming Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's sovereignty over data held in overseas collecting institutions, through the case study of Aboriginal documentation that was collected by Italian explorers and anthropologists and still held in Italy.

Growing our Indigenous HDR cohort



50%

Jumbunna researchers supervise 50% of the UTS Indigenous HDR cohort



4

of our Indigenous HDR students graduated with a PhD



9

current HDR students are employed and making real world impact at Jumbunna Research



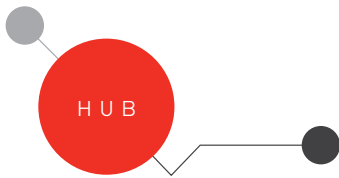
20%

project growth over five years in Indigenous Supervision of HDR students



UTS commits to being a home to a culture of excellence in Indigenous higher education, research, employment and community engagement, providing a new benchmark for the Australian higher education sector. Jumbunna Research plays a pivotal role in this commitment. Expanding our Indigenous HDR cohort paves the way for a new generation of Indigenous researchers that will uphold Jumbunna's aim of excellence in Indigenous-led research.

ADR, Lachlan McDaniel



Child Protection

The Child Protection Hub works and stands alongside First Nations families, communities and their organisations to better protect and promote the rights and interests of our children. The Hub also helps to shape government agendas in all jurisdictions by advocating for structural and practice changes to transform systems and prioritise self-governance in child protection decision making.

We support the aspirations of our community partners in the services they provide to children and families. There remains a considerable amount of work to do, and progress has been slow for our communities. We stand with them in solidarity, recognising that only through combined effort will change be realised.

The Hub welcomed two new members in 2024. Wiradjuri scholar **Dr. Gemma Sentance**, and Ngarigo and Darkinjung scholar **Mahlia Garay** join the Hub's work partnering with First Nations communities for impactful research and advocacy. This includes ongoing contributions to advocacy alongside partners **AbSec, Aboriginal Legal Service** (NSW/ACT) and the **Justice and Equity Centre** for the full implementation of the *Family is Culture Review Report's* recommendations, now in its fifth year.

External research

The (mis)apprehension of Aboriginal children

At the start of the year, we published *Attachment and the (mis)apprehension of Aboriginal children: epistemic violence in child welfare interventions*, co-authored with Ash Wright (lead author), Belle Selkirk, Auntie Rita Wright and Caroline Hunt. The article examined the epistemic violence at the heart of child protection systems. We used the construct of attachment as an example of the misapplication of Western knowledge systems to perpetuate the dispossession and disconnection of Aboriginal children from their families, communities and culture. The article has been downloaded more than 8,300 times since its open source publication, making it the *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* journal's most downloaded article in 2024. It has been used by communities to advocate for reconnection and family placements.

We presented the implications of the paper with Ash Wright to the child protection sector at a **NSW Department of Communities and Justice Lunch and Learn**, attracting more than 750 viewers: the largest audience to date for the event.

Restoration

Our work with partners at **UNSW Sydney** and **Aboriginal community organisations on the South Coast** continues to tell the story of Aboriginal families affected by child protection interventions, the weaknesses in restoration planning and practice and identifying opportunities to get more of our kids home.

STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Associate Professor Paul Gray
- > Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Dr. Gemma Sentance
- > Research Associate: Mahila Garay

Associated team

- > Senior Researcher: Associate Professor Padraic (Paddy) Gibson
- > Research Fellows: Associate Professor Kirsten Gray, Dr. James Beaufils
- > Research Associate: Latoya Rule

Key impacts of this work include:

- > Two ground-breaking research articles.
- > Development of a new data resource that better tells the story of Aboriginal children's experiences of surveillance and intervention by child protection authorities.
- > Advocacy for a new, community-led restoration service that is expected to actively support the many Aboriginal children in long-term, out-of-home care in NSW to be reconnected with their families and safely returned home.

We will continue to work with our partners to research impact and translate research findings to policy and practice for the benefit of our children and families.

Collaboration

The Hub partnered with **Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation**, supporting their anniversary event and efforts to develop a comprehensive model of care for Stolen Generations survivors and descendants (funded by the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse).

We partnered with **Waminda** to facilitate their work refining and demonstrating the positive impact of their unique Nabu program supporting children and families. This work included identifying:

- > Broad outcomes frameworks to capture the full scope of the program's impact.
- > Potential indicators and practice tools to demonstrate impact and drive Waminda's continuous improvement efforts on behalf of their community.

Impacts of our advocacy

The Hub's advocacy has delivered impact nationally, including through our participation in the **Safe and Supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Group** and **Closing the Gap Policy Partnerships**. This has included a focus on progressing greater structural accountability.

Progress has been made on:

- > The establishment of **National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People**, expected to commence in early 2025.
- > The development of a **national, community-led Aboriginal child and family research centre** as key agenda-setting infrastructure that can change the research landscape, placing researchers in support of Aboriginal communities.

This complements our work in NSW advocating for a comprehensive restructuring of accountability mechanisms and exploring community expectations for responsive research infrastructure completed in partnership with **AbSec** (funded by AIATSIS Research Exchange).

PP Our relationship with Jumbunna has been great and their reputation is truly recognised for the work they do. Paul, Kirsten and the team are awesome. Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers working alongside us with combining our expertise, this has strengthened our work in telling our story.

Lisa Wellington,
Chief Executive Leader – Community – Waminda

This year we were also excited to be part of the establishment of the ARC-funded **Centre of Excellence for Indigenous Futures**. This seven-year, collaborative project is committed to transformational, community-led, transdisciplinary research, was launched in September 2024.

Hub highlights

We are proud that during the year Mahlia Garay was awarded the the University of Sydney's **Charles Perkins Memorial Prize** and the **Helen Sham-Ho Social Work Prize**. Gemma Sentance was awarded the **First Nations Legal Researcher of the Year 2024** at the **Tarwirri National First Nations Law Awards**.

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Publications

Garay, M., Kelley, L.A., and Gielingh, A. 'Recognising the Harms of Removal: Considerations of Culture in the Court Room'. *UNSW Court of Conscience Article, Issue 18 2024, Changing Times: Progress and Law Reform*.

Newton, B.J., **Gray P.**, Cripps, K., Falster, K. Katz, I., Chiswell, K., Wellington, L., Ardler, R., Frith, F., Jones, T., Kent, M., Tong, N. (2024) 'Restoring Children from Out-of-Home Care: Insights From and Aboriginal-Led Community Forum', *Child and Family Social Work*

Wright, A., **Gray, P.**, Selkirk, B., Hunt, C., and Wright, R. (2024) 'Attachment and the (mis)apprehension of Aboriginal children: epistemic violence in child welfare interventions', *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 1-25



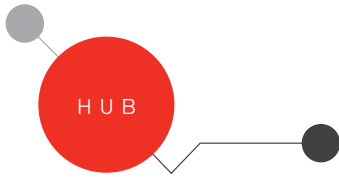
Newton, B., Katz, I., **Gray, P.**, Frost, S., Gelaw, Y., Hu, N., Lingam, R., and Stephensen, J. (2024) 'Restoration from out-of-home care for Aboriginal children: Evidence from the pathways of care longitudinal study and experiences of parents and children,' *Child Abuse and Neglect*, Vol. 149,

Reports

Family is Culture July 2024 Community Report Card –
Authors: AbSec: John Leha, Chief Executive Officer, Sally Cowling, Director, Policy and Advocacy, Annaliese Gielingh, Policy Officer, Policy and Advocacy. **ALS NSW/ACT:** Karly Warner, Chief Executive Officer, Zoe De Re, Senior Policy Solicitor. **Jumbunna Research: Assoc Prof Paul Gray, Mahlia Garay.** **JEC:** Lucy-Ann Kelley, Policy Lawyer.
Family is Culture: Five years On – November 2024.
Authors: AbSec: John Leha, Chief Executive Officer, Annaliese Gielingh Acting Director, Policy and Advocacy. **ALS NSW/ACT:** Karly Warner, Chief Executive Officer, Zoe De Re, Senior Policy Solicitor. **Jumbunna Research: Assoc Prof Paul Gray, Mahlia Garay.** **JEC:** Lucy-Ann Kelley, Policy Lawyer, Emma Bastable, Solicitor, Jonathan Hall Spence, Principal Solicitor **SPRC:** A/Professor BJ Newton, Social Policy Research Centre, Keely-Che Cain, Social Work Placement Student, Tyrah Chan-Hampton, Social Work Placement Student, Tiah Payne, Social Work Placement Student, Tara Weldon, Social Work Placement Student
Setting the foundations for Aboriginal community-led child protection research (2024) **AbSec** – NSW Child, Family and Community Peak Aboriginal Corporation, and UTS **Jumbunna Research.** AIATSIS Research Exchange

Photographs

- (1) Mahlia Garay presenting at the **AbSec Conference**
- (2) Dr. Gemma Sentance at the **Tarwirri National First Nations Law Awards 2024**
- (3) Assoc Prof Paul Gray presenting at the **AbSec Conference**.



Cultural Resilience

The Cultural Resilience Hub promotes, supports and embodies the exercise and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sovereignty and self-determination, by leading innovative practices in Media and Storytelling in the arts.

At the start of 2024, we put out feelers to community to determine the key areas where we could assist arts organisations to find funding and support for their projects.

External research and collaboration

Projects with First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation

The Hub is committed to ensuring that we add value to the goals of **First Hand Solutions Aboriginal Corporation** (FHS) to build capacity and celebrate the work that is done from the grassroots up. We have worked with FHS on two of its projects: **Blak Markets** and the **National Indigenous Arts Fair** (NIAF)

The NIAF enables our community to showcase the range of Indigenous artists from around Australia and connect and engage with other Indigenous artists.

FHS knew the Hub's work through our support of the **Blak Markets** and wanted to elevate the fair to provide Indigenous art centres a more collaborative experience. We provided policy advice and researched the impact NIAF has for the community and assisted FHS to:

- > Build internal capacity.
- > Improve and create effective processes for the NIAF.
- > Develop new ideas in professional development programs.



STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Associate Professor Pauline Clague
- > Research Assistant: Ashley Little

We also created a one-off course for NIAF with the **UTS Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building** on using technology to reimagine artworks. We 3D-scanned a dilly bag and created 3D and wood imprints, 3D textiles and holograms of the work.

We also worked with a team at the **UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences** and **Transport for NSW** to support composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist **William Barton's** Aboriginal engagement on the Zero Emissions Buses Acoustic Vehicle Alerting Systems project. William is widely recognised as one of Australia's leading didgeridoo players. William's engagement includes creating sounds for the new electric buses to be introduced in Sydney. We organised a walk on country with Aunty Barb Simms in La Perouse.

Workshops

Our support for the **Coota Girls Survivors** continued in 2024 when we joined their Healing retreat in Nelsons Bay in February. The possum cloaks tell the story of the survivors, their sisterhood, and their journeys of disconnection and reconnection to culture and their true identities. We created a cloak which the aunties presented to the school at their Sorry Day dinner in May. This workshop then carried over to a smaller version at Sorry Day 2024.



We also hosted a workshop where possum skin key rings were presented to the families and friends of the Stolen Generations and to the wider community. The work we do with the aunties will continue into 2025, including delivery of 17 completed documentary films on survivors in the early part of 2025.

Our work with community also included connection with the **La Perouse Public School** where we hosted a weaving workshop.

Collaboration within UTS

The Hub provides internal support on projects and events that are happening within the University, including:

- > Kathleen Fitzgerald Laureate Fellow.
- > Talk Together Friday.
- > Support provided to Blak Markets at Husskinson, NSW.
- > Digitisation and interviews of elders.



2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

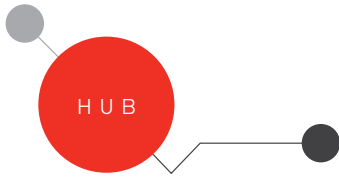
Film

Our continued support surrounding film this year included:

- > Assisting the inaugural, sold out **First Nations Film Festival 2024** (Shibuya, Tokyo) for the Australian Embassy and filmmakers Leah Purcell and Bain to attend.
- > Creating videos for memorials for Indigenous actors that we lost during 2024.
- > Attendance **EFM 24** and support of Fellow Nara Wilson from SA
- > Providing shorts for NAIDOC week for the NSW Government.
- > Curating Bush Shorts that played at the **SXSW Sydney Festival**.
- > Providing cultural support to the Maori film, "Ka Whawhai Tonu", for the welcome at the **Sydney Film Festival**.
- > Partnership in the newly formed **Indigenous Cinema Alliance**, which will bring 10 international Indigenous fellows to the European Film Market in Berlin in February 2025.
- > We have begun talks with the NSW Government about bringing a cinema experience at Barangaroo of Indigenous films through our work with Winda. Due to Sorry Business in 2024, this project was delayed but we but hope to recommence discussions in early 2025. This will allow us to feature weekly films from Indigenous creators at an open cinema on the Barangaroo Lawns over several months in late 2025.

Panels

- > Presenters: **Assoc Prof Pauline Clague**, Gary Foley, Heather Goodall, Ray Kelly, Gaynur Maynard, John Maynard and Gary Williams, 'The AAPA 100 years on' at the State Library 2024 (May)
- > Chair: Professor Robynne Quiggin, with presenters **Assoc Prof Pauline Clague**, Anna Clark and Nardi Simpson. 'Indigenous Storytelling in the post-Voice era' at the **Centre for Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges (CAIK) Indigenous Futures Conference 2024** held at UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (November)
- > Chair: Susan Kerrigan, with presenters **Assoc Prof Pauline Clague**, Jay Morrissey and Matt Vitins, 'Local and Global Screen Content'
- > Chair: Dist Prof Larissa Behrendt AO with presenters **Assoc Prof Pauline Clague** and Prof Jason De Santolo, 'First Nations Voice: Culture, Creative Practice and the Academy', at the **Australian Screen Production, Education and Research Association (ASPERA) Conference 2024** (November)



First Nations Land Justice

The First Nations Land Justice Hub investigates land justice resurgences, incursions on the exercising of authority in Indigenous homelands and analyses the ongoing impacts of colonisation as climate crisis. We provide scholarship and advocacy for Indigenous self-determination and sovereignty and the protection of ancestral lands and practices.

During 2024, the Hub:

- > Strengthened international collaborations.
- > Advanced a dynamic research agenda within the field of labour history.
- > Supported and deepened the revitalisation work of partnered communities.

External research

Prof Jason De Santolo was the convenor and co-host with Latoya Rule of a large international conference, the **Construction of the Indigenous incarcerated body, Reformations of Colonisation Symposium**. Research partners and over 35 Indigenous delegates — including youth delegates — contributed and were in attendance from Aotearoa/New Zealand, Hawaii and Chile. Highlights included keynotes delivered by Profs Linda Smith, Graham Smith, Elisa Loncon, Leonie Pihama and Juanita Sherwood, Dr Mahealani Miller and Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO.

Prof Jason De Santolo advised on a range of projects including:

- > **iREAL: Inclusive Requirements Elicitation for AI in Libraries to Support Respectful Management of Indigenous Knowledges**, University of Glasgow and UTS. (Building Responsible AI Divides, UKRI Arts and Humanities Research Council).
- > International Advisor: **Generation Kainga**, Purangakura Advisory Board Member, Purangakura Research Centre (Endeavour Fund, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).
- > International Advisor: **Wai Ora, Kainga Ora: Integrated water solutions for climate resilient communities**, Purangakura Research Centre (Endeavour Fund, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).

Defending Country: Advancing self-determination

Funded through a bequest from the **estate of the late John Pilger**, this project facilitates cross-disciplinary work alongside communities defending and revitalising their Country and culture, asserting their sovereignty and self-determination and challenging discriminatory policies. This innovative project combines critical historical analysis, creative methodologies and revitalisation practices to advance self-determination and defend country from extractive industries and other detrimental impacts.

STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Professor Jason De Santolo
- > Post-doctoral Research Fellow: Associate Professor Padraic (Paddy) Gibson
- > Ern MacDonald On Country Research Fellow: Callum Clayton-Dixon
- > Research Fellow: Jacqui Katona
- > Advisory: Rhonda Dixon Grovenor, Gadrian Hoosan

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges and is grateful for support from:

Research partners and knowledge exchange

- > Eklou Mea Nui
- > Purangakura
- > Nawi Gadoo
- > Pua Foundation
- > Tu Tama Wahine o Taranaki

Collaborations

- > Botanical Gardens of Sydney
- > Firesticks
- > JustUs
- > Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation
- > Maritime Union of Australia
- > National Justice Project
- > Newara Aboriginal Corporation
- > Unions NSW Pilliga Campaign Committee

Commencing in the Spring of 2024, this project has provided assistance to Aboriginal people in Central Australia trying to regain control over community land and housing taken away as a result of the draconian Northern Territory Intervention.

Black Power – Workers' Power Trade unionists, socialists and the struggle for Aboriginal rights 1946 –1972

Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson was appointed to the position of Post-Doctoral Fellow, formally commencing his post-doctoral research project **Black Power – Workers' Power**. This post-doctoral research is funded as part of the ARC grant, **Policy for Self-Determination: the case study of ATSIC**.

As part of this project, Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson is collaborating with Dubbo Elders Ray Peckham and John Nolan – along with Prof Wendy Bowles from CSU – on a biography of Uncle Ray, a leading trade unionist and Aboriginal rights activist in the 1950s-60s, which will be published in 2025.



Photo: Ndwara (stringybark) sapling and embangata (*Melichrus urceolatus*) enjoying inba rünyera ("good fire") at Nyambinga Kyuna.

Labour history and Aboriginal rights

Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson worked at the cutting edge of labour history with his post-doctoral research project, investigating key movements and moments in twentieth century Australia where organised workers helped to advance Aboriginal rights and broader anti-colonial demands. He was a guest editor on a special edition of the *Labour History Journal* published in 2024, focussed on working class anti-racism, which included his article on trade union efforts to stop frontier violence in Australia in the 1930s. He also commenced a continuing position on the *Labour History Journal* editorial board.

During 2024, Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson began working with local Elder and key partner Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor to uncover the activist history of Aboriginal waterside workers in Sydney in the 1960s, led by her father Chicka Dixon. He also began collaborating with families in East Arnhem Land descended from Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda, a Yolngu Warrior whose resistance to police in the early 1930s inspired the first nationwide trade union-backed campaign for Aboriginal rights. This research is animated by and helps to inspire efforts to build trade union solidarity with Aboriginal rights campaigns today.

Language reclamation

On-Country Research Fellow, Callum Clayton-Dixon, is spearheading efforts to reclaim language and land in the Anaiwan high country. Nearing completion, his doctoral thesis comprises the first comprehensive grammar and dictionary of his ancestral high-country lingo, reclaiming and bringing together the fragments of language recorded in the colonial archive to repatriate this knowledge to its original cultural contexts, reconnecting it with story, people, and place.

Advocacy

Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson has continued to provide research assistance to **Gomeori people** and the **Unions NSW Pilliga campaign committee** in their efforts to stop Coal Seam Gas development in the Pilliga forest, including by summarising and publicising proceedings in the landmark Native Title case *Gomeori vs Santos*.

He has also helped to ensure that the voices of families affected by **deaths in custody** and **forced child removal** are heard in public debate, including through assisting to organise demonstrations at NSW Parliament to mark Sorry Day, May 27, 2024 and at Long Bay prison to mark Human Rights Day December 7, 2024.

Assoc Prof Paddy Gibson represented Jumbunna in an appearance before the **Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights inquiry into Income Management** on July 5, 2024.

2024 KEY RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Publications

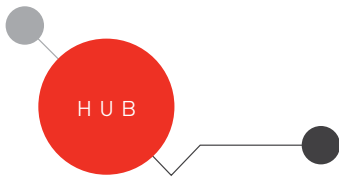
- > Thorpe, K., Behrendt, L., Quiggin, R., **De Santolo, J.** and Page, S., 2024. Marana Dyargali. Sydney: UTS ePRESS. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5130/aam>
- > **De Santolo, J.** (2024). 'Restoring sensations of freedom – a note on the poetic resonance of Indigenous research beyond public universities'. In: Gibbs, P., de Rijke, V. and Peterson, A. (eds) *The Contemporary Scholar in Higher Education*, Springer Nature Switzerland.
- > **Gibson, P.** (2024). 'Review of: Reaching through time: Finding my families stories, by Shauna Bostock', *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol 100 (1), 103–105.
- > **Gibson, P.** (2024). "Communist and the 1933 campaign that ended frontier massacres", *Labour History Journal*, Vol. 126 (1), 47–71.
- > **Gibson, P.**, Loy-Wilson, S., Piccini, J. and Smith, E. (2024). "Introduction to special issue: working-class anti-colonialism in 20th Century Australia", *Labour History Journal*, Vol. 126 (1), 1–8.

Conferences

- > **De Santolo, J.** Presentation, 'iREAL: Inclusive Requirements Elicitation for AI in Libraries to Support Respectful Management of Indigenous Knowledges Workshop', 31 July 2024.
- > **De Santolo, J.** Keynote Panel, First Nations Voices – Culture, Creative Practice and the Academy, ASPERA Conference Program for 'Filmmaking Intelligences', 27th November 2024. Department of Film, Games and Animation, School of Social Sciences, media, Film and Education, University of Technology, Melbourne.

Submissions and reports

- > **Gibson, P.** Submission to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights Review of Compulsory Income Management. Jumbunna Research, Research Unit, 9 May 2024
- > **Gibson, P.**, Longman C., and Whittaker, A., Submission to Transport for NSW review of s114G of the Roads Act, May 31, 2024.
- > **Gibson, P.**, Longman C., and Whittaker, Submission to Department of Communities and Justice review of s214A of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW). May 31, 2024.



Indigenous Archives and Data Stewardship

The Indigenous Archives and Data Stewardship Hub supports Indigenous archiving futures to protect Indigenous knowledges.

In 2024, the Hub advanced its Indigenous-led research in Critical Library and Archive Studies, focusing on priorities for Indigenous knowledge management in the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector. Through collaborative partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities, industry stakeholders, and sector representatives, we strengthened our work on the care and protection of Indigenous data and archives.



Photo: Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre Digitisation Project



Photo: Jennifer R. O'Neal (The Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde) and Kirsten Thorpe (Worimi), Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics, University of Oregon – Global Indigenous sovereignty and Activism Panel, 9 April 2024.

STAFF

- > Hub Leader, Chancellor's Postdoctoral Indigenous Research Fellowship: Associate Professor Kirsten Thorpe
- > Research Fellow: Dr. Lauren Booker
- > Research Associate: Dr. Monica Galassi

External research

The Hub has engaged in several major research projects throughout the year, including five funded national research projects and two international research partnerships:

- > *djurali Impact Research Project* – funded through the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney
- > *Coota Girls Survivor Project Digital Archive* – funded by the Coota Girls Aboriginal Corporation
- > *Dhiyaan Aboriginal Centre Digitisation Project* – funded by the Moree Plains Shire Council
- > *Evaluation of the Aboriginal History Archives* – funded by the Paul Ramsey Foundation
- > *Find & Connect Stolen Generations Project* – funded by the University of Melbourne
- > iREAL: Inclusive Requirements Elicitation for AI in Libraries project with partners United Kingdom (University of Glasgow, Kings College London, Digital Preservation Coalition) – funded by the UK Government through the BRAID program
- > *NSW Australian Mukurtu Hub* – funded through Washington State University, United States (US).

The Hub strengthened its international connections by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with **Washington State University's Mukurtu project**, linking the NSW Australian Mukurtu Hub with six regional hubs across the US. The team is developing a foundational course for the Australian Library Association (ALIA) which will embed recognition and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander contexts, knowledges and Country into core competencies. This course will be launched nationally in 2025.

PP We were so fortunate to host Kirsten and Lauren at the University of Oregon in conversation about our shared research and collaboration on Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty in archives, libraries, and museums. Our long-term international alliances have been and will continue to be crucial to our collaborative research as we fight for the protection of Indigenous knowledge and advocate for policy changes within the sector. These international collaborations move our work forward with care, respect, and reciprocity. We look forward to future collaborations and continued conversations between the United States and Australian colleagues, as we work to transform professional practices related to Indigenous data sovereignty and governance.

Workshops and engagement

A significant highlight of 2024 was the national **Dialogue Session: Libraries and their Intersection with Indigenous Knowledges**. This strategic gathering brought together representatives from across the library sector to explore priorities for Indigenous knowledge management. The Hub was engaged by the **Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)**, the **Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL)**, and **National and State Libraries Australasia (NSLA)** to facilitate this important sector-wide conversation. A report on the outcomes is being prepared for national distribution.

Other highlights for the Hub included:

- > *UTS Library Leadership Workshop - First Nations self-determination and Representation in Australian Academic Libraries*
- > *City of Sydney National Reconciliation Week Lecture*
- > Guest lecturer in the UTS Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology for *Interrogating Technology: Sustainability, Environment and Social Change (048210)*
- > *Sabra Thorner* – Mentoring program with Assistant Professor from Mount Holyoke University (USA)
- > Keynote at the State Library of Queensland Truth-telling and treaty through public libraries workshop
- > *Tracking Tandanya* – Implementation and Activation of the International Council on Archives (ICA) Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration) in Australia project in partnership with Monash University and the Australian Society of Archivists
- > *Ethical Indigenous Data Stewardship Workshops* for the project *Law and Justice? Social attitudes towards crime and policing from Australia's past* with Dr. Meg Foster, Chancellor Post Doctoral Fellow at FAAS
- > *Wedge Collection project* – Co-design an archive information portal for community consultation with Tasmanian communities regarding the archival return of collections from UK collections with Dr. Rebe Taylor and Dr. Mike Jones, University of Tasmania
- > *Tranby Aboriginal College, Glebe* – Introductory training on the use of Mukurtu CMS as a community and student engagement tool for their resources and archival collections
- > Tandanya-Adelaide Declaration Symposium 2024 – Organisation and programming at the ASA/ARANZ/PARBICA Conference in Otautahi/Christchurch, Aotearoa
- > *Implementing Protocols for the care of First Nations collections seminar* – University of Newcastle Library and Special Collections team

Staff highlights

- > Lauren Booker was awarded her PhD in February and a postdoctoral position in May. She was also awarded the **Australian Academy of the Humanities - David Phillips Travelling Fellowship** for a postdoctoral archival research project to be undertaken in 2025.
- > Monica Galassi was awarded her PhD in November 2024. She was also a recipient of the UTS 2024 Social Impact Grant for the **Aboriginal Archives in Italy** project.
- > Assoc Prof Kirsten Thorpe was appointed by the Federal Minister for the Arts to the Advisory Council of the National Archives of Australia (NAA) for a three-year term.
- > Assoc Prof Kirsten Thorpe and Dr. Lauren Booker undertook a research trip to the US to visit Assoc Prof Jennifer O'Neal at the University of Oregon to discuss research collaboration and to attend the inaugural **US Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit**.

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Publications

- > **Galassi, M.** (2024). 'Centring Indigenous Worldviews in the Care of Aboriginal Archives in Italy'. In (Eds) *Creating Shared Futures through Contested Heritages*. Museo Delle Civiltà Edizioni.
- > **Thorpe, K.** (2024). Returning love to Ancestors captured in the archives: Indigenous wellbeing, sovereignty and archival sovereignty. *Archival Science*, 1-18.
- > **Thorpe, K., Sentance, N., & Booker, L.** (2024). 'Wikimedia Australia and first nations metadata: utilising the ATSILIRN protocols to create culturally appropriate description and access'. *New Review of Hypermedia and Multimedia*, 1-22.

Presentations

Staff at the Hub presented a combined total of 17 papers and panels, 13 nationally and four internationally. Papers of note included:

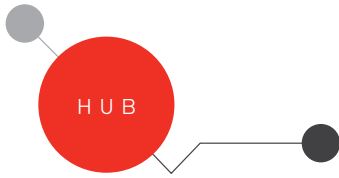
- > **Dr. Lauren Booker** presented '*Hair samples as Ancestors and futures of community-led collection care*' at the **25th Annual Conference of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology**, Keele University UK.
- > **Dr. Monica Galassi** presented at the **Archival Education Research Institute (AERI)** hosted by Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi (Emirates)

Assoc Prof Kirsten Thorpe was invited to speak on a panel at the **International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)**. She presented to the **Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA)** and delivered the annual **Monash University Faculty of Information Technology's Whyte Lecture**. Kirsten also presented at the Research Support Community Day, the **Fantastic Futures Conference** at the National Film and Sound Archive, the **International Council on Archives Forum of National Archivists (FAN) Quarterly Virtual Colloquium on Archival Matters**, and the **UK Changes and Challenges in Heritage and Open Knowledge roundtable**, London.

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges and is grateful for support from:

- > Australian Library and Information Association/ National and State Libraries of Australasia/Council of University Librarians
- > Australian Research Council
- > BRAID Program, UK Government
- > City of Sydney
- > Clegg Foundation
- > Find & Connect, University of Melbourne
- > Museum of Contemporary Art
- > Paul Ramsey Foundation, Moondani Balluk, Victoria University
- > State Library of Queensland
- > University of Newcastle Library
- > Washington State University



Indigenous Law and Justice

The Hub's vision is to enhance and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-determination.

We aim to prioritise First Nations' voices, improve Indigenous justice outcomes, and ensure access to justice as defined by First Nations peoples. We do this through working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and community-controlled organisations, legal service providers, non-government organisations and government.

External research

During 2024 the Hub was engaged on several large-scale projects.

Our major project for 2024 was the *Independent Review into the Over-Representation of First Nations People in the ACT Criminal Justice System*, commissioned by the **ACT Government**. Our first report which reviewed the ACT Government's progress in implementing recommendations from the Australian Law Reform Commission's 2017 Pathways to Justice Report has been completed. Our second report for the project which identifies strategies prioritised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT as likely to reduce over-representation in the justice system, is due for completion in early 2025.



Photo: Hub members meeting with community members in Derby WA

STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Professor Chris Cunneen
- > Senior Research Fellow: Associate Professor Fiona Allison
- > Research Fellow: Dr. James Beaufils
- > Postdoctoral Fellow: Dr. Michael Bryden
- > Research Associates: Sophie Russell, Ayse Selcuk

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges and is grateful for support from:

- > ACT Government
- > Art Gallery of NSW
- > Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department
- > Corrective Services NSW
- > Financial Counselling Australia
- > James Martin Institute for Public Policy
- > Just Reinvest NSW
- > Justice Reinvestment Network Australia
- > King Wood & Mallesons
- > National Justice Project
- > Ninti One
- > Social Reinvestment WA
- > Youth Justice NSW

FF Partnering with an organisation that has a strong history of working with justice reinvestment, and the respect of First Nations communities, enabled a level of access and feedback that would not normally have been possible and allowed the Commonwealth to access a broad range of issues being raised by community.

AGD input into Closing the Gap 2023 Report on Jumbunna Research's involvement in the design work

We continued to work on other projects, including managing — along with the **National Justice Project** — the online **First Nations Racism Register, Call It Out**. We are preparing the annual report on the Register for 2023-24 and were also engaged on two projects related to Deaths in Custody. The first has been commissioned by **Corrective Services NSW** and aims to identify the experiences of families, community groups and advocates in relation to the deaths of Aboriginal people in Corrective Services custody in NSW between 2010 and 2022. The second is an **international collaboration** involving an examination of deaths in police cells in Australia, New Zealand and England.



Photo: Hub members planning community engagement with Bush Money Mob in the Kimberley.

In early 2024, the Hub completed an evaluation of the Bush Money Mob for **Financial Counselling Australia**. Bush Money Mob provide advocacy and assistance in resolving financial matters for First Nations people in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions of Western Australia. Hub members — along with partners **Ninti One** and **Justice Reinvestment Network Australia** — completed their extensive work for the **Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department** with the implementation of the **National Justice Reinvestment Program**.

In 2024 we began working on the **Aboriginal-led Justice Solutions for Reinvestment** project with the **James Martin Institute for Public Policy**. The Project focuses on the design of a reinvestment mechanism to support community led reinvestment in NSW.

We also commenced working with the **Art Gallery NSW** and **Youth Justice NSW** on the **Djumu Youth Justice Art Programs** during 2024. The project supports young Indigenous people in the NSW youth justice system to create meaningful connections through art. The project also aims to provide vocational pathways and mentoring opportunities post-release.

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Publications

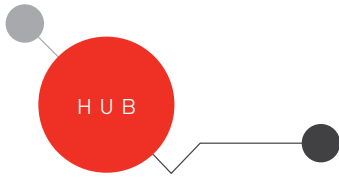
- > **Cunneen, C.** and Tauri, J. 'Critical Indigenous Criminology in Practice and Praxis' in the *Journal of Global Indigeneity*, 8(1)
- > Dr. Beaufils' article with Warren and Corrales titled 'Decolonisation, Biopolitics and Neoliberalism: An Australian study into the problems of legal decision-making' in the journal *Children and Youth Services Review*.
- > **Prof Chris Cunneen** and Dr. Vegh-Weis were named Runner-Up for the 2024 Best Paper Prize by the RJ Working Group of the European Society of Criminology for their paper 'Can Indigenous truth commissions overcome the legacies and contemporary effects of colonialism?' in the *International Journal of Restorative Justice*.
- > Dr. Beaufils was recognised by the *Australian Journal of Social Issues* for his paper "'That's the Bloodline": Does Kinship and care translate to Kinship care?'. The article was of the most downloaded from the journal during its first 12 months of publication.

Presentations at international conferences

- > **Prof Chris Cunneen** chaired workshops and panels and presented a paper at the American Criminology conference.
- > Hub members – **Assoc Prof Fiona Allison and Dr. James Beaufils, Prof Chris Cunneen and Postdoctoral Indigenous Research Fellow Dr. Michael Bryden** – made a significant contribution to the ANZ Criminology conference held in Christchurch, Aotearoa, where they presented numerous academic papers and ran various workshops.

Media appearances

Prof Chris Cunneen made regular media appearances over the year, with a particular focus on rural and regional radio broadcasts with ABC Radio in areas such as North and Western Queensland, Western Australia, Alice Springs and Darwin in the NT, Broken Hill in NSW and North and West South Australia.



Indigenous Nation Building and Governance

The Indigenous Nation Building and Governance Hub is an internationally recognised centre for research in Indigenous Nation (re)building (INB), self-determination and governance. We develop links between UTS, Australian and international Indigenous peoples and communities, governments, universities and key industry partners.

During 2024 we provided expert research and consultancy services on INB, Indigenous governance, and self-determination models with potential for social and economic innovation. We offered INB and Indigenous governance training courses to the public sector, corporate sector professionals and Indigenous communities, their allies and associates. We have also continued our work with community in the areas of justice reinvestment, repatriation, cultural knowledge and property rights and co-developing a national commercial fishing strategy.

External research

Reinvesting in community-led justice solution

Funding agency: James Martin Institute

This project focuses on shifting policy in NSW to support reinvestment as a key mechanism to improve Aboriginal outcomes, including justice, health and education.

Building better fisheries through Indigenous leadership and expertise

Funding agency: Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), and the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC)

Staff members at the Hub — in collaboration with the **UTS Climate, Society and Environment Research Centre** — are developing a strategy to guide effective engagement between Indigenous fishing interests and management agencies responsible for Commonwealth fisheries, and with applicability to appropriate state and local level processes.

FF Jumbunna INBG has provided and shared excellent research narratives and experiences from Indigenous Nations in Australia and the USA which helps to support and demonstrate in practice how we as Indigenous Nations can be at the forefront of decision making that have long lasting benefits for our mobs."

*Grattan Mullett, General Manager – Culture
Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation*

STAFF

- > Director of Indigenous Nation Building and Governance: Professor Daryle Rigney
- > Associate Professors: Steve Hemming, Alison Vivian
- > Senior Researcher: Dr. Simone Bignall
- > Research Fellow: Dr. Anthea Compton
- > Chancellor's Postdoctoral Indigenous Research Fellow: Dr. Jonathan Jones
- > Project Manager: Mandy Price

International Fisheries Review

Funding agency: DAFF, AFMA and FRDC

We are undertaking a literature review of approaches for incorporating Indigenous rights, practices and catch into resource sharing and harvest strategy frameworks, based on international experiences.

Ngarrindjeri justice reinvestment

Justice reinvestment is an approach to addressing Aboriginal over-representation in the criminal justice system. This project aims to restore healthy and just lives for Ngarrindjeri people and those living on Ngarrindjeri Ruwi (Country) through a community-led approach to early intervention and prevention, data and evidence, and place-based solutions grounded in Ngarrindjeri decision making and cultural practices.



SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges and is grateful for support from:

Aboriginal communities

- > Budyaan Wiradyuri Language Trust
- > Gugu Badhun
- > Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
- > Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- > Kuti Co
- > Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority
- > Nyoongar Nation

Aboriginal organisations

- > Aboriginal Investment NT
- > Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
- > Central Land Council
- > Empowered Communities
- > Yoorrook Justice Commission
- > First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
- > Gur A Baradharaw Kod (GBK), Torres Strait
- > Jawun
- > Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Cultural Centre

Higher education institutions

- > Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
- > Brock University
- > Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies, Australian National University
- > James Martin Institute for Public Policy
- > Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona
- > The Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies, Harvard University
- > Return Reconcile Renew International Repatriation Centre, Australian National University
- > School of Indigenous Australian Studies, Charles Sturt University
- > University of Utrecht, Netherlands

Government and others

- > Aboriginal Affairs New South Wales
- > Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, London and New York
- > Canadian Research Council
- > Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department – Justice Reinvestment Shaun Berg of Nigel Bowen Chambers
- > UNESCO Canada

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Publications

Bignall, S. 2024. 'Politics Precedes Being'. *Philosophy Politics and Critique*, 1(1), 26-30.

Carroll, S., **Rigney, D.**, **Hemming, S.**, Della-Sale, A., Booker, L., Berg, S. and **Bignall, S.** 2024. Indigenous Data sovereignty, Repatriation and the Biopolitics of DNA. In *Repatriation, Science and Identity* (pp. 234-259).

Compton, A. 'The Spectre of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) in the Indigenous Voice to Parliament Referendum'. *Settler Colonial Studies* (2024). DOI: 10.1080/2201473X.2024.2442596.

Compton, A., Murray, D. and **Vivian, A.** 'The Indigenous Self-Government Landscape in Australia: A Descriptive and Conceptual Model'. *Journal of Australian Indigenous Issues* 27:3-4 (2024): 63-81.

Compton, A., **Vivian, A.**, Petray, T., Walsh, M. and **Hemming, S.** 2024. Indigenous nation building and native title: strategic uses of a fraught settler-colonial regime. *Settler Colonial Studies*, 14(2), 160-179.

Compton, A., **Vivian, A.**, Jorgensen, M., **Rigney, D.**, Clague, P., **Hemming, S.**, Woods, R., Murray, D., Carter, W., Johnson, T., Evans, D., and Eggington, D. 2024. *Indigenous Hybrid Authorities*. AIATSIS: Canberra.

Kent, L., **Hemming, S.**, **Rigney, D.**, and Fforde, C. 2024. The 'dead' as agents of truth-telling: Lessons from Timor-Leste and the Indigenous repatriation movement. *Journal of Sociology*.

Rigney, D. and **Bignall, S.** 2024. Preface. *Political Determinants of Health in Australia: a Planetary Perspective*, 1-8.

Rigney, D., & **Bignall, S.** 2024. Preface. In *Political Determinants of Health in Australia* (pp. 1-8). UK: Routledge.

Presentations

Bignall, S. 2024. 'Beyond Sustainability' Public Panel Presentation at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, St Catherine's, Ontario, Canada. Feb 22, 2024. Supported by Government of Canada New Frontiers in Research Fund

Rigney, D. 2024. 'Indigenous Nation (re)Building as

Murrundi, The River Murray, Riverhood: Histories Across Time, Place and Waters', Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser Chair in Australian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, USA. 9-11 April, 2024.

Rigney, D. 2024. 'Ngarrindjeri Repatriation: Issues, Challenges and Success, Indigenous Repatriation – Culture, Memory and Knowledge', Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, 29 November

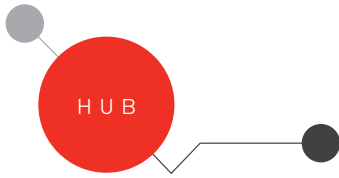
Vivian, A., and Eggington, D. (2024). 'What might Indigenous nation building mean to the Noongar Nation'? Perth

Hemming, S. and Kent, L. 'Decolonising truth special edition launch' presentation to the *Journal of Sociology* – web-based symposium, November 2024

Hemming, S. and **Rigney, D.** 2024. 'Ngarrindjeri sovereign response Ramsar planning and the development of an Ecological Character Description' in 'Conservation on our terms: colonialism, conservation and communities', Webinar Discussion Panel in lead up to the International Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association, 16th May 2024, 'Ngarrindjeri sovereign response Ramsar planning and the development of an 'Ecological Character Description', (organiser Andrew Peters CSU)

Hemming, S. and **Rigney, D.** 2024 'Potential research projects for next round of CLLMM – HCHB Projects', Discussion and presentation to Goyder Institute for Water Research (SA) executive, 29 April 2024, Adelaide University
McClean, N., Schnierer, S., Longman, C., **Hemming, S.** and **Rigney, D.** 2024. 'Building Better Fisheries Through Indigenous Leadership and Expertise: An engagement strategy for Indigenous fishing and fisheries related Sea Country interests, with a focus on the Commonwealth'. Australian Sea Country Conference, 2024, Darwin Convention Centre, NT

McClean, N., Schnierer, S., Longman, C., **Hemming, S.** and **Rigney, D.** 2024. 'Approaches to incorporating Indigenous rights, practices and catch into resource allocation and harvest strategy frameworks, based on international experiences – some early results.' Australian Society for Fish Biology Conference – Fish Frontier, Newcastle NSW



Indigenous People and Work

The Indigenous People and Work Hub aims to address systemic inequities — including racism, underemployment and exclusion from management and leadership positions — dealt with by Indigenous Australians in the employment and labour markets.

The Hub works to reclaim the Indigenous employment narrative through Indigenous-led research, consulting, and partnerships which focus on policy formulation as well as law and workplace reform. By doing so, the Hub works to reshape workplace experiences and create sustainable economic participation for Indigenous people, promoting fair and flourishing employment opportunities and career development.

We continue to solidify our place as leading the Indigenous employment sector in Australia by:

- > Promoting Indigenous thought and practice leadership.
- > Bringing the Indigenous employment community together.
- > Working on the most leading-edge research using Indigenous methodologies in the employment context.

Prof Nareen Young holds dual positions at Jumbunna Research and as Associate Dean, Indigenous Leadership and Engagement at the **UTS Business School**. She facilitates the Hub's collaboration with the Business School and brings its rigour and standing to our work. Most notably, last year, the UTS Provost approved the establishment of our joint venture, the **Centre for Indigenous People and Work**, in 2025.

External research

In 2024, the Hub's research portfolio included:

Gari Yala 2

This second iteration of the groundbreaking research and report — produced in collaboration with **UTS Business School** and **Diversity Council Australia** (DCA) — will track changes in employment conditions since the first report was produced and survey more recent workplace developments. Detailing the lived experience of First Nations Australians at work and the improvements required to create workplaces free of racism, discrimination and bias, Gari Yala 2 will be another invaluable tool for employers, unions, practitioners and other stakeholders in the Indigenous employment landscape.

This research also:

- > Tracks the psychosocial impact of racism at work.
- > Examines cultural/colonial load and its impact more carefully.
- > Tracks the impact of intersectional considerations.

See the **Gari Yala case study** on page 23 for further information on the Hub's research for DCA.

STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Associate Dean Professor Nareen Young
- > Researcher: Joshua Gilbert
- > Executive Assistant: Angela Daley
- > Manager: Jake Gordon
- > Administrative Officer: Damita McGuinness

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges our partnership receives with:

- > Diversity Arts
- > Diversity Council Australia
- > Fair Work Commission
- > NAB Foundation

Shifting the Balance 2.0 Report

In partnership with the **UTS Business School**, the Hub was awarded a project with **Diversity Arts** to provide Indigenous insights for the *Shifting the Balance Report*, seeking to transform leadership diversity and equity within Australia's arts and creative sectors.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Award Literature Review (Fair Work Commission)

In partnership with the **UTS Business School**, the Hub produced a definitive literature review and findings for the supporting the *Expert Panel in the Gender undervaluation - priority awards review* matter.

The literature review, *A Hidden History of Aboriginal Women's Work in the Community Controlled Health Sector*, focuses on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workers and practitioners and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Award 2020. This review is the first time that an intersectional approach has been taken to an under-evaluation review of wage fixing in Australia.

Yarning about employment

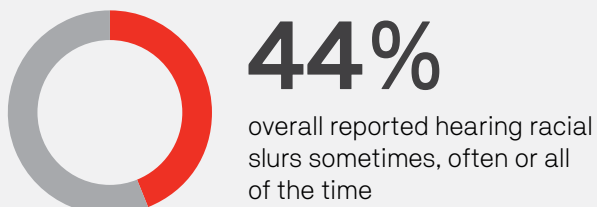
During 2024, we contributed to the *Research Methods in Labour Law* handbook. Our chapter, 'Yarning about employment: Indigenous research methodology application in the employment sector', was developed as a result of further industry engagement and refinement of practices with corporates across Australia.

CASE STUDY GARI YALA

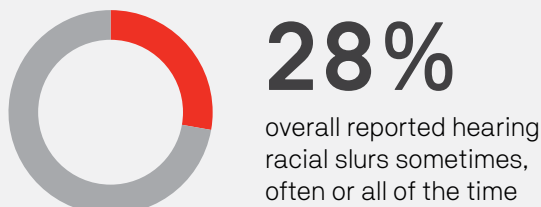
In 2024 the Hub began work on Gari Yala 2.

GARI YALA 1 KEY FINDINGS

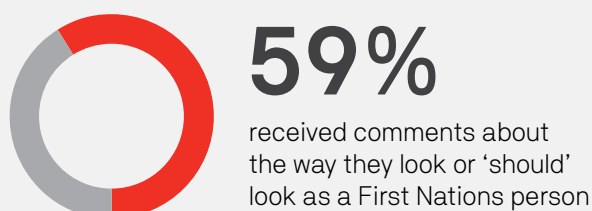
Racial slurs



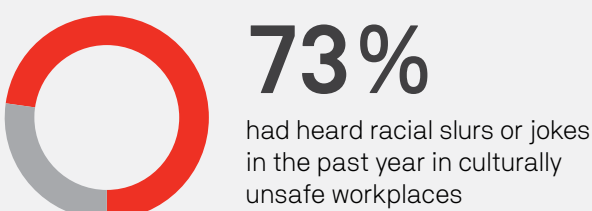
Workplace cultural safety



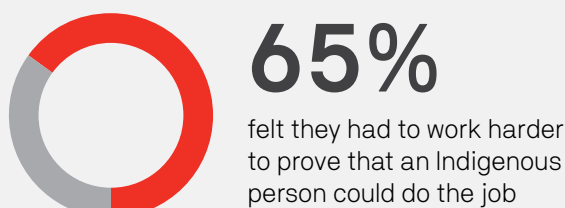
Appearance racism



Culturally unsafe



High-effort coping



Culturally safe



Research outputs

Publications

Young, N., Gilbert, J., and Allison, F. (2024) 'Yarning about employment: Indigenous research methodology application in the employment sector. In Elger, E. (Ed) *Research Methods in Labour Law: A Handbook*, pp349-364.

Young, N. and Gilbert, J. (2024). 'Towards an Indigenous-Led National Employment Narrative in Australia: Tackling Racism, Changing Practice'. In: Jack, G., Evans, M., Lythberg, B., Mika, J. (eds) *Managing the Post-Colony: Voices from Aotearoa, Australia and The Pacific. Managing the Post-Colony*. Springer, Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-0319-73>

Conference presentations

In 2024, Prof Nareen Young addressed several conferences including the **Free and Equal Conference of the Australian Human Rights Commission**, the **Australian Council of Trade Unions Congress**, the **James Martin Institute Policy Maker Summit**, the **Reconciliation Australia National RAP Conference** and the **Australian Education Union Federal Women's Conference**. She is also a regular on **ABC Breakfast News**.

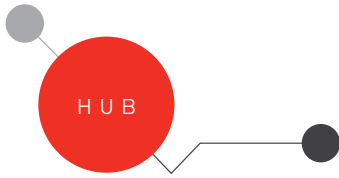


The Gari Yala report was the first of its kind; it changed the conversation around how First Nations people are treated at work and paved the way for a more thoughtful and considered approach to making workplaces safer and more inclusive.

DCA takes immense pride in once again joining forces with the Jumbunna Institute and UTS Business School on the second iteration of this crucial research and beginning the next chapter of Gari Yala.

Lisa Annese, CEO

Josh Gilbert's speaking engagements included the **CSIRO: AgCatalyst and Future of Farming Systems Research Symposium**, the **Department of Agriculture: Indigenous Agrarian Economy Seminar** and **Fisheries and Forestry: Sustainable Agriculture Summit**, and the **ABARES Conference**.



Indigenous Policy

The Indigenous Policy Hub works with Indigenous communities and their organisations, governments, non-government organisations and industry to undertake research, evaluation, policy and strategy development to effect and support sustainable, cutting-edge reforms that realise Indigenous sovereignty and fulfil community aspirations. We create the necessary space for Indigenous Nations to lead policy directions.

External research

Improving the lives of Indigenous Australians

During 2024, Hub members completed work aimed at realising self-determination in policy in a range of sectors that impact the lives of Indigenous communities. In July 2024, the **Australian Human Rights Commission** published our co-authored report with **PwC Indigenous Consulting**, Mapping government anti-racism policies and programs as part of the development of a model for a National Anti-Racism Framework.

We have provided research advice on treaty in NSW and supported the **Victorian Treaty Authority** as they establishment their research and evaluation agenda.

Most recently, the Hub partnered with the **UTS Business School** on a literature review as part of the **Fair Work Commission's** review of modern awards and work value grounds to remedy potential gender undervaluation. Our work focussed on the intersection of gender and race undervaluation. The research is a first and included:

- > Histories of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and domestic and caring work performed by Indigenous women.
- > The impacts of forced indentured labour on wage fixation.

The Hub's work for both the **ARC Laureate Fellowship: A First Nations Approach to Decolonising Institutions** and our **ARC Discovery Project – The Policy of Self-Determination: The case study of ATSIC** – continue.

Contract research funding

The Hub was commissioned to undertake various contract research projects in 2024.

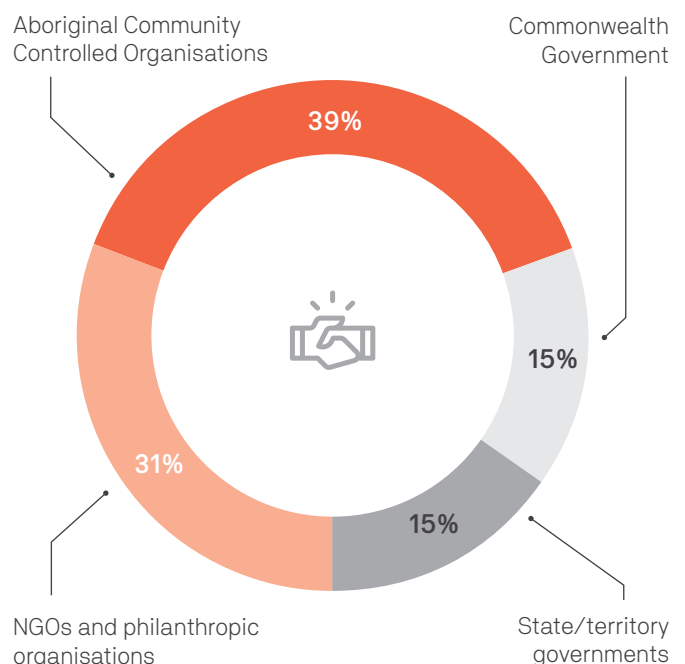
Our Treaty NSW Consultation Data Supports research is a 12-month consultation process working with **Aboriginal Affairs NSW** to support the identification of the views of Aboriginal people in NSW on the treaty pathway.

The Hub's work with **Alberts** is based on their desire to improve work in the First Nations space and may extend to a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) or a Statement of Commitment on First Nations agendas. Alberts exited the music business in 2016 and has shifted focus towards impact investing.

STAFF

- > Director of Jumbunna Research: Professor Lindon Coombes
- > Laureate Fellow: Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO
- > Associate Dean: Lachlan McDaniel
- > Professor Juanita Sherwood
- > Industry Professor Cecilia Anthony
- > Senior Researchers: Alison Whittaker, Dr. Tracy Barber
- > Research Fellows: Kirsten Gray, Amy Thunig
- > Researcher: Joshua Gilbert

Project work by client type



Source: Jumbunna Research

Our work with the **GO Foundation** commenced in 2021 with strategic research and evaluation, including an impact evaluation framework. In 2024 we began new research to identify the impact of their Scholarship Program upon student participants, as well as its impact upon their families and communities.

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Publications

- > **Gray, K.,** Libesman, T. and Gray, P. (2024) 'The shackles of Terra Nullius in child protection reforms' in *Legal Education Through an Indigenous Lens*
- > **Anthony, C., Gray, K.** with PwC Indigenous Consulting (2024) *AHRC mapping government anti-racism policies and programs*
- > **Sherwood, J., Anthony, C., Gray, K., Gilbert, J., Young, N.** and McEwen, C. (2024) *Fair Work Commission, A Hidden History of Aboriginal Women's Work in the Community Controlled Health Sector*
- > Beadman, K., **Sherwood, J., Gray, P.,** and McAloon, J. (2024) 'Self-determination in programmes of perinatal health for Aboriginal Communities: A systematic review,' *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, Vol. 48(4)
- > **Sherwood, J.** with Sullivan, E., Zek, R., Ward S., Remond, M., Chang, S., Kypri, K. and Brown, J. 'Effects of the Connections program on return-to-custody, mortality and treatment uptake among people with a history of opioid use: Retrospective cohort study' in *An Australian prison system. Addiction*. 2024 Jan;119(1):169-179
- > **Sherwood, J.,** with Freeman, T., Mackean, T., Ziersch, A., O'Donnell, K., Dwyer, J., Askew, D., Shakespeare, M., D'Angelo, S., Fisher, M., Browne, A., Egert, S., Baghbanian, V., Baum, F. (2024) 'The Benefits of Cooperative Inquiry in Health Services Research: Lessons' from an *Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Study*, *Int J Soc Determinants Health Serv*, 2024, 54, (2), pp. 171-182.

- > **Sherwood, J.** with Anthony, T., Blagg, H., and Tranter, K (2024) *Unsettling colonial automobilities: Criminalisation and contested sovereignties*, Emerald Publishing Limited
- > Maidment, S., Kahl, K., Jyai Allen, J., Melanie Briggs, M., Penny Haroa, P., Cleone Wellington, C., Faye Warner, F., Yvette Roe, Y., **Sherwood, J.**, Elizabeth Luland, E., Sue Kildea, S.: 'Birthing as the first cultural ceremony: Qualitative findings' from the *Building On Our Strengths (BOOSt) study at Waminda* 2024/9/1: Women and Birth, Vol 37, Elsevier 1 2024
- > Libesman, T., **Gray, P.,** and **Gray, K.** (2024) 'The Shackles of Terra Nullius in Child Protection 'Reforms'', in Watson, N., and Douglas, H. (Eds) *Legal Education Through and Indigenous Lens*, Routledge

Conferences

- > **Prof Juanita Sherwood** presented papers and was a panelist at the NZ Conference for Prison program in February. She ran a workshop for Bang-lam-nha project August and also participated in a webinar on Indigenous Research Methodologies for ANROWS in November.
- > **Assoc Prof Kirsten Gray** co-presented at the *Loving Justice – Breathing Life into Our Laws Conference* in Vancouver, Canada with Dr. Wendy Hermeston and Prof Terri Lebesman on the harmful impact of colonial child welfare systems in Australia.

We are working with the **Museum of Contemporary Art** on the **djurali Program** to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with the tools and knowledge to find a pathway into working within the arts. Guided by Indigenous research methodologies and approaches, the research also aims to give voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alumni and stakeholders' perspectives.

In 2024 we continued our longstanding work with **Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative Limited** through research for their **Yanalangami Program** which aims to connect Indigenous women and strengthen their networks. At the invitation of Tranby, we undertook evaluation to determine the effectiveness and impact of the Yanalangami Program to achieve its aims.

We are also undertaking contract research for:

- > Australian Human Rights Commission
- > Institute for Sustainable Futures
- > Nabu Waminda
- > National Coalition of Peaks
- > Uniting Care NSW ACT
- > Visual Dreaming Co.

Other projects

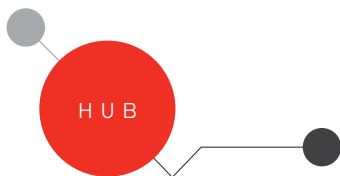
Prof Juanita Sherwood continued her groundbreaking in kind research in 2024 with new in projects on decolonising healthcare, with a major focus on Indigenous women and

children. As part of her work supported by the **Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Indigenous Health Research Fund** — an initiative aimed at improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people — she undertook work on:

- > Decolonising lactation care to support the initiation and maintenance of breastfeeding among First Nations Women.
- > Treatable traits asthma care for Aboriginal women during pregnancy.
- > Equitable pathways and integrated care in cerebral palsy.
- > Community prioritisation of the delivery of care through co-designing effective treatment models for Aboriginal women with asthma during pregnancy.

Staff highlights

- > We are proud to announce that Research Fellow Kirsten Gray has recently submitted her PhD.
- > Professor Juanita Sherwood was appointed as co-Chair of the **Partnership for Justice in Health**, continuing her prodigious work on Indigenous health, education and social justice.
- > Industry Professor Cecilia Anthony joined the Hub after working in government, research and engagement consulting and for Indigenous peak bodies.



Legal Strategies

The Legal Strategies Hub works with Indigenous communities to advocate for their domestic and international rights and interests.

Drawing on the traditions of strategic and rebellious lawyering, we collaborate with our clients on justice campaigns through litigation, reform and activism. Our research is focused on identifying and reforming areas of the Australian legal system that deny justice for Indigenous peoples, or provide opportunities for their self-determination. Through our Legal Strategies Clinic and work in legal education, we also work to improve the legal profession's ability to work with – and for – Indigenous peoples.

External Research

Legal education was a central focus for the Hub in 2024. We have been engaged to produce *The National Benchbook on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Legal System*, a project commissioned by the **Australasian Institute for Judicial Administration** and funded by the **Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department**.

This project provides us opportunity for Indigenous commentary – including from communities – to develop the understanding of the Australian judiciary and legal profession of Indigenous perspectives of justice in the areas that are frequently before the Federal Court. It will serve as a vital resource for judges and legal professionals, offering insights and guidance to promote fair and culturally sensitive legal proceedings. We conducted consultations during 2024 that informed the content of the Benchbook.



Photo: Leetona Dungay speaks in December 2023 supported by Research Associate Latoya Rule.

STAFF

- > Hub Leader: Professor of Practice Craig Longman
- > Laureate Fellow: Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO
- > Senior Researcher: Alison Whittaker
- > Research Fellow: Michelle Toy
- > Research Associate: Latoya Rule
- > Research Assistants: Patrick Kearney, Zara Horton, Melissa Dib and Maryam Mahvash
- > Aurora Interns: Ryan Vowles, Maeve Cairns and Abigail Steel

SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

The Hub acknowledges and is grateful for the support provided by:

- > Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department (Cth)
- > Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration
- > Black Chambers
- > Blue Ocean Law
- > The Bowraville Families
- > Climate, Society and Environment Research Centre, UTS
- > Leetona Dungay
- > National Justice Project
- > NSW/ACT Aboriginal Legal Service

The benchbook benchbook adopts a strengths-based, self-determination framework and integrates Indigenous knowledges and voices. It will be delivered in 2025.

During 2024, Hub members complete a collaborative research project with the Indigenous Nation Building and Governance Hub. Stephen Schnierer & Nicholas McClean; 'Approaches for incorporating Indigenous Rights, practices and catch into resource sharing and harvest strategy frameworks, based on international experiences'. The project was funded by Fisheries Research and Development Corporation - Annual Open Call Funding Round RDC for the *Fisheries Research and Development Corporation RDC*.

Advocacy

The Hub's advocacy with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities continued to be a central focus of our work in 2024 and honours the lives of Aboriginal people. Last year marked significant milestones in that regard.

The family of **David Dungay Jnr** continues to advocate for justice for his death in custody in Long Bay Goal on 29 December 2015 after being restrained for eating a packet of biscuits. In June 2021, Jumbunna Research – working with the National Justice Project and international lawyers – filed a complaint with the United Nations Human Rights Committee. While we await the Committee's decision, the Australian Government has, for the first time, accepted the admissibility of the complaint and indicated they accept that they breached David's right to life. It is a tectonic shift in the Commonwealth's accountability for Indigenous Deaths in Custody.

We continue our work supporting families in Coronial inquests.

In another major victory, the **National Ban Spithoods Coalition** succeeded in major law reform, working with the NSW Parliament to pass legislation banning the use of spithoods.

FF I also acknowledge the presence of Alison and Latoya in the President's gallery. I had the privilege of meeting with them last week and getting some particular insights into the bill and the circumstances that have brought it about. I acknowledge their important work in the National Ban Spit Hoods Coalition, and also their important work at Jumbunna in researching particular issues that relate to coronial inquests and the experience of First Nations people in those inquests..."

The Hon. Stephen Lawrence MLC



Photo: Prof Craig Longman speaking on Access to Justice at the 2024 Annual Conference of the Law Society of NSW in Sydney.

2024 RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Book Chapters

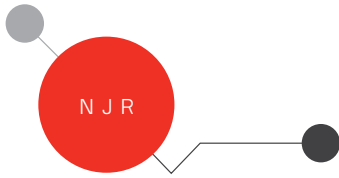
- > L Rule and M Jarldorn, 'Bringing Prison Abolition from the Margins to the Centre' in *Marginalised Voices in Criminology* (9 Jan 2024). Taylor & Francis, pp 201-219.

Consulting

Gilbert, J., N Young and **Whittaker, A.** 'QANTAS Indigenous Employment Experience', Nov 2023 – Apr 2024, funded by Qantas Airways Ltd

Selected presentations, teaching, appearances

- > **Prof C Longman** and E Hearne, 'Examining systemic discrimination and implicit bias in coronial settings' (15 Mar 2024).
- > **Prof Craig Longman**, 'Access to Justice' panellist, Law Society Annual Conference, 10 October 2024.
- > **Prof Craig Longman**, 'Strategic Litigation Practice/Clinic', UTS Law Faculty, Summer 2024.
- > Michelle Toy, Moderator, 'Beyond Bars: Is Prison Abolition Possible?', NSW Users and AIDS Association's (NUAA) annual Peers and Consumers Forum (PaC Forum) (23 October 2024).
- > **Allison Whittaker** (Chair), **L Rule** (Panellist), 'Australia' *Construction of the Indigenous Incarcerated Body*, International Indigenous Knowledge Exchange conference (Sydney, 9 July 2024).
- > **Latoya Rule** (Chair), 'Reformations of Colonisation Keynote panel' *Construction of the Indigenous Incarcerated Body*, International Indigenous Knowledge Exchange conference (Sydney, 9 July 2024).
- > ABC Radio, "Speaking Out" 'The young First Nations advocates making change happen' (1 March 2024) <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/speakingout/speaking-out/103452804>.



National Justice Reinvestment

Over the past decade staff members of the Law and Justice Hub have worked directly on various justice reinvestment initiatives, including national research projects. We also established the Justice Reinvestment Network Australia (JRNA), a national justice reinvestment network centred on advocacy and peer-led learning, with whom we advocated for further government support for justice reinvestment.

JRNA is now Aboriginal led, and our team continues to support their important national advocacy role in the justice reinvestment space. Advocacy for additional government funding by JRNA, supported by our team, has made an important contribution. By mid-2025 there will be upward of 35 communities working with justice reinvestment around the country, funded both nationally and by some state governments.

National Justice Reinvestment

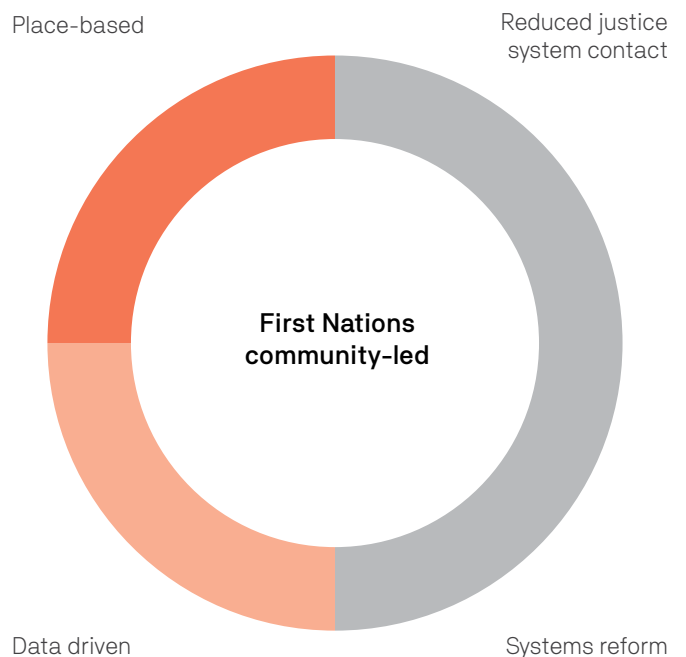
In early 2023, the Hub was contracted by the **Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department** to support the roll out of national funding committed to justice reinvestment by the Australian Government (\$81 million over four years to 2026 and \$20 million thereafter, plus \$10 million for Central Australia). Over an eight-month period we conducted consultations with 44 communities, key Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and stakeholders to inform the design of guidelines and processes for accessing grant funding under the **National Justice Reinvestment Program** and of a **National Justice Reinvestment Unit**, with support from law firm **King & Wood Mallesons**.

An important outcome of this design work was defining core elements of justice reinvestment in Australia. Justice reinvestment is a framework adopted from the US and championed in Australia as a mechanism to reduce First Nations over-representation in the justice system by our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioners and others.

Justice reinvestment was originally understood in the US as being data driven, place-based and prevention focused (addressing drivers causing over-representation in particular communities). While these original elements were identified during consultations, so too were self-determination and structural and systems reforms essential to reducing over-representation. These reforms are especially necessary within government ways of working — including within the criminal justice system — and for prioritising collaborative and layered strategies to reducing over-representation.

Between March 2023 and August 2024, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department contracted the **Hub, JRNA** and **Ninti One** to support a number of communities to progress justice reinvestment initiatives and to apply for national justice reinvestment funding. We also provided implementation support under this same contract to communities that received national justice reinvestment funding. (See **Engagement with communities map**, on page 29.)

Justice Reinvestment Framework



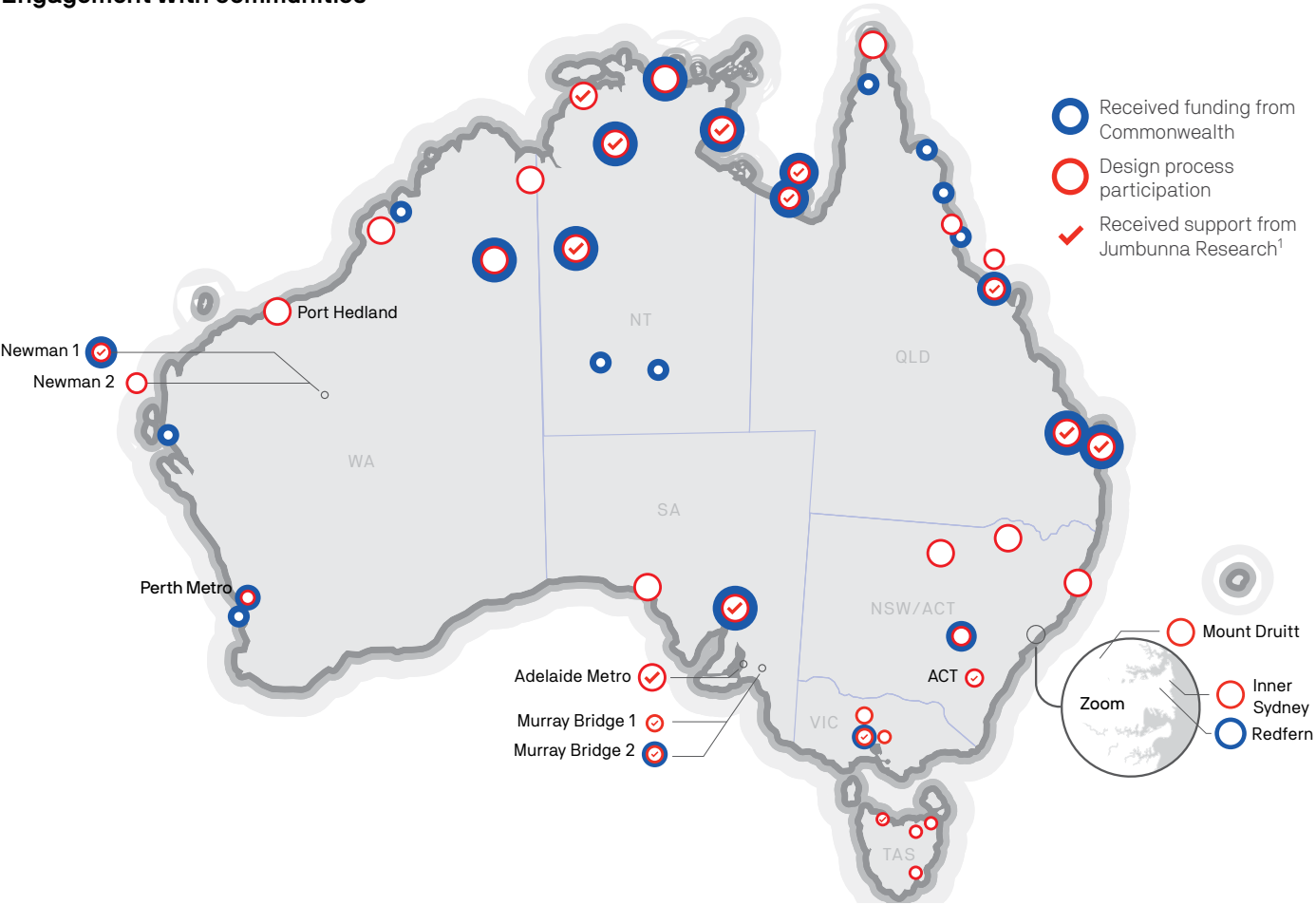
Source: F. (2023) *Design of the National Justice Reinvestment Program*, Jumbunna Research

The Hub onboarded representatives from more established justice reinvestment initiatives (Mt Druitt, Moree and Tiraapendi Wodli) to provide support for newer initiatives as community-based Jumbunna Research staff. Our intention is to invite these representatives to work on future Hub and Jumbunna Research projects.

FF For Martu people, JR is a totally new concept. There have been constant clashes between Lore and Law for Martu people when contacted to Justice System. This is where the JR comes in. We need to build the bridge between Lore and Law... The process with JR team, gave me a solid understanding about the JR, without them, I would have not understood about JR as much as I do now. It is nice to work with people who have the mission and vision.

Martu Tribal Elders, Newman, WA

Engagement with communities



Other projects

Hub staff are also progressing research on ‘reinvestment’ as a key component of justice reinvestment. Reinvestment was originally envisaged as a diversion of funds from correctional budgets to address drivers in identified locations feeding high rates of return to prison.

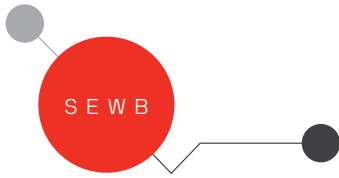
We have worked previously on economic modelling for reinvestment in NSW led by Just Reinvest NSW and in 2024 were funded through a James Martin Policy Institute Policy Challenge Grant to continue this work. We will work closely with Aboriginal community representatives and various government and non-government partners on this project.

We continue to work with community-based justice reinvestment representatives to progress other key community-led and systems change elements of justice reinvestment.

Design process participation from community and local organisations

State/Territory	Communities	
NSW	Bourke Cowra Inner Sydney Kempsey	Moree Mt Druitt
NT	Darwin Groote Eylandt Katherine	Lajamanu Maningrida
QLD	Cairns Cherbourg Doomadgee Mornington Island North Stradbroke Island	Palm Island Thursday Island, Torres Strait Townsville
SA	Murray Bridge 1 Murray Bridge 2 Adelaide Metro	Port Augusta Ceduna
TAS	Burnie/Circular Head Hobart	Launceston
VIC	Aboriginal Justice Caucus reps	Bendigo Melton
WA	Balga Carnavon Derby Halls Creek/Mulan Kununurra Newman 1	Newman 2, Jigalong, Parnngurr, Punmu and Kunawarritji Perth Metro Port Hedland West Kimberley
ACT	ACT (Yedding Mura)	

1 This refers to intensive support (funded by the Commonwealth) to set up new or progress existing JR initiatives and then to apply for Commonwealth justice reinvestment funding.



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

The Australian Academy remains a colonial institution promoting mostly western worldviews. These views remain locked into teaching and learning and generally focus on a privileged colonial story devoid of Australia's First Nations truths. This standpoint often does not question the racist commentary and racist actions that can occur in the classroom and beyond without redress for First Nations Australian students and staff.

It is within our learning institutions that any focus reflecting First Nations Australians often promotes a deficit discourse, suggestive of 'blaming' our peoples for their past and current circumstances.

Although our work and strategies remain First Nations-focused within strength-based and Nation building frameworks, we are also part of the academic community; a community that must reflect upon its responsibility in teach a far greater balanced Australian history and current politics that influences the wellbeing of all Australians.

The expectation of working in such an environment that constantly fails to do its own homework makes this work injurious for our people, staff, students and communities. This is why we have raised the need for a social and emotional wellbeing support program from our First Nations peers who understand our circumstances, contexts and intergenerational trauma experienced by our peoples.

The mainstream EAP program remains mainstream, awash with colonial standpoints that cause more harm to our people. It does not realise the injury caused by not addressing systemic racism and continues to approach an unbalanced history and intergenerational trauma.

This outcome was greatly appreciated in the wake of the outcome of the 2023 Australian Indigenous Voice to Parliament referendum on and for our peoples and prompted us to approach Yamurrah to provide a more appropriate EAP for our people within the University. Yamurrah "specialise[s] in complex and intergenerational trauma, violence, abuse and neglect, human rights, healing and recovery"¹.

UTS is in the only university that has recognised the needs of our people — including staff who must carry the culture-load — to support Indigenous students in the classroom and the communities they work with.

Jumbunna Research

Jumbunna Research has undertaken work to explore social and emotional wellbeing support for its staff who work with our peoples in many traumatic and sometimes dangerous situations. This work is deeply distressing, but critically important as social justice measures and actions are required to redress the ongoing colonial turnstile that undermines the basic rights of First Nation Australians.

Jumbunna Research staff carry this responsibility of shifting the way in which our people are represented and valued in a hostile world in the lead up and subsequent to the Voice to Parliament referendum. As such, we are seeking to work in ways that again recognise the colonial load our

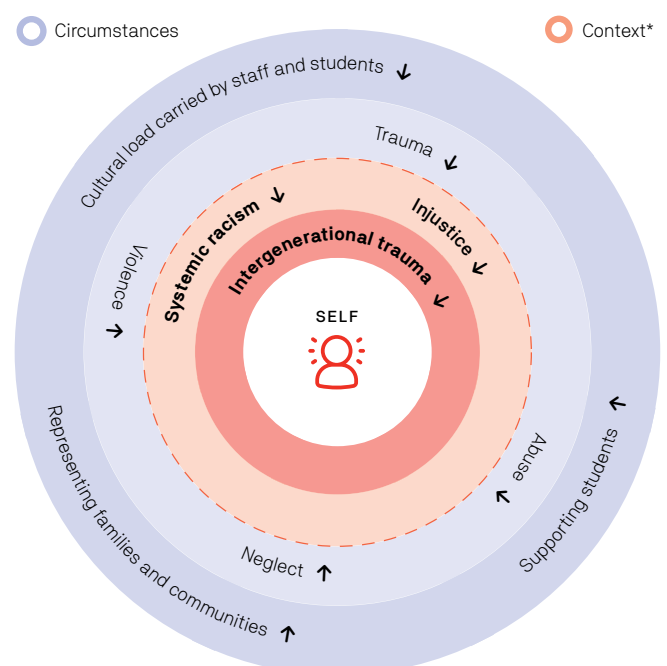
staff and students carry, along with the heaviness of these responsibilities, as we represent our families and communities. This focus will remain a vital point of Jumbunna Research's journey to extend our livelihoods as this work causes harm and physical distress that, in turn, influences our social and emotional wellbeing.

The literature is rich with the devastating impacts of racism on First Nations Australians, in the short and long term. Our aim at Jumbunna Research is to acknowledge the extreme and serious social justice load our staff and students must work with and provide meaningful and successful ways of alleviating the load.

Most importantly, we will continue to remind the Academy of the serious work it must do to:

- Ensure cultural safety is rolled out across the University.
- Adequately and effectively support Jumbunna Research's work within the University.
- Support our significant contribution to the Academy and our people.
- Address racism within the Academy and in the broader community.

First Nations focussed framework



*Mainstream EAP fails to address systemic and historical factors



