



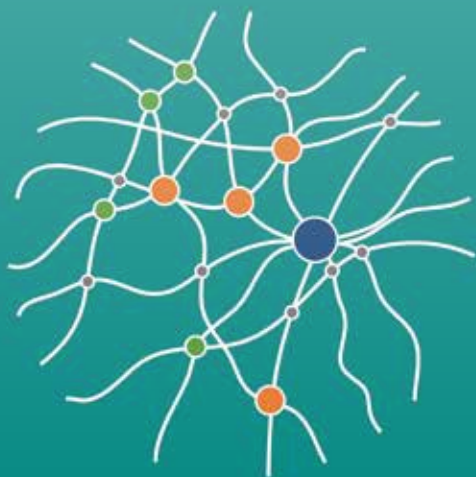
Australian Government
Australian Research Council



National Indigenous Research
and Knowledges Network

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ending 31 December 2016



NIRAKN

National Indigenous Research And Knowledges Network



Vision

NIRAKN's vision is to develop a critical mass of skilled, informed and qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, who can address the urgent needs of our communities, through the delivery of culturally appropriate research. NIRAKN will endeavour to facilitate a national Indigenous research agenda for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the nation.

NIRAKN's premise is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems inform and frame our research. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems are understood as continuing and living, embodied, and culturally situated within our respective Indigenous nations, communities and the broader Australian society and include Indigenous ethics and protocols. As such NIRAKN's multi-cultural research program seeks to facilitate and encompass a wide range of research topics and projects, reflecting that the production and application of our respective knowledge systems requires a comprehensive agenda as well as a robust engagement with disciplinary knowledges.

Aims

1. Establish a quality program of capacity building initiatives to form a skilled and qualified research community by supporting aspiring, postgraduate, and early- to mid-career Indigenous researchers.
2. Establish a regenerative undergraduate to postgraduate pipeline of new researchers, across institutions, the nation, and fields of critical research importance.
3. Connect Indigenous researchers across disciplines, nationally and internationally, to develop a culturally supportive and inclusive research environment which enables the cross-fertilisation of ideas and a platform for new Indigenous multidisciplinary research.
4. Develop an ongoing integrated research program of collaborations with the Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council, government, industry, community and philanthropic grant funding.
5. Achieve national and international recognition as a leading network of Australian Indigenous research expertise, knowledge, and innovation.
6. Initiate the Indigenous research agenda by applying Indigenous knowledges and expertise to multidisciplinary collaborative projects of pressing research. These are needed to inform community and government policy and program delivery.

Activities

NIRAKN mentors, supports and engages Indigenous researchers across disciplines and institutions through an extensive research capacity building program, which is designed to develop foundational and higher level skills as well as inform and transfer knowledge. The research capacity building program involves introductory level research workshops delivered locally at participating institutions, an annual series of more advanced research workshops, Indigenous research methodologies masterclasses, critical reading groups, research residencies, access to networking, mentoring and other professional resources.

NIRAKN's Collaborative Research Program provides a platform for cross-institutional and multidisciplinary Indigenous research. The research efforts of NIRAKN's four research Nodes and the Network Hub are geared towards producing measurable high quality research. In addition to high quality original research and publications, NIRAKN also fosters engagement with Indigenous research and knowledges across the sector through international collaborations, symposiums, and seminars.

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1. Director's introduction



I am pleased to present the fourth Annual Report of the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) for 2016.

In its inaugural year NIRAKN activities concentrated on infrastructure: establishing strong foundations for the network such as the development of systems, programs and administrative policies and procedures. Four years on, NIRAKN has matured into a durable and effective network. There has been significant progress in meeting NIRAKN's goals and objectives, with the research capacity building program a particular highlight of which I am justly proud. Additionally, NIRAKN has made a significant contribution to the Australian Higher Education sector through policy submissions and lobbying for change: Universities Australia Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020 and the Final Report of the Review of Australia's Research Training System by Australian Council of Learned Academies are but two recent policy developments where NIRAKN has made a significant contribution.

The Network's achievements outlined in this and previous reports are indeed praiseworthy. The Australian Research Council (ARC) has approved a one-year funding extension which will allow NIRAKN to continue, albeit in revised form, until June 2018. The new NIRAKN model is well placed to keep pace with developments in the sector, as well as build on the existing strengths of the Network. The National Hub located, as before, at the Queensland University of Technology, will coordinate State Hubs at Flinders University (covering South Australia and the Northern Territory), University of Western Australia (covering Western Australia), University of Newcastle (covering New South Wales) and RMIT University (covering Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT). The Research Capacity Building Program will continue, as will the Collaborative Research Program, but in augmented form, with projects attracting increased funding so as to realise broader ambitions.

The ARC funding extension represents approbation of NIRAKN's achievements over the last four years. I remain proud of NIRAKN and extend my sincere thanks to the node leaders and members who put their shoulders to wheel without complaint and made NIRAKN the success that it is. I would particularly like to thank the National Hub staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure delivery of our programs.

As NIRAKN moves into a new phase, I am confident that we shall continue to build a legacy that will serve generations to come.

Yours sincerely,

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson
NIRAKN Director
Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit, QUT

2. Governance

The National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network is a hub and spokes model, all Indigenous: a multidisciplinary contexture of Network Participants (NPs) from 22 eligible institutions across all states and territories of Australia, including five Indigenous Partner Organisations and an Advisory Board of ten eminent Indigenous elders and leaders. NIRAKN's NPs are postgraduate and early to mid-career researchers, led by senior researchers from our eight collaborating (Hub and Spokes) institutions: Queensland University of Technology (QUT) (Hub); University of Tasmania (UTAS); University of Newcastle (UoN); University of Western Australia (UWA); Australian National University (ANU); University of Technology Sydney (UTS); Central Queensland University (CQU) and University of Wollongong (UoW); and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS). The figure below depicts NIRAKN's governance structure.

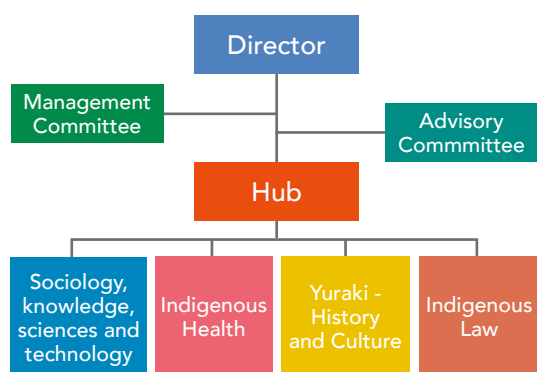


Figure 1: NIRAKN governance and operational model.

The NIRAKN Hub, led by Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson, has overall responsibility for the administration, coordination and delivery of NIRAKN's Research Capacity Building Program and is based at the Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit, QUT. The activities of the Network are coordinated by the NIRAKN Management Committee, which is comprised of NIRAKN's Node Leaders and representatives from five community based Partner Organisations. The Management Committee is advised by the NIRAKN Advisory Committee, which is made up of esteemed Indigenous community members and Elders (Refer to Appendix 1: NIRAKN Management and Advisory Committees). Network members meet annually. The 48 Network members (including Node leaders) are also members of nodes which meet more frequently. To be inclusive and strengthen the NIRAKN pipeline, an additional 23 affiliate memberships are held by Indigenous researchers who were not part of

the initial project funding application. This membership provides the opportunity to participate in network research and activities.

NIRAKN members are located across institutions and disciplinary fields. (Refer to Appendix 2: NIRAKN members). Each of the NIRAKN nodes is led by senior researchers who, as a collective, develop and deliver an annual Statement of Work. The node leaders deliver capacity building workshops and provide professional advice to NIRAKN members within their own nodes as well as across other nodes. In 2016, each node continued to meet regularly to support postgraduate students, to develop, conduct and share research, and to identify potential research collaborations and support activities. Each node holds an intra-node virtual meeting on a monthly basis and Node membership is fluid. NIRAKN members can choose to be a member of all nodes and attend their virtual meetings.

The NIRAKN Research Program is delivered by the NIRAKN Hub and four virtual Research Nodes. The purpose of this research program is to extend pathways of research capacity building through external grants and internal grants. New and emerging Indigenous researchers have the opportunity to apply their skills in a supportive environment. Node Leaders also convene research roundtables and/or node meetings for Network Participants and Partner Investigators to develop and enable new collaborative research project applications for NHMRC, ARC Discovery Indigenous and Discovery Linkage, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) and Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) grants. External grant applications are the preserve and responsibility of Node Leaders and network member applicants.

NIRAKN's internal research grants fall under the auspice of the Management Committee and Node Leaders and align to the strategic aims. Node Leaders assess their respective node research grant applications and make recommendations for funding to the NIRAKN Management Committee. The Management Committee approves the funding of internal grant applications based on the recommendations of the Node Leaders. For establishment grants, Node Leaders may choose to provide feedback on a project that is deemed to be broadly fundable but in need of clarification on some points.

3. Year in Review

In 2016, the Network continued its success and exceeded expectations in the project's key performance indicators.

1. Establish a coterie of skilled, qualified Indigenous researchers, creating pathways from undergraduate to postgraduate studies to establish a regenerative pipeline of new researchers, across institutions, the nation and fields of critical research importance.

NIRAKN continued to support the development of Indigenous researchers from undergraduate studies to Higher Degree Research (HDR), early career, mid and advanced research careers. NIRAKN's capacity building program is open to Indigenous HDR students Australia-wide, providing students with an opportunity to participate in the network's capacity building and research activities, as well as establishing formal and informal mentoring relationships with more established Indigenous scholars.

Stakeholder feedback interspersed throughout this report provides evidence of the impact of NIRAKN, particularly in relation to supporting Indigenous HDR completions. NIRAKN also encourages talented Indigenous undergraduates to consider research through the promotion of the undergraduate essay competition and other research-related activities.

Participation by the Director and other network participants in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIEC), which includes the Directors of Indigenous Education Support Centres responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduates, facilitates collaborations in this area and enables wider distribution of information relating to NIRAKN's activities. Involvement with NATSIEC has facilitated more effective sector-wide promotion of our activities and of opportunities for Indigenous researchers through postgraduate research.

NIRAKN's strong international engagement continued in 2016 with the co-hosting and co-organisation of the Native American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference in Hawaii and the Critical Race symposium in Melbourne, and with our participation at the American Studies Association Expert Panel (ASA), in Denver. These activities are evidence of the expanding regenerative pipeline NIRAKN is creating for Indigenous researchers to connect internationally

and be supported at all stages of their research career. These conferences provide a strong platform for NIRAKN to promote and progress its vision and aims.

The NIRAKN website provides a portal to information, resources and activities relevant to establishing a network of skilled qualified Indigenous researchers. The NIRAKN undergraduate essay competition is a further strategy to strengthen the pathway from undergraduate to postgraduate. NIRAKN's personalised communication strategy to postgraduates also enhances this pathway.

While NIRAKN cannot monitor the progression of individual postgraduate students who have participated in NIRAKN workshops, indicators of the success of NIRAKN research capacity building programs can be illustrated through:

- i) the consistently high satisfaction levels in the project qualitative evaluation data 2013-2016; and,
- ii) the national Indigenous HDR statistical snapshot over time. (Refer to figure 2).

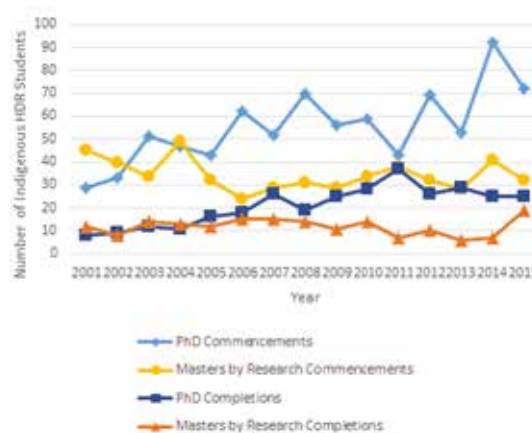


Figure 2: Indigenous Higher Degree by Research Commencements and Completions

2. Deliver a program of research capacity building workshops and activities in order to develop a critical mass of multi-disciplinary, qualified Indigenous researchers to meet the compelling research needs of our communities.

NIRAKN's extensive Research Capacity Building program was a resounding success in 2016 and continues to grow a strong and vibrant Indigenous research community. The Indigenous Research Methodologies Masterclass and Critical Readings Groups convened by the Hub remain highly sought after by Indigenous postgraduate students and early career academics. The Hub and Law Node's Level A, B and C workshops had students attending from across Australia and from a multitude of disciplines.

Leadership through role-modelling and mentoring (both formal and informal) by senior Indigenous academics within the Network was critical for the success of postgraduate students and early career academics. Ongoing evaluation of activities asserts the findings of the 2015 ARC mid-term review. A key factor underpinning this program was to expand the growing skill base of the cohort with feedback and tangible outcomes indicating the program's ability in meeting the needs of its cohort.

3. Connect Indigenous researchers nationally and internationally to develop culturally supportive inclusive research environments, which enable the cross fertilisation of ideas and provide platforms for new Indigenous multi-disciplinary research.

NIRAKN's collaborative research program provided a platform to connect Indigenous researchers nationwide and internationally and to support them to conduct cross-institutional and multidisciplinary Indigenous research. This is evidenced by the conferences and symposium activities organised by NIRAKN Hub and Nodes and the international guest speakers that have engaged strongly with the NIRAKN capacity building activities and the expanding national and international networks established.

The Network brought together international Indigenous researchers from a range of disciplines who had not previously worked together or who had previously held research leadership roles. A highlight of a successful multi-disciplinary collaborative research initiative includes publication of the book, *Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations*.

4. Begin setting the Indigenous research agenda by applying Indigenous knowledges and expertise to multi-disciplinary collaborative projects directed at compelling research needed to inform community and government policy and program delivery

NIRAKN continues to foster engagement with Indigenous research and knowledges across the sector, informed by NIRAKN's Research Policy Framework.

NIRAKN members are committed to ensuring the benefits of the network and the associated research activities extend throughout the Indigenous community Australia-wide by participating in national government higher education policy agendas. In 2016, the NIRAKN Director presented to the ARC Directors Forum on Indigenous research capacity building and received positive feedback from some of the Centre Directors present at the event. Several NIRAKN members are Directors with NATSIHEC which is a key advisor to the Minister for Education, the honourable Senator Simon Birmingham.


NIRAKN members are working toward a Pacific Alliance to support senior Indigenous leadership and research agendas in the region with the Gathering of Professors in New Zealand. NIRAKN members continue to make significant contributions as members of Universities Australia sub-committees, with a new policy due to be released in 2017. Other memberships include representation on the National Working Group on Indigenous Higher Education Funding and participation in The Lowitja Institute's national symposiums and program committees.

In 2016 more than \$200,000 in NIRAKN research grant seed funding was allocated to 24 small research projects. Of these 24 projects, six were collaborative partnerships. Three ARC Discovery Indigenous Grants were awarded to NIRAKN members. An additional 12 external competitive grants were awarded to NIRAKN members (Refer to Node Sections for details).

Individually and collectively, NIRAKN members are making important contributions in the sector in the advancement of Indigenous knowledges and influencing national policy and research agendas. An emergent project is the Atlantic Fellowship for Social Change.

5. Develop an on-going integrated research program of collaborations with partner organisations through ARC, NHMRC, government, industry, community and philanthropic grant funding.

NIRAKN members received NHMRC Career Development Fellowships and had increasing success attracting competitive research grants through the NHMRC, ARC, OLT and The Lowitja Institute. Almost 30.5% of funding was from ARC Indigenous Discovery grants, with a total of three NIRAKN members (including affiliates) awarded ARC funding for 2016.



Strong trend data shows the benefits of NIRAKN's research program in terms of publication outputs as well as grant applications:

- In 2013 NIRAKN members obtained two ARC Discovery Indigenous Grants (one of which was a collaborative initiative).
- In 2014 NIRAKN members obtained four ARC Discovery Indigenous Grants, with another two applications secured by affiliate members. NIRAKN members were involved in 60% of all successful applications within the ARC Discovery Indigenous Grant Round in 2014.
- Of the ten successful 2016 ARC Discovery Indigenous Grants (first round) three were members or affiliate members of NIRAKN which amounted to approximately \$1M in research funding.
- Three NIRAKN Members (including one affiliate) are current OLT National Fellows, with an additional four OLT projects currently awarded to NIRAKN Members.

Several NIRAKN Members are involved in leadership and governance opportunities of key partner organisations such as NATSIHEC, National Congress, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) and The Lowitja Institute, which has had significant influence on Indigenous research activities.

NIRAKN will also continue to influence Indigenous research agendas by contributing to the development of Indigenous research metrics for consideration by the ARC, as demonstrated by partnerships with Māori Scholars from New Zealand for the development of new research codes in 2017 to the Australian and New Zealand Research Councils.

6. Achieve national and international recognition as the centre of Australian Indigenous research expertise, knowledge and innovation.

NIRAKN is the national centre of Australian Indigenous research expertise, knowledge and innovation with an emerging international profile. In 2016, NIRAKN co-hosted the international NAISA Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii furthering NIRAKN's presence as the centre of Australian Indigenous research on the international stage. This conference provided a significant platform for NIRAKN to profile and expand their work at an international level, garnering support and traction for future partnerships to advance NIRAKN aims.

NIRAKN Members and Nodes continue to form international partnerships between their institutions and continue to consolidate existing relations, which have included: UCLA Law School, Northern Arizona University, Duke University, Sami University College (Norway), the University of Waikato (New Zealand), University of Alberta (Canada), Purdue University, Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues (Barcelona), Oxford University, University of Barcelona, Cambridge University, and the National Museum of the American Indian. Members of the Network have developed international linkages to drive the development of Australian Indigenous research expertise and innovation and the ARC mid-term Review Panel commented favourably on the Networks' progress in building Indigenous knowledge as a field.

4. Challenges and Mitigation Strategies

Four years since we commenced, the Network is highly successful. However, the Management Committee continues to encounter challenges, which it addresses in a proactive manner, ensuring that network goals are fulfilled. As NIRAKN 1 draws to a close, there have been ongoing challenges:

1. Succession planning: Changing of staff, government priorities and funding issues has meant that the National Congress does not currently have a representative in the Management Committee or Advisory Board.
2. NIRAKN continues to work with our partners, however, as was the case in 2014, some collaborations with partners have not yet demonstrated their potential and some

important NIRAKN activities, such as Research Residencies, have yet to be successfully developed. NIRAKN has not found a significant demand from partners or researchers for a program of research residencies within its implementation (partly as there is limited funding for these activities). Nor has there been demand from our partners for a program of community workshops, which may be due to members and staff of our partnering organisations accessing NIRAKN workshops, seminar and conference programs. The NIRAKN website and a comprehensive communication strategy, promoting NIRAKN activities, resources and achievements engages strongly with our partners and other key stakeholder organisations.

3. Mitigation strategies have been developed in response to a key challenge identified in the ARC's Mid-Term Review of NIRAKN related to the future of the Network and a lack of strategic planning around sustaining and promulgating NIRAKN's legacy after 2016. The Director formed an emerging Indigenous leadership group from within the NIRAKN members that was supported and mentored throughout 2016 in order to develop their capacities to continue NIRAKN's work. QUT's DVC Research and Commercialisation will liaise with the DVCs Research from institutions that are signatories to

the collaborative agreement, to ascertain their commitment to NIRAKN beyond the existing contractual period. NIRAKN will also feature as a special issue of the *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies* to be published in 2017.

4. The three-member node leaders' model has proven to be problematic across the life of the project and this can be explained by a number of factors: a lack of capacity; heavy workloads; excessive administrative requirements and the fact that the majority of node leaders do not have project management experience as a lead CI on an ARC project.

5. Network Achievements and Outcomes

This section of the Annual Report provides a detailed summary of NIRAKN's major activities and outcomes according to Node areas.

5.1 The Hub

The national NIRAKN Hub, based at the Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit at QUT, has continued to be responsible for the administrative operation of the NIRAKN network, which involves over twenty universities, assorted partner organisations and two tiers of governance. This involved event management, marketing and promotion, travel and accommodation arrangement, financial reporting and governance support.

The Hub organised all of NIRAKN's National Capacity Building workshops, the Annual Symposium and Seminar Series, the Visiting International and National Scholars program, a national Critical Reading Group, Indigenous Qualitative Methodologies Masterclasses and other national and international network collaborations. The Hub also maintained the NIRAKN website and produced a biannual newsletter. The Hub coordinated and facilitated network meetings and provided secretariat services to the Management Committee, the Advisory Committee and Node Leaders' meetings. The operational scale of the Hub is demonstrated by the variety of national and international NIRAKN activities and the number of participants involved in these activities during 2016 (Refer to Table 1.).

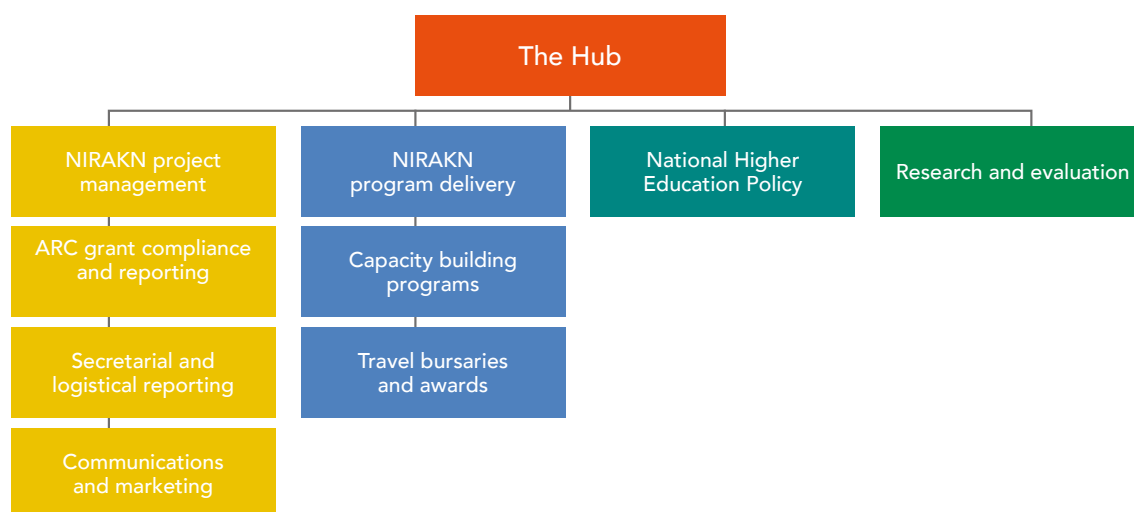


Figure 3: Hub oversight and roles

Table 1: NIRAKN Hub Activities 2016

Description of activity	No.
Research Capacity Building Workshops (Level A)	20
Masterclass – Indigenous Research Methodologies	22
Critical Reading Group	27
Critical Race Symposium	93
Co-Hosting Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference – Hawaii	1,120
Management Committee	13
Management, Advisory and Leadership Meetings*	23
NIRAKN Grants (number of recipients)	25
Total	1,343

5.1.1 Capacity Building Activities

Level A, B and C Capacity Building workshops were provided to Indigenous post-graduate students and early career academics. (Refer to Figure 4).



Figure 4: The synergy of Level A, B and C Workshops to build Indigenous research capacity.

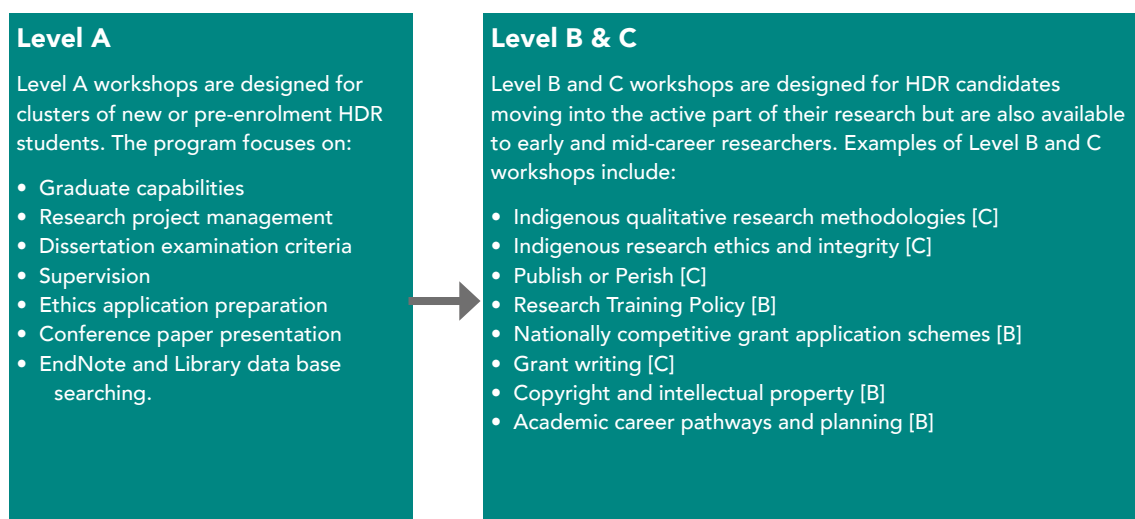


Figure 5: Illustrates the diversity and complementary nature of Level A, B and C Workshops.

Level A Workshops



2016 NIRAKN Level A Workshop, Kelvin Grove, Brisbane

In February 2016, the Hub held a two-day Level A workshop at QUT which was attended by twenty Indigenous HDR students from across the country. Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson presented sessions on: graduate capabilities for HDR project management; planning your three year PhD candidature; the PhD examination process and research funding and future opportunities. Dr David Singh and Dr Chelsea Bond co-facilitated a session on supervisory relationships. Dr Singh also presented a session on journal publications. Conference presentations and academic career path sessions were presented by Dr Bond. QUT librarians facilitated an Endnote session. Yarning circles were held at the end of each day.

The overall satisfaction ratings for this two-day workshop were: 100% good and above: i.e. 85% very good and excellent and 15% good. These results and similar ratings in previous years reaffirm that this workshop structure and format has consistently and successfully met the needs of the cohort. Participants had increased opportunities in 2016 to engage with senior scholars. They indicated that they would like more opportunities to meet senior scholars who were seen as 'heroes' to this emerging cohort of Indigenous scholars, an outcome that demonstrates the value and need for these opportunities in Level A programs.

Level B and C Workshops

The majority of B and C level workshops were provided as part of the mid-year program and were organised by the Hub. A popular NIRAKN drawcard, the 2016 Mid-Year Research Capacity Building program, consisted of 15 workshop sessions including a plenary session introducing the participants to the history and structure of NIRAKN. Approximately 20 Indigenous academics, postgraduates and NIRAKN members from across Australia gathered at the Hilton Surfers Paradise, 11–15 July, for a productive week of scholarship, critical engagement and networking.

As in previous years, the program was based on a multifaceted approach to capacity building Indigenous scholars and sought to cater for individuals at different points of their academic career and development. Postgraduate students, early career and established Indigenous scholars were provided with the opportunity to facilitate workshops and participate in the program. The program included an impressive collection of presentations by Associate Professor Gary Thomas (QUT), PVC Bronwyn Fredericks (CQU), Associate Professor Simone Tur, Natalie Harkin, Faye Blanch and Ali Baker (Flinders University), Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews (UTS), Professor Dawn Bessarab (UWA), Professor John Maynard (University of Newcastle), Associate Professor Kathleen Butler (UoN), Associate Professor Roxanne Bainbridge (JCU), Dr Marcus Waters (Griffith University), Liz Minchin (The Conversation), Rose Trapnell (QUT), Terri Janke (Terri Janke and Company) and Belinda Richardson (Formula Student).

'Honest support and engagement by senior scholars made this session liberating' [as did] 'hearing about other candidates' journeys and processes developing their own methodologies.'

(Feedback from HDR student in Evaluation Report by Casey, 2016)

The depth and breadth of academic and research experience served to raise awareness and understanding in the following areas: research ethics and integrity, project methodology, yarning as a methodology, ARC grant applications and proposals, academic progression, media and public relations, and understanding copyright and intellectual property. The 2016 program also included face to face meetings of each of the network's research nodes, a postgraduate discussion session as well as keynote addresses from invited guests. The 2016 mid-year program maintained a strong focus on developing research leadership through academic promotions, grant opportunities and applications, project management of grants, article preparation and publishing. Professor John Maynard conducted a session on applying for ARC Funding, Belinda Richardson conducted a session on developing and administering of ARC grants and Associate Professors Mark McMillan and Kathleen Butler gave sessions on academic career planning leadership and Indigenous academic indicators.

The formal evaluation of the NIRAKN capacity building activities by Casey in 2016 (see Appendix 5) found that the main strengths were:

- Sessions 'targeted multiple levels of experience'
- Variety of presenters and topics
- Participation of senior Indigenous academics
- Opportunity to network with other Indigenous scholars

As one respondent described it, the workshops 'fill the void' that isolated Indigenous scholars experience. The workshops provide a much needed 'space where Indigenous scholars can grow their skills and knowledge in a safe environment'.

The opportunity to work with other Indigenous scholars was felt to be crucial because of:

- Cultural support
- Talking to other Indigenous scholars was inspirational and affirming
- The support for students to complete their studies
- The opportunities provided for future collaborations

'The standard of the presentations was, as with the other programs in the series, of an exceptional high standard of delivery and content. The question on the evaluation forms about the impact for the participants of the workshops indicates a high level of success in the aim to build capacity. All the respondents walked away feeling empowered by information, successful role models and a deeper knowledge of academia.' (Casey, 2016)

The reasons given for attending the 2016 workshop centred on 'building momentum with their research' and 'increasing their knowledge and skills'. The evaluation report indicates that the same reasons recur in all the responses. Participants attended 'to network, learn, critique their own research and others research' in a context where they could talk to senior researchers 'with similar cultural ideas, identities and values'. The other recurring reason was that the workshops offered the opportunity to learn more about Indigenous research that others have undertaken or are conducting and to learn about Indigenous methodologies. The respondents all found the workshops exceeded their expectations. The relevance of the workshops and, in many cases, the timeliness of particular topics made the workshop invaluable (Casey, 2016).



Critical Reading Group, Kelvin Grove campus, QUT.
Facilitators: Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Dr David Singh.

In response to the independent evaluation of the NIRAKN National Capacity Building Program Report (2015), the 2016 program included opportunities for postgraduates to present their work to each other and to senior academics to strengthen scholarly mentoring relationships. In the final three days of the program, NIRAKN Nodes supported the Hub to deliver a variety of capacity building opportunities as part of the Mid-Year Program as evidenced below. Dr Yvette Roe facilitated an additional session to the program. Postgraduate students were invited to do a 3 Minute Thesis Presentation and a one-minute reflection, followed by questions and feedback from the room stimulating rigorous feedback around the questions of what, why and how.

Indigenous Research Methodologies Masterclass

As NIRAKN entered its final year, with infrastructure and processes well established and informed by stakeholder feedback, 2016 advanced key NIRAKN Aims 3-6. An enhanced seminar program coupled with national and international conferences was complemented by an Indigenous Qualitative Research Methodologies Masterclass offered at the NIRAKN Hub, QUT. It was led by NIRAKN Director Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Indigenous Studies Research Network (ISRN) Staff member Dr David Singh, Associate Professor Gary Thomas (QUT) and NIRAKN Research Fellow Dr Chelsea Bond (QUT).

Michelle Bovill @michelle_bovill - 10 Oct 2016
Excellent day @The_NIRAKN Critical Reading Group with the deadly @carmenparter @OnTopicAus



Indigenous Postgraduate students Michelle Bovill and Carmen Parter at the 2016 NIRAKN Critical Reading Group, Level C Workshop at Kelvin Grove Campus, QUT.

The Masterclass is an updated version of a 2010 Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) award winning program and introduces participants to a range of important Indigenous qualitative methodologies and approaches. Feedback from participants was

overwhelmingly positive with workshops rated as “excellent” and “very good”. Participants included postgraduate students from universities across Australia including: University of Newcastle, Griffith University, Flinders University, Curtin University, Wollongong University, Charles Darwin University, Australian Catholic University, Australian National University, University of Adelaide and Queensland University of Technology.

Critical Reading Group

In October, the Hub also convened a Critical Reading Group. This workshop, *Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations*, was purposely designed to encourage critical engagement with Indigenous scholarship and assist in the development of critical theoretical skills and an appreciation of the development of Indigenous studies as a discipline. Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Dr David Singh (ISRN, QUT) facilitated the session.

NIRAKN Evaluation strategy 2013-2016

The four year NIRAKN program is underpinned by an evidence-based action research approach to meeting cohort skills as they emerge and as Indigenous scholars involved in the program consolidate their research identities. The Level A/B/C workshops were integral in providing an environment where skills and knowledge development stimulated the establishment of connections between Indigenous scholars.

The independent evaluation report confirms that the NIRAKN Capacity Building program meets its key objectives in its design, content and delivery.

‘The four year program was an impressive and innovative step towards meeting the challenges that NIRAKN has identified in building the capacity of Indigenous scholars and laying the groundwork for future academic careers. The most impressive aspect of the workshops was the creation of a safe environment where postgraduates and early career researchers could engage in a respectful way with other scholars in a sharing, honest and meaningful way. The workshops offered capacity building in a way that facilitated investigation of the next steps participants at every level could take to develop their research and careers.’ (Casey, 2016).

In the words of one attendee: ‘A life changing/empowering experience’ (Casey, 2016).

International, national, regional links and networks

In 2016, obtaining ten invitations to attend and participate in major conferences was the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) goal. NIRAKN members far exceeded these expectations. The map below indicates the breadth of networking activity that the NIRAKN network achieved through its 2016 conference and collaboration activities.



Map 1. Establishing national and international networks

Native American Indigenous Studies Association Conference (NAISA)

NAISA is a world renowned international and interdisciplinary professional organisation, bringing together scholars, graduate students, independent researchers, and community members with an interest in all aspects of Indigenous Studies. Partnerships to create new narratives and redefine trans-Atlantic boundaries was an underpinning theme reflected in the panel sessions and papers. In her role on NAISA Council, Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson advocated for NIRAKN to co-host the 2016 annual NAISA Conference in Honolulu with a team including RMIT and led by the University of Hawaii. A number of NIRAKN members and Hub professional team members attended the conference where they engaged with other Indigenous scholars, consolidated and commenced building international relationships. The NIRAKN Hub played a strong role in the organisation of this event. NIRAKN Hub awarded six travel bursaries that enabled researchers at various levels (A-E) to attend and present. In their reports, bursary recipients acknowledged the opportunities to network with their national and international colleagues (Refer to Appendix 3: NIRAKN Bursary Reports).

NIRAKN's co-hosting of the 8th annual NAISA conference was a rich collaboration between the three universities, with four days of cross-continental engagement and knowledge exchange between hundreds of First Nations, Indigenous and Aboriginal scholars. Preceding the opening, Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton Robinson, Pro Vice Chancellor Steve Larkin, PVC Bronwyn Fredericks and Professor Barry Judd all participated in a private traditional Hawaiian blessing (Refer to Section 6: Highlights).



Opening Ceremony, 18 May, 2016. Photos by Rodney Stoter.

The Hub played a pivotal role in the logistical planning and support for this event. This included the travel and conference planning tasks and the marketing of the event including the logo design for the conference bags and banner. The NIRAKN team also staffed the NIRAKN Exhibition stand and assisted with the Publisher's Exhibition stand. The Hub organised and paid for bus transport to the conference venue and other planned activities.

The three days of the conference saw team NIRAKN welcoming over one-thousand attendees at the registration desk with the entire stock of NAISA welcome bags dispersed, signifying the most attended and successful NAISA yet. As with all NIRAKN activities, the NIRAKN Director arranged pre and post networking meetings, two onsite visits to organisations, two Skype meetings and meetings with key international Indigenous leaders.

'The NAISA conference provided me with an opportunity to connect with Indigenous researchers nationally and internationally to develop a cultural model of education to overcome the barriers and utilise access, treatment processes and support systems that are required to improve the status of Indigenous males.' (Dr Mick Adams, NIRAKN travel bursary recipient)

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson presented a paper, *Cannibalizing the Cook: The Logic of White Possession in Popular Culture*, as part of the panel session: *Cook and colonization: Unpacking the Discourse of Origins*. Dr David Singh (NIRAKN team member, QUT) chaired this panel.

International networks

In 2016, the NIRAKN Director continued to provide strategic direction for the network's international linkages. Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson continued her work as a member of the Editorial Management Committee for *American Quarterly*, a leading and highly prestigious international journal. This year was the final year of Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson's membership of the NAISA Council. NAISA is the premiere international & interdisciplinary professional organisation for scholars, graduate students, independent researchers, and community members interested in all aspects of Indigenous Studies. Through her leadership in NAISA, Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson has promoted NIRAKN and network activities, and developed further international networks.



From left to right: Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson (QUT), Professor George Lipsitz (University of California Santa Barbara), Associate Professor Audra Simpson (University of Columbia), Professor David Roediger (University of Kansas) and Professor Cheryl Harris (University of California, Los Angeles)

Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson worked closely with Associate Professor Hokulani Aku, Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Politics, from the University of Hawaii to ensure arrangements for the program included significant engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers. This is the first time that Australian researchers have co-hosted NAISA. Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson has also led the development of international relationships between UCLA Law School (Professor Cheryl Harris and Professor Devon Carbado) and the NIRAkn Law Node which has resulted in several symposiums and workshops at UCLA and within Australia.

Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson strengthened links with the Metis Research Centre, University of Alberta (Professor Chris Anderson and Professor Kim Tallbear) and the University of Waikato, New Zealand (Professor Linda Tuhiwai-Smith and Professor Graham Smith). She has also been pivotal in forging relationships with leading critical race scholars, Professors Cheryl Harris and Professor Devon Carbado from UCLA Law School and NIRAkn through the Hub and NIRAkn's Law Node Leader Associate Professor Mark McMillan. This relationship involved exploring possible partnerships in law research and knowledge sharing, advancing international discussions regarding Indigeneity and race and resulted in the Law Node workshop in Melbourne 2016. We will continue to explore further collaborations with UCLA, such as a Memorandum of Understanding, and the prospect of interdisciplinary comparative research with development of grant applications to the Australian Research Council.

American Studies Association, Denver, USA

In November, Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson attended the American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado. There she was invited to respond to a plenary panel discussion which focused on the impact of her book, *The White Possessive: Property, Power and Indigenous Sovereignty* (UP Minnesota). The plenary panel was comprised of leading scholars in the areas of Whiteness Studies and Critical Race Theory, and included Professor Cheryl

Harris (University of California Los Angeles), Professor David Roediger (University of Kansas), Professor George Lipsitz (University of California Santa Barbara) and Associate Professor Audra Simpson (Columbia University). To an audience of standing room only, each panel member offered their critical reflections on the scholarship of Moreton-Robinson in relation to their own, and on her contribution to the field of Whiteness Studies and Critical Race Theory. The final registration count for the 2016 annual meeting of the American Studies Association was 1,944. (<https://asa.press.jhu.edu/program16/index.html>)

2016 Pacific Professors' Alliance – Aotearoa New Zealand



From left to right: Distinguished Professor Graham Smith, Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith, and Professor Steve Larkin

In October, leading international Indigenous professors held a week of collaborative meetings and presentations to academic staff in New Zealand. Distinguished Professor Graham Smith (Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi), Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith (University of Waikato), Professor Brendan Hokowhitu (University of Waikato), Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson (QUT) and Professor Steve Larkin (PVC UoN) gathered to discuss key issues associated with Indigenous higher education and research.

Significant highlights of the week:

- Launch of *Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations 2016* (UP Arizona)
- Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson's public lecture, *Aboriginal Sovereignty, Foucault, and the Limits of Power*
- Waikato co-hosting NAISA 2019 conference discussions
- Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson and PVC Steven Larkin led discussions on the Indigenous Studies Research Code
- University of Waikato staff were invited to discuss *Critical Indigenous Studies* and a review of Curriculum
- Indigenous Academic Leaders panel discussion, *Navigating the Academy*, at the University of Waikato
- HDR Masterclass at the Te Toi Tauira mo te Matariki Conference, at the Te Whare Wananga Awanuiarangi

National and regional networking

Critical Race Symposium

NIRAKN Hub partnered with Melbourne University School of Law in May to hold the Critical Race Symposium. This event was managed by the Hub and attended by 92 delegates consisting of 7 NIRAKN members, 17 Indigenous postgraduates, 39 academics, 19 community members, two legal professionals and 20 delegates from other organisations or groups. Refer to the Highlights section (section 6) for more details about the event.

NIRAKN Law node retreat

This two-day workshop was funded by NIRAKN Hub and occurred after the Critical Race Symposium. The outcome was a collaborative research agenda and to build capacity within critical race and whiteness studies (6-7th May 2016). Hub Director, Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson, and Dr David Singh, (ISRN Research Fellow), attended along with Law node members and international visiting UCLA scholars, Professor Cheryl Harris and Associate Professor Shannon Speedy.

National Indigenous Legal Conference

The National Indigenous Legal Conference complemented the suite of NIRAKN symposiums providing both emergent and established Indigenous researchers with a range of opportunities to impact their individual and collective career pathways. This event was supported by a successful grant awarded to the Law node through the NIRAKN internal grant scheme (Refer to section 5.2: Indigenous Law Node).

Symposium and Seminar Series

Seminars



Associate Professor
Maryrose Casey,
Monash

From its inception into the program, the seminar series was highly successful with stakeholders requesting more opportunities to further consolidate critical engagement with Indigenous research and knowledges across the sector. The NIRAKN Hub organised and facilitated two seminars for postgraduate and early career researchers. These seminars

facilitated engagement with the work of more established international Indigenous scholars from different countries. In April, Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville (Macquarie University) presented "*Where is the Indigenous Humanities?*" Te Punga Somerville provided a critique of the future, value and place of the Humanities in the twenty-first century university, questioning where the Indigenous Humanities is within contemporary dominant articulations of Indigenous research methodologies grounded in social science and education disciplines.

The second seminar in the series was in December. Associate Professor Maryrose Casey (Monash University), presented "*The Ebb and Flow of Performances of Colonisation and Resistance*". This seminar examined how Aboriginal Australians used performance in the nineteenth century to divert the flow of colonisation and claimed European dominance and how performance has in some ways become more powerful over time. The performances range from solo parodies in the midst of colonial celebrations to scripted satires of colonial violence.

Research Retreat

The 2016 HDR Research Retreat, 19-21 October 2016, was hosted by the National Centre for Indigenous Studies (NCIS). Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson was invited to give the Opening Keynote address "*Towards a Critical Indigenous Studies: Some Preliminary Ideas*" and to participate as the Chair and panel discussant for the session: Speaking up, Indigenous methodologies. This retreat focuses on the importance and relevance of research to the broader concerns and issue of Indigenous peoples. This event brings HDR scholars, staff, adjuncts and guest speakers in a program of presentations, discussions and workshops.

Policy contributions to the Higher Education Sector

Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson attended the ARC Director's Forum in June to present the findings of the Australian Council of Learned Academies Review of Australia's Research Training System.

As an Executive Committee member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSHEC), she also participated in national meetings and National Caucuses. NATSHEC is a key advisor to the Federal Minister for Education and Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education. As part of her responsibilities on NATSHEC over 2016, Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson has:

- participated in three National Caucuses;
- met with the Deputy Secretary: Higher Education, Research and International;
- met with senior ministerial advisors for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Education and Training;
- met with senior representatives from Universities Australia providing input on the draft UA Indigenous Strategy;
- met with the Chair and Co-Chair of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council;
- participated in the national project *Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education*;
- attended a national roundtable specific to Indigenous Higher Education Outcomes; and
- participated in the Indigenous Student Success in Higher Education Program (ISSP) Working Group in developing the policy intent and draft guidelines that are to be implemented across the Australian Higher Education Sector.

International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies

The NIRAKN Hub continues to raise the profile of Indigenous knowledges and research through facilitating high quality scholarly publishing. The *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies (IJCIS)* is a fully peer reviewed journal which brings together emergent and ground-breaking research in the field of Indigenous studies within the global community offering scope for critical international engagement and debate. IJCIS is online open access and all editions are available from <http://www.isrn.qut.edu.au/publications/internationaljournal/allissues.jsp>.

The *IJCIS* is edited by NIRAKN Director Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Dr David Singh is the Assistant Editor from the Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit. The journal published a special issue edition in 2016 in June (Volume 9, no. 1). Dr Chelsea Bond was the Guest Editor for this special issue

which brings together Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators to explore a diverse range of topics including; the positioning of Indigenous educators within the classroom, culturally safe pedagogies, navigating student resistance, Indigenising curricula within the disciplines and the incorporation of critical race theory in institutional cultural competency training.

The following articles were published by the ISK&IT Node in the journal in 2016:

- *Rethinking Sociology, Social Darwinism and Aboriginal Peoples* by Kathleen Butler
- *Which way? Talking culture, talking race: Unpacking an Indigenous cultural competency course* by Bronwyn Fredericks (Health node) and Debbie Bargallie
- *Teaching Indigenous Studies: Considering racialized assemblages and the Indigenous educator's body in tutoring space* by Faye Rosas-Blanch
- *The deconstruction exercise: An assessment tool for enhancing critical thinking in cultural safety education* by David Sjoberg and Dennis McDermott


5.1.2 Hub pipeline strategies

NIRAKN continues to work to engage with wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through network activities. Students acknowledged the importance of NIRAKN's Research Capacity building strategies and the communication 'pipeline' strategies put in place.

'This network has kept my PhD goal within reach and provided the cultural support I am not afforded in my centre. NIRAKN has taught me more theory and research skills than my own university.' (HDR student)

NIRAKN Newsletter

In 2016, NIRAKN circulated two editions of the NIRAKN Newsletter to our extensive 'Friends of NIRAKN' email list through which we share relevant news with interested researchers, community members and organisations. Copies of the newsletters are available from www.nirakn.edu.au. The biannual newsletter is in addition to our other regular contact with NIRAKN members and friends through our weekly NIRAKN *Super News* bulletin, which promotes NIRAKN and members events, along with research and publication opportunities, national and international conferences, scholarships and bursaries, useful resources, relevant Government and University sector policy developments



and initiatives, as well as employment opportunities, seminars, symposiums, conferences, book launches and public talks.

Postgraduate email

Our dedicated NIRAKN postgraduate email list also distributed information relevant to Indigenous HDR students. Partner organisations are encouraged to allow a number of their staff to participate in Capacity Building activities and some partner organisation representatives have participated in Node meetings to discuss research and other projects. This has performed the dual function of developing the skills of community researchers based at partner organisations and helping ensure that NIRAKN research is informed by community needs and concerns.

Additional strategies

The NIRAKN student essay competition is another pipeline activity organised by the Hub to encourage HDR students' transition from undergraduate to postgraduate. Two NIRAKN Undergraduate Essay Prize winners were presented with awards at the NIRAKN mid-year Workshops (Refer to section 6: Highlights). 'Research Heroes' is a further initiative of the NIRAKN pipeline strategy and is located on the NIRAKN website. NIRAKN's website continued to provide a central repository of information for its membership, Indigenous postgraduates and other national and international consumers.

Due to brand exposure in international research markets attained through event co-branding and co-sponsorship, NIRAKN experienced new engagement opportunities that may not have come to fruition in the past. This strategic approach was adopted to develop international networks and partnerships for a possible future collaborative research center, Category 1 research grant or NIRAKN journal publications.

'The registration process was smooth and easy. The staff made everything happen without any problems. Every question I had was already answered before I needed to know. Staff that supported the NIRAKN process went above and beyond.' (HDR student)

Hub staff consistently exceeded performance expectations when supporting events, with participants routinely reporting high levels of satisfaction with regard to the event itself, as well as with attendant travel and accommodation arrangements. That the Hub has functioned this way throughout the entire four-year life of NIRAKN is all the more remarkable given its relatively small size and the acknowledgement by the ARC mid-term review team that 'significant and perhaps inordinate expectations [were] being placed on the Network'.

Website

The NIRAKN website continued to provide information about the Indigenous research environment, Higher Education sector and NIRAKN goals and achievements of the network. Addressing further reach and engagement strategies, the website provided an archive of industry news, network events, newsletters and reports. Despite NIRAKN's international focus on events, emphasis on collaborative research and work to improve both service delivery and web content, engagement with the website decreased from the previous year. This outcome is attributed to NIRAKN's collective funding and program objectives coming to an end in 2016.

Social media

In 2016 NIRAKN gained momentum in developing a stronger social media presence with an emphasis on publishing regular targeted content to build brand awareness across the Higher Education sector and academic communities of practice.

TOP NIRAKN Tweet 2016

NIRAKN Director public lecture at @Waikato NZ
October 5th 2016 on #Aboriginal Sovereignty
#Foucault and the Limits of Power #NIRAKN2016
<https://t.co/kFYklAaanw>

Did you know?

NIRAKN's Facebook page experienced a 52% increase in likes from the previous year? Facebook users viewed NIRAKN and its page content 55,000 times.
Twitter – nearly 49,000 times

5.1.3 External Competitive Grants

Investigators: Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson; Associate Professor Maryrose Casey.

Funding: ARC Discovery Project. \$357, 000

Project: *Quandamooka Aboriginal Women on the Colonial Frontier in the 19th Century*

has provided seed funding to NIRAKN members to undertake research projects. These internal competitive grants are central to developing a critical mass of multi- disciplinary, qualified Indigenous researchers. The internal grants program requires projects to comply with ARC Discovery Indigenous funding rules in addition to the ARC's funding rules for NIRAKN.

The research funding supports:

- High quality research projects/activities with publication outcomes
- Pilot projects that form a plausible first stage in the process of gaining external grant support and are relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Projects/activities showing clear evidence of strong research capacity building

In 2016, grants to a maximum amount of \$10,000 were approved by the Management Committee under advice from Node Leaders. More than \$200,000 in seed funding was allocated to 24 small research projects.

5.1.4 NIRAKN Research Grant Scheme

NIRAKN believes training and skills transfer is not enough to develop a critical mass of researchers. New and emerging researchers must apply their skills in a supportive environment and early, mid and senior researchers need cross discipline/institution collaborative opportunities. Since 2013, NIRAKN

Table 2: NIRAKN Law Node Internal Research Grants 2016

Recipient	Institution	Description	Amount
Asmi Wood	ANU	Funding for a research Assistant to assist in the collection of Critical Race papers to be edited by Larissa Behrendt (UTS) and Asmi Wood	\$10,000
		Sponsorship of HDR Events associated with the National Indigenous Legal conference in Canberra Sept 2016.	\$8,000
		Promoting post graduate study options for practicing lawyers at the 2016 National Indigenous Legal conference.	\$10,000
		Total	\$28,000

Table 3: NIRAKN Health and Wellbeing Internal Research Grants 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Leonard Collard, Mick Adams, Steve Kinnane, Steve Larkin	UWA ECU Notre Dame, UoN	Aboriginal Fathering Project 1: Aboriginal fathering in the international literature.	\$9,952
		Aboriginal Fathering Project 2: Noongar men speak about Aboriginal fathering	\$9,996
		Aboriginal Fathering Project 3: Synthesizing the interviews and the literature	\$9,994
Kathleen Clapham	UoW	Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation (The Glen): Demonstration of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisational contribution to the local community.	\$9,851
Roxanne Bainbridge	JCU	Being Sovereign: A Grounded Theory of Aboriginal women's agency	\$9,481
Odette Best	QUT	Reframing the discourse and changing the narrative of Aboriginal wellbeing by documenting Aboriginal nursing histories from the 1940s-1960s	\$4,500
		Identifying Aboriginal nurses/midwives who trained in the 1920's	\$2,124

Lawrence Perry Marlene Thompson Mick Adams Bronwyn Fredericks John Maynard Roxanne Bainbridge	UoN UoN ECU CQU UoN JCU	Bringing male voices out: Understanding interpersonal violence in Aboriginal communities from an Aboriginal male perspective	\$10,000
Clair Andersen	UTAS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Youth, Health and Wellbeing (Tasmania Study)	\$10,044
		UTAS Aboriginal site interpretations	\$10,000
Total			\$76,942

Table 4: NIRAKN Yuraki Node Internal Research Grants 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Leonard Collard	UWA	Nyungar Placenames Project in Southwest of WA.	\$10,000
		Where to from here? The aftermath of the 1967 Referendum	\$10,000
Linda Ford	CDU	Building a phrase book app + database for endangered Daly-Wagait Languages	\$10,000
Simone Ulalka Tur Natalie Harkin	Flinders University	Bound and Unbound: Sovereign Acts – decolonising methodologies of the lived and spoken (Stages 1 and 2)	\$10,000
		Bound and Unbound: Sovereign Acts – decolonising methodologies of the lived and spoken (Stages 3 and 4 of a two art NIRAKN internal grant application)	\$10,000
Rowena Ball	ANU	Dating event in Indigenous history using methods from bioinformatics and molecular evolutions - a pilot study	\$5,000
Total			\$55,000

Table 5: NIRAKN ISK&ST Node Internal Research Grants 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Steve Larkin	CDU	Effects of Incarceration of Indigenous Men and Women on Indigenous Family Structure	\$10,000
		Analysis of the Forrest Review: Creating Parity	\$10,000
		Creating Parity	\$10,000
		Statistical analysis of Aboriginal land Torres Strait Islander women's educational and employment status	\$10,000
		Aboriginal women in enterprise	\$10,000
		Total	\$50,000

NIRAKN Travel Bursaries awarded 2016

Eight Travel bursaries were awarded to seven NIRAKN members.

Table 6: Recipients of the 2016 NIRAKN International Travel Bursary

Recipient	Institution	Node	Conference	Amount
Dawn Bessarab	UWA	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$3,440
Marlene Thompson	UoN	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$4,979
Marlene Thompson	UoN	Health	Native Hawaiian Centre & Purdue University	\$5,000
Mick Adams**	ECU	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$3,442
Bronwyn Fredericks	CQU	Health	NAISA Panel Chair: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$5,000
Marcelle Burns**	UNE	Law	Summer School Program: Centre of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogue, Barcelona, Spain	\$5,000
Asmi Wood**	ANU	Law	Oxford summer school, Oxford England	\$5,000
John Maynard	UoN	Yuraki	NAISA paper presented: <i>Oral and Community History</i>	\$2,450
**Refer to Appendix 3: NIRAKN Bursary Reports			Total	\$34,311

'I gained more knowledge and insight into concepts and theories and was stimulated to think deeper about some issues and challenged to think in new ways about other issues. I was able to plan 2017 activities with three scholars and have commenced work on these plans. I am thankful for the NIRAKN International Travel Bursary to attend NAISA 2016.' (Bronwyn Fredericks, NIRAKN travel bursary recipient)

5.2 Indigenous Law Node

Indigenous people have a different legal status from other Australians which impacts on everyday lives. Domestic and international laws prescribe the constitutive elements of this legal status. This node's research agenda is shaped by public law, constitutional and human rights law, civil and family law needs, governance, crime prevention, treaties, agreements and negotiated settlements, legal research, and critical Indigenous legal theory.

Node Leaders: Professor Larissa Behrendt, Associate Professor Asmi Wood and Associate Professor Mark McMillan



Professor
Larissa Behrendt
UTS



Associate Professor
Asmi Wood
ANU



Associate Professor
Mark McMillan
UoM

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

NIRAKN Mid-Year program

Associate Professor Mark McMillan facilitated five sessions at the Mid-Year capacity building program for Level B and C researchers. Sessions included: the opening and closing of this annual event; awarding of the NIRAKN undergraduate student essay; a node networking session; Academic progression and promotion and Planning and performance reviews for academics. Associate Professor McMillan also facilitated a session with Associate Professor Kathleen Butler (ISK&IT).

International, national, regional links and networks

In addition to the Mid-year program, the Indigenous Law Node hosted several national capacity building events with some members engaging in conferences and retreat activities.

NIRAKN Critical Race Symposium

NIRAKN was pleased to host the first 2016 Critical Race Symposium. The event was co-hosted by the NIRAKN CI Associate Professor Mark McMillan (Melbourne School of Law) and the Hub. The Hub undertook the event planning and organisation of this highly successful event. Keynotes were accepted by esteemed scholars Professor Cheryl Harris (UCLA School of Law) and Associate Professor Shannon Speed (UCLA American Indian Studies Center).



The Critical Race Symposium, University of Melbourne (Level C Workshop)

Of the 82 Indigenous scholars attending, the symposium feedback was extremely positive and identified the value of, and need for future opportunities to address issues of race, to network and strengthen research capacity in emerging Indigenous HDRs. The event provided participants with opportunities to tap into informal and formal mentoring possibilities.



Professor
Cheryl Harris,
UCLA School of
Law. Rosalinde
and Arthur Gilbert
Foundation Chair in
Civil Rights and Civil
Liberties at UCLA
School of Law

Professor Cheryl Harris' presentation focused on the afterlife of slavery as expressed through the neoliberal market. Each presentation was an exemplar of the ways critical race theory can illuminate contemporary political, economic and social arrangements. An audience of over seventy had an opportunity to further discuss the issues raised by the presentations over afternoon tea. NIRAKN looks forward to further collaborative opportunities with UCLA and those interested in furthering the development of critical race theory within law here in Australia.



Associate Professor
Shannon Speed,
Director of Native
American and
Indigenous Studies,
UCLA

Associate Professor Shannon Speed's presentation highlighted the fraught relationship between multicultural rights regimes and Indigenous sovereignty.

Evaluation feedback is dominated by praise for the level of analysis and insights shared - common threads in the feedback for all sessions related to the importance of the need for critical discussions of race:

'The analysis of the racial aspects of capital and neoliberalism were particularly interesting and important – a vital conversation for the Australian context.' (Indigenous scholar)

National Indigenous Legal Conference



Conference title: *Indigenous Recognition: Many laws, the many facets of law reform*

Successful in being awarded NIRAKN internal funding, NIRAKN Law node members participated in the 2016 National Indigenous Legal Conference, 5-6 September, ANU College of Law. A total of

142 participants attended. Law Node leader, Associate Professor Mark McMillan gave the keynote plenary session, *Constitutional recognition: South Africa, Ireland and Australia*. Delegates had the opportunity to hear from over 25 speakers presenting on: sentencing laws and Indigenous Australians; Indigenous Australians and the Law: Post-graduate study opportunities; Indigenous recognition through education; and mental health and Indigenous justice in the Northern Territory.

Professor Mick Dodson (ANU) welcomed delegates to the conference. An international keynote plenary session was given by Associate Professor Linda Te Aho: *Bridging critical Indigenous theory and calls to action in Aotearoa New Zealand*. As an example of critical Indigenous theory, Associate Professor Linda Te Aho drew on Kaupapa Māori Theory - a theoretical approach that frames the way the Indigenous Māori of Aotearoa New Zealand see the world, the way we organise ourselves in it, the questions we ask, and the solutions we seek.



Associate Professor
Linda Te Aho,
University of
Waikato

Associate Professor Linda Te Aho explained where Kaupapa Māori Theory sits in the context of post-colonial theories and approaches, how, as a framework, it underpins resistance initiatives, and how it has influenced legal education. As a result, there is a growing recognition of tikanga Māori as the first law of Aotearoa New Zealand. The presentation

also provided some insights into recent calls to action to address enduring injustice.

A second Keynote Plenary session was presented by Chief Justice Robert French (High Court of Australia). The Hon. Chief Justice Robert French's keynote, "*Legal Change and Social Change*", explored the historical legal and social legacies that underpin contemporary Indigenous disadvantage concluding the law needs to be driven by social, economic and cultural change. Law Node member Ms. Marcelle Burns (UNE) presented a session on the Indigenous Cultural Competency for Legal Academics Program (ICCLAP). The ICCLAP aims to promote the inclusion of Indigenous cultural competency in legal education with a view to creating inclusive learning environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, and also to develop the

cultural competency of all students, leading to better legal service delivery for Indigenous communities. ICCLAP is a cross institutional project involving five universities including UNE, UTS, UoM, ANU, and QUT. The project aim is to develop a professional development module and training resources for legal academics, and a framework for the inclusion of Indigenous cultural competency in legal education. Ms. Burns' session gave an overview of opportunities for participating in this project.

NIRAKN Symposium: Indigenising the Teaching and Learning Environment, Melbourne Law School



Dr Chelsea Bond,
Australian Learning
and Teaching
Fellow

NIRAKN, the *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies*, and Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow recipient, Dr Chelsea Bond, co-presented a public symposium on Indigenous teaching and learning within the Australian higher education sector.

This symposium included short presentations from PVC Bronwyn Fredericks (CQU & Health node), Professor Dennis McDermott (Flinders), Mr David Sjöberg (Flinders), Ms Faye Blanch (Flinders), and Ms Deb Bargallie (NIRAKN PhD Scholar). The theme was the cultural safety of Indigenous academics teaching Indigenous studies, knowledges and/or perspectives within Australian Universities. This symposium had support provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.



Ms Deb Bargallie,
NIRAKN PhD
Scholar

International presentations

Associate Professor McMillan (RMIT) presented at overseas conferences including the NAISA conference in Hawaii (Refer to section 6: Highlights).

Research Retreat

Associate Professor Asmi Wood was invited to be a Chair and Panel Discussant at the 2016 Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Research Retreat, 19-21 October 2016, hosted by the NCIS. The session theme was *Cultural Assumptions and Legal Systems*. The retreat focused on the importance and relevance of research to the broader concerns and issue of Indigenous peoples. This event brings HDR scholars, staff, adjuncts and guest speakers in a program of presentations, discussions and workshops.

NIRAKN Research Grants

Three successful internal research grants and two travel bursaries were awarded to the Law node.

Table 7: NIRAKN Internal Research Grants awarded to Law Node 2016

Recipient	Institution	Description	Amount
Asmi Wood	ANU	Funding for a research Assistant to assist in the collection of Critical Race papers to be edited by Larissa Behrendt (UTS) and Asmi Wood	\$10,000
		Sponsorship of HDR Events associated with the National Indigenous Legal conference in Canberra Sept 2016.	\$8,000
		Promoting post graduate study options for practicing lawyers at the 2016 National Indigenous Legal conference.	\$10,000
		Total	\$28,000

NIRAKN travel bursary grants

Travel bursaries were awarded to two Law Node members: Ms Marcelle Burns (UNE, Law) and Associate Professor Asmi Wood (ANU) (*Refer to Appendix 3: NIRAKN Bursary Reports*).



Ms Marcelle Burns, 2016 NIRAKN International Travel Bursary Recipient

Ms Marcelle Burns attended the Summer School Program at the Centre of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogue, Barcelona, Spain. Highlights of the program were Enrique Dussel (philosophy of liberation, transmodernity) and Ruthie Wilson Gilmore (Racial Capitalism) who provided rich scholarly analysis of some of the problematics of modernity, capitalism and colonialism – both

historically and today. The school was attended by approximately 100 people, and provided opportunities to meet and develop networks with a number of post-graduate students and scholars working in Indigenous and decolonial research, both internationally and in Australia.

Participation in the Decolonial Dialogues Summer School enabled Marcelle to gain an overview of decolonial theory and practice which will inform her PhD studies in law, bringing an inter-disciplinary analysis of modernity and the production of knowledge to the colonial project. The knowledge gained at the summer school will also inform her work as Project Leader of the Indigenous Cultural Competency for Legal Academics program, as it provides a framework for critique of dominant legal doctrines and continuing forms of coloniality which contribute to the unequal positioning of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law.

Associate Professor Asmi Wood's travel bursary grant allowed him to visit Oxford University and speak at St Hughes and Magdalene Colleges. Associate Professor Wood also gave an address at the University of Barcelona, where he was a visiting professor, and the bursary allowed him to meet with Roma groups in Villanova.

Other successful grants:

Investigator: Associate Professor Mark McMillan

Funding: RMIT (MSGO DVC(R) GRANT)

Project: *Indigenous Nation Building: Theory; Practice and its emergence in Australia's public policy discourse.*

5.3 Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Node

Indigenous health remains the poorest in the country. A holistic gendered approach to health via a social and emotional wellbeing theoretical lens is the driver of this node's research activity. The strong links between gender and social and emotional wellbeing and heart disease, diabetes, and reproductive health underpin this node's initial research project.

Node leaders: PVC Bronwyn Fredericks, Professor Pat Dudgeon and Professor Kath Clapham



PVC Bronwyn Fredericks, CDU



Professor Kathleen Clapham, UoW



Professor Pat Dudgeon, UWA

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

NIRAKN Mid-Year program

Pro Vice Chancellor Bronwyn Fredericks facilitated two sessions at the Mid-Year capacity building program for Level B and C. These sessions included *Postgraduate Networking* and the *Importance of Leadership* using the PVC role as the exemplar. Associate Professor Roxanne Bainbridge facilitated a session on developing NHMRC grant applications.

NIRAKN Research Grants

The Health Node was successful in NIRAKN funding for the 10 research proposals submitted.

Table 8: NIRAKN Internal Research Grants awarded to Health and Wellbeing Node 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Leonard Collard, Mick Adams, Steve Kinnane, Steve Larkin	UWA ECU Notre Dame, UoN	Aboriginal Fathering Project 1: Aboriginal fathering in the international literature.	\$9,952
		Aboriginal Fathering Project 2: Noongar men speak about Aboriginal fathering	\$9,996
		Aboriginal Fathering Project 3: Synthesizing the interviews and the literature	\$9,994
Kathleen Clapham	UoW	Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation (The Glen): Demonstration of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisational contribution to the local community.	\$9,851
Roxanne Bainbridge	JCU	Being Sovereign: A Grounded Theory of Aboriginal women's agency	\$9,481
Odette Best	QUT	Reframing the discourse and changing the narrative of Aboriginal wellbeing by documenting Aboriginal nursing histories from the 1940s-1960s	\$4,500
		Identifying Aboriginal nurses/midwives who trained in the 1920's	\$2,124
Lawrence Perry Marlene Thompson Mick Adams Bronwyn Fredericks John Maynard Roxanne Bainbridge	UoN UoN ECU CQU UoN JCU	Bringing male voices out: Understanding interpersonal violence in Aboriginal communities from an Aboriginal male perspective	\$10,000
Clair Andersen	UTAS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Youth, Health and Wellbeing (Tasmania Study)	\$10,044
		UTAS Aboriginal site interpretations	\$10,000
Total			\$76,942

Travel Bursaries

Five travel bursaries were awarded to four Health Node members.

Table 9: NIRAKN Travel Bursary awarded to the Health and Wellbeing Node 2016

Recipient	Institution	Node	Conference	Amount
Dawn Bessarab	UWA	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$3,440
Marlene Thompson	UoN	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$4,979
Marlene Thompson	UoN	Health	Native Hawaiian Centre & Purdue University	\$5,000
Mick Adams	ECU	Health	NAISA Panel presentation: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$3,442
Bronwyn Fredericks	CQU	Health	NAISA Panel Chair: <i>Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia</i>	\$5,000
Total				\$21,861

Nationally Competitive Grants submitted

P Dudgeon: National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network NIRAKN – *Developing Knowledge about Indigenous Mental Health and Psychology from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective*, Central Queensland University ex QUT ex ARC Special Research Initiatives.

R Bainbridge, B Fredericks, Y Cadet-James, A Miller, M Adams, K Tsey, C Doran, K Usher, F Watkin Lui, J McCalman: *Centre for Research Excellence. National Indigenous Regional Health Research Innovation and Translation Hub*. \$2,420,000.

P Dudgeon, R Walker, S Silburn, K Tsey, R Bainbridge, S Ewen, F Stanley, T Calma, G Pearson, J Milroy: *Centre for Research Excellence. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Project*. \$2,464,346

National Competitive Research Grants awarded

The Health Node had five external research projects awarded:

Investigators: Fredericks, B. and Wood, D.

Funding: OLT \$320,000.

Project: *Addressing the gap between policy and implementation: Strategies for improving educational outcomes of Indigenous students.*

Investigators: Shay, M., Duthie, D., Bond, C.,

Drummond, A., Sarra, G. & Woods, A.

Funding: The Lowitja Institute. \$ 467,719.

Project: *Our stories, our way: Cultural identities and well-being of Indigenous young people in diverse school settings.*

Investigators: Shay, M., Duthie, D., Bond, C.,

Drummond, A., Sarra, G. & Woods, A.

Funding: Faculty of Education, QUT. \$60,000 for PhD Scholarship.

(Linked to Grant from The Lowitja Institute)

Project: *Our stories, our way: Cultural identities and well-being of Indigenous young people in diverse school settings.*

Investigators: Wood, D., Fredericks, B., Huntly, H., Pace, S., Picton, J., Connell, P., Gray, C., Raghavendra, P., Tedmanson, D., Lindsay, N. and Schutt, S.

Funding: The National Research and Data Working Group through a National Disability Research and Development Grant. \$860,000.

Project: *Digital Arts Project in South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory.*

Investigator: Dr Roxanne Bainbridge

Funding: Career Development Fellowship from the NHMRC. \$419,180

Project: *Indigenous adolescents and their transitions from remote communities to boarding schools. (Refer to section 6: Highlights)*

ARC Discovery Indigenous Grant 2016

Senior Research Fellow at CDU's Northern Institute, Dr Linda Ford, was awarded \$358,313 funding under the Discovery Indigenous scheme (Health Node). (Refer to section 6: Highlights).

International, national, regional links and networks

NAISA

Health Node leader, PVC Bronwyn Fredericks, chaired a panel at NAISA titled *Roles and Responsibilities: Connection of Gender to Health and Wellbeing of Aboriginal Women and Men in Australia*. Dr Mick Adams, Professor Dawn Bessarab and Ms Marlene Thompson were panel members.



Dr Mick Adams, ECU, Ms Marlene Longbottom, PhD candidate, UoN and Professor Dawn Bessarab, UWA), at NAISA 2016.

5.4 Yuraki - History, Politics and Culture Node

Yuraki is a traditional AWABAKAL word meaning long ago, past, history. Yuraki grounds the Indigenous history, politics and culture node within an Indigenous practice framework. Yuraki initial research project was trans-national Indigenous constitutional reform in Australia and USA.

Node Leaders: Professor John Maynard, Associate Professor Kathleen Butler.



Professor John Maynard, Indigenous History, Indigenous Education and Research, UoN



Assoc. Professor Kathleen Butler, UoN Indigenous Education and Research (Sociology and Anthropology), UoN

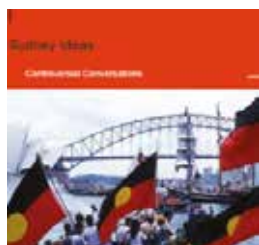
CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

A number of Level C activities were undertaken by Yuraki Node members including two national events, one international event and one local workshop.

NIRAKN Mid-Year program

Professor John Maynard facilitated a session at the Mid-Year capacity building program for Level B and C researchers. This session focused on Developing ARC grant applications. Associate Professor Simone Ulalka Tur, Natalie Harkin, Faye Blanche and Ali Baker also gave a session focusing on Project Methodology drawing on their *Bound and Unbound Sovereign Acts* Project. Associate Professor Kathleen Butler co-facilitated a session with Law Node Leader Associate Professor Mark McMillan. The session focused on Indigenous Academic Indicators.

Seminar: “Reclaiming, Resilience and Decolonizing”



Yuraki seminar flyer:
Reclaiming, Resilience and
Decolonizing seminar

The *Reclaiming, Resilience and Decolonizing* seminar held in June explored the different truths around colonization. Special guests from Indigenous Governance at the University of Victoria, Canada included Professor Jeff Corntassel and Professor Taiaiake Alfred. Professors Corntassel and Alfred provided an Indigenous Canadian perspective of colonisation

which in many aspects mirrors the Australian Indigenous experience. Leading Māori scholar Professor Linda Tuhwai-Smith was also a key note speaker which builds on the relationship NIRAKN has with the University of Waikato in Hamilton, New Zealand.

A panel of local Indigenous researchers also presented including NIRAKN member Professor Jakelin Troy, Director of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, the University of Sydney; Professor Shane

Houston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy and Services), the University of Sydney; Associate Professor Thalia Anthony, Faculty of Law, UTS, an expert in Indigenous law; Paddy Gibson, Senior Researcher, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS, researcher focusing on the Northern Territory Intervention and Dr Lisa Streleyn, Director of Research at Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) who previously has worked in Native Title law. The sessions provided a critical capacity building opportunity of engagement for postgraduate students and early career researchers. Yuraki Node participants were also involved in developing an Aboriginal History Network to create a pathway model for history HDR students.

Gary Foley workshop

On the 6th July 2016, the Wollotuka Institute hosted a workshop facilitated by Gary Foley. The History Politics Workshop was held on the 6th July 2016 at Wollotuka with an audience of approximately 80 people.

NIRAKN Research Grants

A total of six projects were successfully funded by the NIRAKN internal Research scheme.

Table 10: NIRAKN Internal Grant awarded to the Yuraki Node 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Leonard Collard	UWA	Nyungar Placenames Project in Southwest of WA.	\$10,000
		Where to from here? The aftermath of the 1967 Referendum	\$10,000
Linda Ford	CDU	Building a phrase book app + database for endangered Daly-Wagait Languages	\$10,000
Simone Ulalka Tur Natalie Harkin	Flinders University	Bound and Unbound: Sovereign Acts – decolonising methodologies of the lived and spoken (Stages 1 and 2)	\$10,000
		Bound and Unbound: Sovereign Acts – decolonising methodologies of the lived and spoken (Stages 3 and 4 of a two art NIRAKN internal grant application)	\$10,000
Rowena Ball	ANU	Dating event in Indigenous history using methods from bioinformatics and molecular evolutions - a pilot study	\$5,000
Total			\$55,000

NIRAKN Travel bursary

Professor Maynard was awarded an NIRAKN International Travel Bursary (\$2,450) to present as part of the ARC Serving Our Country Research project to attend the NAISA Conference in Hawaii. Outcomes after NAISA and as a direct result of this funding include PhD student Marlene Thompson

being invited back to Hawaii and the United States for networking/collaboration. Professor Maynard has several publications *in press* connected to his paper presentation including publications in Canada, France and the United States.

National Competitive Grants awarded

Investigator: Professor Len Collard (School of Indigenous Studies, UWA)

Funding: Yumalundi NIRAKN Fellowship Recipients

Project: *Nyungar Placenames in Southwestern Australia*. (Refer to section 6: Highlights)

Investigator: Mr Stephen Kinnane, Adjunct Research Fellow, Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame.

Funding: Yalamundi fellowship.

Project: *Indigenous Biography* (Refer to section 6: Highlights).

International, national, regional links and networks

NAISA conference

Yuraki Node Leader, Professor Maynard presented a paper as part of the ARC Serving Our Country Research project. NAISA paper presented: *Oral and Community History*.

5.5 Indigenous Sociology, Knowledges and Information Technology Node

Building empirical knowledges around key social phenomena including education, labour market, socio-economic and demographic position, social policy and family are the foci of this Node's research activities. The

Indigenous Sociology node's initial research program is a set of three pilot projects. These are: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) usage, official Indigenous issue enquiries 1983-2013, and education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Node leaders are Pro Vice Chancellor Steve Larkin, Professor Peter Radoll and Pro Vice Chancellor Maggie Walter.



PVC
Steve Larkin
CDU/UoN



Professor
Peter Radoll
ANU



Professor
Maggie Walter
UTAS

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

NIRAKN Mid-Year program

Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews facilitated a session at the Mid-Year capacity building program for Level B and C researchers. This session focused on Quantitative Research and understanding the limitations and bias implicit in this approach.

NIRAKN Research Grants

The ISK & ST was awarded five internal grants outlined below.

Table 11: NIRAKN Internal Research Grants awarded to ISK&ST Node 2016

Recipient(s)	Institution	Description	Amount
Steve Larkin	CDU	Effects of Incarceration of Indigenous Men and Women on Indigenous Family Structure	\$10,000
		Analysis of the Forrest Review: Creating Parity	\$10,000
		Creating Parity	\$10,000
		Statistical analysis of Aboriginal land Torres Strait Islander women's educational and employment status	\$10,000
		Aboriginal women in enterprise	\$10,000
		Total	\$50,000

National Competitive Grants awarded

Two ISK&ST node members were successful in two external competitive grant schemes:

Investigators: Hewitt B and Walter MM

Funding: ARC Grant-Linkage Projects Round 1. \$200,000

Project: *Projects Improving Indigenous health and wellbeing over the family life course (2016 – 2020).*

Indigenous health inequality is a major social and economic problem in Australia. This project compares the impact of the family life course on the health and wellbeing of Indigenous and non-Indigenous mothers and children. It uses survey data that follows them over time to: 1) identify family structures that enhance or harm health and wellbeing, and; 2) track changes in health and wellbeing before, during and after family transitions (i.e. births, relationship changes). In collaboration with the Department of Social Services the project aims to improve the policy relevant evidence base on the determinants of Indigenous health and wellbeing to enable the development of effective policy to reduce Indigenous health inequalities.

Investigators: Walter MM; Andersen C and Aitken WA

Funding: ARC Discovery Indigenous. \$310,000

Project: *How do Indigenous Children grow up strong in education? (2016 - 2018).*

This project will investigate how Indigenous children grow up strong in education. The project will develop a statistically robust picture of how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children attain education achievement despite adverse life circumstances using data from the Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children. The project uses an Indigenous research methodology to frame its mapping of the critical intersections of the resilience, life events, social variables and protective factors arising for children and their families in different locations and socio-economic circumstances that support the growing up of children strong in education. The project also supports Indigenous quantitative analysis capacity building.

Other grants awarded

Investigators: PVC Maggie Walter

Funding: University of Tasmania (\$7,000) Grant-Cross-Disciplinary Incentive.

Project: *How country shapes its people*

Investigator: PVC Steve Larkin (Lead)

Funding: NT Department of Local Government and Community ServiNode leader PVC Steve Larkin, has worked to ensure that CDU has been implementing a Whole of Community Engagement (WCE) initiative over the past two years. This has been a partnership

with Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance and the NT Department of Education. This is a large scale multi-site participatory action research project which involves working with six remote Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory to build a deeper understanding of the aspirations for, and opportunities to support, Indigenous participation and achievement in higher education. The communities include Yirrkala, Galiwin'ku, Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Tennant Creek and Yuendumu. This initiative is funded by the Australian Government through the Higher Education Participation and Partnership Programme (HEPPP).

A team of researchers, including PVC Steven Larkin, and the male members of the Indigenous Leadership Research and Evaluation Network at CDU, have recently been awarded two small grants in the area of Indigenous Male Health. The first relates to remote Indigenous Male Health and Northern Territory Primary Health Network (NT PHN). The second relates to the planning and delivery of an invitation only NT Indigenous Male Research Strategy Think Tank. This has been funded by the NT Department of Local Government and Community Services and took place on Friday 17th June to coincide with International Men's Health Week.



The Whole of Community Engagement (WCE) initiative involves working with six remote indigenous communities across the NT.

External Grants submitted

Investigator: Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews

Project: *Gumada Banguwara 'Ba'Nya (Strengthening Our Future Spirits): The meeting of Western, Eastern, and Aboriginal Knowledges through storytelling and non-combative martial arts training*

Funding: NSW Community Safety Fund 2015/16

This grant was in partnership with Banyadjaminga Swaag Inc and Pak Hok Pai Australia Incorporated with NIRAKN listed in the application.

International, national, regional links and networks

With a small grant from NIRAKN, the CDU Indigenous Leadership research team were able to complete a number of case studies of Aboriginal women who have established successful businesses in the Northern Territory. One of the case studies was of Zoe Patullo who established men's and women's clothing boutiques on Groote Eylandt. Other successful women-run businesses included: Banubanu, an eco-tourism retreat on Bremer Island; Kungkas Can Cook, a catering business based in Alice Springs and Capital Security based in Darwin. Although the businesses are very different from each other, they are all based

on Aboriginal values. Pro Vice Chancellor Steven Larkin presented a paper on the project at the NAISA conference in Hawaii.

International presentations

The following paper was given at the NAISA by NIRAKN ISK&IT participants:

Title: *Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities in Australian Indigenous Women's Economic Participation*

Presenters: PVC Steve Larkin (Charles Darwin University); Associate Professor Kathleen Julie Butler (Bundjalung & Worimi); and Dr Lesley MacGibbon, (Charles Darwin University).

6. Highlights 2016

6.1 Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Conference, Hawaii



2016 NAISA, Cohosted by University of Hawaii, NIRAKN and RMIT University

The First Nation people of Mānoa welcomed participants to the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) 2016 annual conference. The meeting took place May 18-21, 2016 at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu. The conference was co-hosted by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, NIRAKN, QUT, and the RMIT University. This partnership re-affirmed old and new Oceanic connections and currents. The flows of the sea and the travel patterns of its many creatures, represented in the logo above, are powerful metaphors for the scholarly conversations that emerged at the 2016 meeting. New and deepened existing Indigenous specific partnerships/relationships with NIRAKN and the University of Hawaii were consolidated. This international conference facilitated many pre-and post-conference meetings resulting in the development of pipelines of collaboration and networks.



Dr Hokolani Aikau acknowledging guests and presenting the opening address at the 2016 NAISA Conference.

Cultural Protocols



Dr. Hokulani K. Aikau and delegates welcoming NIAISA participants to the conference. PVC Steve Larkin, Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson, Professor Barry Judd

The opening ceremony was marked by the offering of a lei to guests and dignitaries. NIRAKN members PVC Steve Larkin, PVC Bronwyn Fredericks, Professor Barry Judd and Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson formed the ceremony's Australian cultural delegation and received their lei from the University of Hawaii's Dr. Hokulani K. Aikau, Chair of the Local Host Committee. The NIRAKN delegation acknowledged the gifts and reciprocated the cultural protocol by traditional welcome song, dance and gifts from various Aboriginal nations in Australia. NIRAKN members participated by presenting papers, participating in panels and giving service with engaged audiences throughout.

The NAISA event allowed the following opportunities:

- Market space to sell pathways to enrolment in priority areas including Pacific Climate
- Change, STEM and Health Sciences
- QUT's partnership with NIRAKN deepened domestic and international influence within the global Indigenous higher education sector
- Relationships with local South East Queensland Indigenous communities, artists and inbound students were strengthened
- Artist delegation partnered with economic, export and cross cultural development opportunities that may not otherwise have been identified or pursued

A full list of conference presentations is included in Node reports.



Michael Baker and Feleti Leone preparing for the 2016 NAISA Conference cultural exchange.



RMIT/NIRAKN delegates presenting at the 2016 NAISA Conference, Hawaii.

At the Opening address, Hokulani K. Aikui, Chair, the Local Host Committee, University of Hawaii at Manoa acknowledged the hard work and the importance of partnerships and planning that had been undertaken to organise the NAISA event.

'The meeting this year is possible through a partnership with Dr Aileen Moreton-Robinson at the National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network, Division of Research and Commercialisation, at Queensland University of Technology; Dr Barry Judd at the Global Indigeneity and Reconciliation Program at RMIT, Melbourne Australia; and the University of Hawaii. This transatlantic partnership signals the value NAISA places on a global approach to Indigenous studies This partnership is an opportunity to create new narratives and redefine the boundaries of our sea of islands and continents based on Indigenous histories, ontologies, migrations, and practices of hospitality.'
(Hokulani K. Aikui, Chair, The Local Host Committee, University of Hawaii at Manoa)



From left to right: Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson (QUT), Professor George Lipsitz (University of California Santa Barbara), Associate Professor Audra Simpson (University of Columbia), Professor David Roediger (University of Kansas) and Professor Cheryl Harris (UCLA)

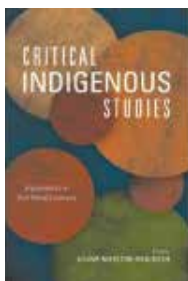
6.2 Leading Indigenous Scholars Panel, Colorado

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson attended the American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado, for a plenary panel discussion focused on the significance of her book, *The White Possessive: Property, Power and Indigenous Sovereignty* (UP Minnesota).

This engagement demonstrates NIRAKN's impact and capacity to engage emerging, early career, and established academics as well as community agencies and government stakeholders. The large volume of Indigenous researchers allowed for three concurrent streams (apart from plenaries and keynotes) over the two days. Key note presentations were delivered by leading international Indigenous researchers.

6.3 Indigenous Texts

The research efforts of NIRAKN's four research Nodes and the Network Hub are geared towards producing measurable high quality research. A full list of publications is available at Appendix 4, and includes over 150 publications: books, journal articles, book chapters, reports and conference papers. Noted here are just some of the highlights of NIRAKN Member publications.



Notable publications include Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson's edited book, *Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations*, published by University of Arizona Press (2016).

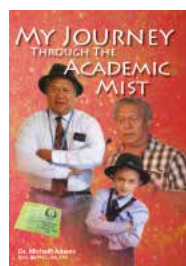
With increasing speed, the emerging discipline of critical Indigenous studies is expanding and demarcating its territory from Indigenous studies through the work of a new generation of Indigenous scholars. *Critical Indigenous Studies* makes an important contribution to this expansion, disrupting the certainty of disciplinary knowledge produced

in the twentieth century, when studying Indigenous peoples was primarily the domain of non-Indigenous scholars. This introductory essay provides a context for the emerging discipline. The volume is organised into three sections: the first includes essays that interrogate the embedded nature of Indigenous studies within academic institutions; the second explores the epistemology of the discipline; and the third is devoted to understanding the locales of critical inquiry and practice.

Each essay places and contemplates critical Indigenous studies within the context of First World nations, which continue to occupy Indigenous lands in the twenty-first century. The contributors include Aboriginal, Metis, Maori, Kanaka Maoli, Filipino-Pohnpeian, and Native American scholars working and writing through a shared legacy born of British and later U.S. imperialism. In these countries, critical Indigenous studies is flourishing and transitioning into a discipline, a knowledge/power domain where distinct work is produced, taught, researched, and disseminated by Indigenous scholars.

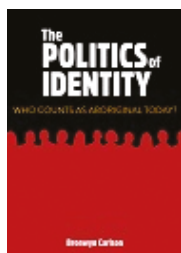


Another notable publication is Professor Larissa Behrendt's *Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling*, released in February 2016 (University of Queensland Press). Professor Behrendt focuses on power and colonial storytelling, interrogating how Indigenous peoples have been portrayed in colonial narratives.



My Journey through the Academic Mist (2016) reveals the challenges, frustrations and road blocks Dr Mick Adams faced as he negotiated academia. At the end of his journey he has amassed an associate diploma, two bachelor degrees, a masters' degree and a PhD. Dr Adams is a Senior Research Fellow with Australian

Indigenous HealthInfoNet at Edith Cowan University. The book is published by Magpie Goose Publishing.



Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson, UoW, (NIRAKN Affiliate) explores the complexities surrounding Aboriginal identity today. Drawing on a range of historical and research literature, interviews and surveys, *The Politics of identity* explores Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal understandings of Aboriginality and the way these are

produced and reproduced across a range of sites and contexts. Emphasising Indigenous debates and claims about Aboriginality, the politics of identity explores both the community and external tensions around appropriate measures of identity and the pressures and effects of identification. An analysis of online Indigenous communities on social media that have emerged as sites of contestation adds to the growing knowledge in this area, both nationally and globally.

6.4 Competitive Grants

The research efforts of NIRAKN's four research Nodes and the Network Hub are geared towards producing measurable high quality research. NIRAKN Members continue to develop important collaborative research projects and demonstrating success with several nationally competitive research grants through the Australian Research Council, the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Office of Learning and Teaching and the Lowitja Institute.

2016 Yumalundi Fellowship Recipients

The Yumalundi Fellowship Program was launched at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in 2016. The first applications round was open to NIRAKN members and students. The Fellowships support researchers to visit AIATSIS to conduct projects that build knowledge and understanding of the Institute's collection. Three successful NIRAKN recipients received fellowships in 2016-7.



Professor
Len Collard, UWA

Professor Len Collard (School of Indigenous Studies, UWA), for his research Project: *Nyungar Placenames in Southwestern Australia*. The focus is on European cartographic conventions and systems of boundary making are not directly or easily transferable into Nyungar systems of naming and land use. This study of Nyungar place names, language and culture and its associated data will bring to light information on boodjar (country), moort (kinship) and katitjin (knowledge) in an accessible format.



Mr Stephen
Kinnane, University
of Notre Dame

A second fellowship was awarded to Mr Stephen Kinnane, Adjunct Research Fellow, Nulungu Research Institute, University of Notre Dame. His research Project: *Indigenous Biography* will examine the disjuncture between the rise of Indigenous biography nationally and internationally, the lack of institutional engagement by national biographical projects, and evaluate relatively recent attempts to change this situation. It will also include papers on the value of the AIATSIS collection to Indigenous biography.



Dr Ashlen
Francisco, UoN

Dr Ashlen Francisco, Research Affiliate, Purai - Global Indigenous and Diaspora Research Wollatuka Institute, UoN. The focus of Ashlen's research is the social history of the Aboriginal experience of the NSW Aborigines Protection/Welfare Board. This research analyses AIATSIS rare collections and manuscripts like Dawn, Identity and Aborigines Protector Magazine to uncover new information about the Protection Board in New South Wales and its transition to the Welfare Board in 1940.

NHMRC grant and OLT success 2016



Professor Roxanne
Bainbridge,
Indigenous
Research, CQU
was successful
in receiving an
NHMRC Early
Career Fellowship.

NIRAKN Chief Investigator, Dr Roxanne Bainbridge, was successful in gaining a prestigious Career Development Fellowship from the NHMRC to the value of \$419,180 which focuses on Indigenous adolescents and their transitions from remote communities to boarding schools. At present three NIRAKN members (including one affiliate) are holders of OLT National Teaching Fellowships demonstrating NIRAKN's leadership in teaching and learning grants.

ARC Discovery Indigenous and ARC Discovery grant 2016 successes:



Dr Linda Ford, CDU

Of the ten successful 2016 ARC Indigenous Discovery Grants (first round) three were members or affiliate members of NIRAKN which amounted to approximately \$1M in research funding. Dr Linda Ford's Discovery Indigenous Grant aims to examine the nature of Aboriginal or Yolngu cosmology and its meaning for and effect on public policy for

women and gender. The project will identify the Djurrwirr Yalu guiding principles used to enhance the levels of governance and other systems applied to their community, culture, traditional ecological environmental knowledge and skill sets.



Dr Shino Konishi,
UWA

Dr Shino Konishi will research Indigenous biography through collaboration between Indigenous researchers and the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). This project draws upon the issue of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being significantly underrepresented in the ADB. The project aims to produce the

Indigenous Australian Dictionary of Biography, which will act as a supplementary volume of the ABD on 190 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney,
UniSA

Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney
Professor Rigney's project will examine how teachers in mainstream middle classrooms can teach young Australians in a culturally sensitive way. The project aims to develop an Australian theory for culturally responsive pedagogy that draws on International and Australian

Indigenous Studies, pedagogy studies, and empirical work in schools.

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Associate Professor Maryrose Casey

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and Associate Professor Maryrose Casey's ARC Discovery Project: *Quandamooka Aboriginal Women on the Colonial Frontier in the 19th Century* seeks to produce new insights about gender and race on the colonial frontier in Australia through revealing Aboriginal women's agency beyond the usual themes of labour and sexual exploitation. The goal of the project is to provide new knowledge about Aboriginal women's active resistance to and negotiate with colonisation by examining the everyday and public performances of Quandamooka women on their own lands, Moreton Bay, Queensland in the nineteenth century.



Associate Professor Bronwyn Carlson,
UoW

Associate Professor Carlso (NIRAKN Affiliate) was awarded an Indigenous Discovery Grant for her Project: *An Examination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Help-Seeking Behaviours on Social Media*

This research aims to contribute to knowledge of formal and informal help-seeking behaviours amongst Indigenous Australians. Given the rapid uptake of social media by Indigenous Australians, this project specifically aims to investigate help-seeking behaviours online on social media. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this research may directly influence formal help sources in the development of services and programs specifically relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including health (e.g. suicide prevention), employment, housing, economic opportunities, and legal services.

6.5 Awards and Recognition

Title of Distinguished Professor



Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson,
QUT

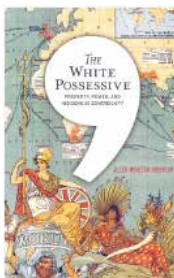
In June 2016 QUT awarded the title of Distinguished Professor to Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson - the first to be made in respect of an Indigenous academic in Australia - in recognition of her outstanding international achievements in Indigenous Studies, research and for advancing opportunities for Indigenous students to undertake postgraduate studies. The

recommendation of the title was made by an Assessment Committee, which drew advice from a range of external referees of international standing. This is only the fifth QUT award of Distinguished Professor.

A Goenpul woman from Minjerribah (Stradbroke Island), Quandamooka First Nation (Moreton Bay), Professor Moreton-Robinson is widely published on the subjects of law and sovereignty, whiteness, race, feminism, native title law and Aboriginal land rights. Professor Moreton-Robinson is a former council member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. She is an executive member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium, president of the Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association, and a member of Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson is the first Indigenous Australian to be appointed as a member of the managing editorial board of *American Quarterly*, the flagship journal of the American Studies Association.

NAISA Best Subsequent Book in Native American and Indigenous Studies Prize



At the 2016 International NAISA conference, Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton Robinson was awarded the prestigious *NAISA Best Subsequent Book in Native American and Indigenous Studies Prize* for her publication *The White Possessive: Property, Power and Indigenous Sovereignty* book published in 2015.

QUT Vice Chancellor's Awards 2016



Dr Debbie Duthie,
Senior Lecturer
Oodgeroo Unit,
QUT

The Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence aim to recognise exceptional performance of staff, adjunct professors, visiting fellows, associates of QUT and QUT community partners who demonstrate sustained and outstanding achievement in activities that are aligned to the University's vision and strategic goals.

The QUT Vice Chancellor's Award was awarded to the NIRAKN team in acknowledgement of outstanding achievement of academic and professional staff and superior contributions.

The Cherbourg-QUT project team was also awarded the QUT Vice Chancellor's Award. The team included members from the Faculty of Health, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Chancellery: Dr Debbie Duthie, Senior Lecturer Oodgeroo Unit, QUT, Dr Philip Crane, Catherine Campbell, Anne Spencer, Dr Paul Donehue and Dr Jodi Death.

2016 HERDSA Award for the Best Scholarly Paper



NIRAKN members: Professor Michelle Trudgett, Associate Professor Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews and Professor Susan Page won the 2016 Best Scholarly Paper category for their paper, *Exploring an Indigenous graduate attribute project through a critical race theory lens*.

6.6 Pipeline of Researchers

NIRAKN is committed to building a sustainable pipeline of researchers and ensuring Indigenous postgraduates are supported and included in network research and capacity building. Once enrolled in a Research Higher Degree program, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are eligible to join the NIRAKN Postgraduate Network.

Supporting and encouraging the pipeline is part of the everyday work of NIRAKN members through lectures, student support, informal mentoring, role modelling and supervision of postgraduate students. However, there were specific activities undertaken by NIRAKN to build the HDR pipeline in 2016 including presentations to potential Indigenous university students, NIRAKN undergraduate essay prizes, research placement and the promotion of NIRAKN research heroes.

Recruitment

While supporting students from undergraduate to postgraduate completions is a critical part of the Indigenous research pipeline, the Hub sought to strengthen pipeline from early career to emerging and established Indigenous scholarship. In 2016, the Director, Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson and PVC Steve Larkin continued their involvement with the Indigenous research leadership group where they mentor and support in developing the Indigenous research metrics for the ARC's consideration and contribute to the development of new research codes with Māori scholars for 2017 Australian Research Council and New Zealand Research Council's review of research codes.

NIRAKN undergraduate essay prizes



Associate Professor Mark McMillan (UoM) and PVC Bronwyn Fredericks (CQU) at the NIRAKN Mid-Year Workshops with the 2016 NIRAKN Undergraduate Essay Prize winners: Ms Davina Lucas (QUT) and Mr Alexander Garay (UoM).

NIRAKN encourages talented Indigenous undergraduates to consider research through the promotion of our undergraduate essay competition

and other research related activities. In 2016, NIRAKN awarded two undergraduate essay prizes for the best undergraduate essays. The recipients are selected on merit by a NIRAKN judging panel. To be eligible applicants must be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and enrolled in an undergraduate degree at an Australian university in the year of application. Award winners attended the NIRAKN Members meeting and Capacity Building Workshop, Gold Coast, October 2016. The 2016 winners were: Alexander Garay (University of Melbourne) for his essay *We are all just humans, we are all just equals* and Davina Lucas (QUT), for her *JSB 371 – Indigenous Justice* essay.

2016 NIRAKN Indigenous Research Heroes

NIRAKN promotes local research heroes through its website and a biannual newsletter which is distributed widely in June and December. The “heroes” outline their research journeys and provide advice to those commencing in the research area.

The Research Heroes for 2016 were:

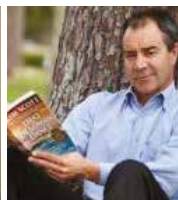
Dr. Asmi Wood, Senior Lecturer of Law, Australian National University;
Dr. Shino Konishi, Senior Lecturer of History, University of Western Australia; and
Professor Kim Scott, Professor of Writing, Curtin University.



Associate Professor
Asmi Wood, ANU



Dr Shino Konishi,
UWA



Professor Kim
Scott, Curtin
University

Research Heroes stories can be accessed through the newsletters at <http://www.nirakn.edu.au>

Community Engagement and Outreach

In 2016, NIRAKN members have made significant efforts to increase international relationships and collaboration whilst maintaining a role in disseminating national research and engaging with national tertiary issues. NIRAKN node leaders and members continue to foster national, regional and community relationships to in order to extend NIRAKNs influence and the benefits of the research to the wider Indigenous community, and while NIRAKN's partners provide a conduit to the Indigenous community, NIRAKN members continue to connect directly with their local Indigenous communities.

Current AIATSIS research advisory committee members include: Professor Len Collard (Health and Wellbeing); Professor Peter Radoll (Education and Socio Economic Institutions); Associate Professor Maryrose Casey (Arts and Creative Expression) and Professor Larissa Behrendt (Governance, Law and Justice). Many network participants continue to be AIATSIS members.

NIRAKN members have also participated in leadership roles in the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Partner Organisation) with Associate Professor Mark McMillan (Law). Yuraki node members Steve Kinnane and Shino Konishi currently serve on the Board of the Australian Dictionary of Biography (ADB). Yuraki are now in the prime position to develop a large Linkage ARC grant with the ADB and NIRAKN members are working toward the development of an Indigenous specific volume. At the 2016 Yuraki meeting in Broome, a Working Party was established to assist with Indigenous content.

7. Account of Performance against Performance Targets

Governance

Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Frequency and effectiveness of Management Committee	2	3
Frequency and effectiveness of NIRAKN Advisory Board	1	1

Capacity building

Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Establish Research Capacity Building Program based upon a Pathway Model from undergraduate to HDR to all levels of researcher career.	Number of 'A' 'B' and 'C' Level workshops	A workshops: opportunities (1 x A level workshop run by the Hub) aimed at commencing HDR students offered at QUT for participating Universities around the country. B & C workshops: 20 opportunities (15 B/C level workshops and 8 other B level activities) aimed at more advanced HDR students, early- career and mid-career researchers run nationally and intensively in Melbourne in July.
Build a Graduate to HDR Pipeline	Number of 2 week research placements for undergraduates with Network Participants; number of local research heroes virtually marketed on NIRAKN website & via the network; and the award of four NIRAKN prizes for best undergraduate essays.	3 local research heroes virtually marketed via network in newsletter and via NIRAKN website; 2 NIRAKN undergraduate essay prizes awarded for best undergraduate essays. Award winners attended the Mid-Year Conference program coordinated by NIRAKN in July 2016.

Research Training and professional development

Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Conduct Capacity Building Workshops	10	23 workshops (A, B & C) hosted by Hub and law nodes
Total Number of attendees at Capacity building workshops (best working enrolment number)	12-15 participants per workshop	Workshop attendance ranged 9-80 participants. Larger attendances at the National Capacity Building workshop (B&C) program in July extend the upper range.
Conduct of Indigenous Research Methodologies Masterclass	2	1 Indigenous Research Methodologies Masterclass program conducted at QUT in October, 2016; 1 Masterclass program in New Zealand.
Total number of attendees at the Research Methodologies workshops	12-15 participants per workshop	16 postgraduate students attended the workshop in April and 10 attended the workshop in November, 2016.
Conduct Indigenous postgraduate recruitment and promotional activities	2	2 x further activities are conducted on an ongoing basis but not specifically through events. The website, social media and NIRAKN weekly newsletter provide a conduit for promoting Indigenous activities and recruitment opportunities

Research findings


Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Quality and quantity of publications including: number of peer reviewed journal articles; books (single authored and edited research collections); book chapters; conferences, symposia and seminars; and may include reports commissioned by State or Federal Government	5	84 scholarly publications (including reports commissioned by Government or other bodies) by network participants and 8 Affiliate member scholarly publications, 2 National NIRAKN conferences hosted; 1 NAISA conference cohosted; and 5 seminars.
Invitations to attend and participate in major conferences	10	10+ National conferences 13+ International conferences
Publish two editions of the International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies	2	1 x May 2016 publication – special edition

International, national and regional links and networks

Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Conduct International visits	6	20
Number of International Visitors	10	9
Number of international Indigenous research relationships established	2	20+
Participation in international Indigenous research activities		As detailed in report
Number of Network Participants (as defined by the scheme's Funding rules)	34	(49 including Director and Node leaders)
Number of collaborating and partner organisations (as defined by the scheme's Funding rules) participating in the network	27	32
Participation on national and international bodies for Government and Community groups as relevant		As detailed in report

Community Engagement and Outreach

Performance Measure	Target for 2016	2016 Achievement
Establish NIRAKN's virtual presence via interactive website and harness social media (eg, Facebook, twitter and YouTube.	Increased website traffic (1000 hits per month)	Annual website traffic of Facebook views (55,000 visits). Twitter just under 49,000
Establish channels of communication of NIRAKN activities and outcomes to our communities	Newsletter twice yearly and annual report	Comprehensive newsletters published in June and December 2016; 2015 Annual Report awaiting ARC release.
Encourage scholars and others with an interest in Indigenous Research to become affiliate members of the network	Increase in affiliate member applications	Six new Indigenous Researcher Affiliate members admitted to the Network.



Establish strategic partnerships with community, national and international organisations with a view to providing access to NIRAKN's research program	A number of network member research residencies; number of professional workshops for community researchers and PHD students; a number of visiting fellow exchange programs; a number of critical reading groups,	Community researchers linked to partner organisations and all Indigenous research postgraduate students were provided with access to NIRAKN's extensive Capacity Building workshops program; in addition, a specific week long residential symposium was held for rural and remote community researchers; 1x National Critical Reading group held in Brisbane in October.
Positive media articles generated by the network		Detailed in report
Public talks by network staff		Extensive - detailed in report

8. Activities and Strategic Plans for 2017

Major NIRAKN Activities planned for 2017			
Month	Activity	Result Area	Led by
January	Promotion of NIRAKN Capacity Building Program	Capacity Building	Hub
	Node Annual Reports due	Governance	All (Hub)
	2013-2015 Internal Grant Final Report & Financial Acquittals	Governance	
February	Management Committee meeting	Governance	Hub
	Advisory Committee meeting	Governance	Hub
	NIRAKN Leadership meeting	Capacity Building	Hub
March	NIRAKN Essay Prize Promotion	Capacity Building	Hub
	NIRAKN Annual Report due	Governance	Hub
April	Level A Workshop	Capacity Building	HUB
May	Publication of Journal (JCIS) Issue	Research	Hub
June	Critical Race and Indigeneity conference	Research	Hub and Law
	Members and Node Face to Face Meetings & Workshops	Capacity building	Hub and Nodes
	NIRAKN Newsletter 2016 published	Engagement	Hub
July	Management Committee meeting	Governance	Hub
	Advisory Committee meeting	Governance	Hub
	Mid-year Capacity Building Program & Critical Reading Group	Capacity Building & Research	Hub
	Network Members Meeting and Face to Face Meeting of all Nodes	Governance	Hub and All Nodes
September	Research Methodologies Workshop NIRAKN Seminar Series	Research	Law Node
	Research retreat including new and continuing Indigenous HDRs.	Research	Law Node
October	ANU Retreat for Indigenous HDRs and Potential HDRs.	Capacity building	Law Node
November	Grant writing for January – March Rounds	Research	Heath Node
	ACRAWA Conference	Research	Hub
December	Publication of Journal (JCIS) Issue	Research	Hub
	NIRAKN Newsletter 2017 published	Engagement	Hub
	Final NIRAKN Report due	Governance	Hub

9. Financial Statement

2016 INCOME		
ARC 2016 funding distributed as follows:		443,013
Queensland University of Technology	145,513	
Australian Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies	20,000	
Australian National University	22,500	
University of Technology Sydney	12,500	
University of Melbourne	22,500	
Central Queensland University	53,750	
University of Wollongong	3,750	
University of Newcastle	47,500	
Charles Darwin University	115,000	
Queensland University of Technology		84,383
Australian National University		10,000
Central Queensland University		10,000
Charles Darwin University		130,000
Healing Foundation		25,000
University of Melbourne		25,000
University of Newcastle		27,500
University of Tasmania		30,000
University of Technology Sydney		25,000
University of Western Australia		15,000
University of Wollongong		14,820
Total Income Received		839,716
2016 EXPENDITURE		
Advisory Committee		7,812
Director Travel		40,183
Internal Grants		35,360
International Bursaries		40,026
Level A, B & C Workshops		174,367
Management Committee		27,868
Marketing & Promotions		34,449
Other		62,244
Personnel		684,528
Scholarships		69,964
Symposiums/Seminars		46,400
Travel		131,429
Under Graduate Essay Prizes		1,000
Website		1,039
Workshops		3,750
Total Expenditure		1,360,419
Surplus (Deficit)		-520,703
Balance bought forward from 2015		1,490,265
TOTAL CARRY FORWARD		969,562

2016 IN-KIND SUPPORT	
Queensland University of Technology	341,610
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies	37,000
Australian National University	48,588
Central Queensland University	57,446
Healing Foundation	25,699
National Congress of Australia's First Peoples	35,699
Ninti One	35,699
South Coast Women's Health & Welfare Aboriginal Corporation	35,699
University of Technology Sydney	59,796
University of Western Australia	31,228
University of Wollongong	22,413
Charles Darwin University	96,536
Total In-Kind Support	827,413

10. Appendices

Appendix 1: NIRAKN Management and Advisory committees

Management Committee

The Management Committee is chaired by Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson and is comprised of the NIRAKN Director, Node Leaders, and a representative from each of NIRAKN's Partner Organisations (see below). In 2016, the Management Committee met regularly to ensure the continued implementation of the NIRAKN vision and aims. The Management Committee met twice in 2016, making key decisions such as the approval of affiliate members, research grants, capacity building workshops and seminars, international travel, and funding distribution.

Members were involved in developing information for the ARC expert review panel and a representation of the Management committee met face to face with the panel to discuss NIRAKN's capacity building program, governance and research program. There were several changes to the Management Committee during 2016 with Associate Professor Mark McMillan acting Director for one month while Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson undertook leave. The continued dedication of the Management Committee and the NIRAKN Director has ensured that NIRAKN is meeting all of its key performance indicators and continuing to build a critical mass of Indigenous researchers.

NAME	POSTION
Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson	NIRAKN Director, Director Indigenous Studies Research Network Queensland University of Technology
Dr Asmi Wood	Senior Lecturer, ANU College of Law, Australian National University
Professor Bronwyn Fredericks	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and BMA Chair in Indigenous Engagement, Central Queensland University
Professor John Maynard	Professor, The Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle
Assoc. Professor Kathleen Butler	Associate Professor, The Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle
Professor Kathleen Clapham	Professor (Indigenous Health), Australian Health Services Research Institute (AHSRI), University of Wollongong
Assoc. Professor Kevin Williams	General Manager Research, Evaluation and Impact, Ninti-One
Professor Leonard Collard	Professor School of Indigenous Studies, The University of Western Australia
Professor Larissa Behrendt	Professor of Law and Director of Research, Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney
Assoc. Professor Mark McMillan	Associate Professor, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne
Professor Maggie Walter	Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal Research and Leadership [part-time], University of Tasmania
Professor Peter Radoll	Dean, The Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle
Dr Sam Johnston	Senior Research Fellow, United Nations University
Ms Stephanie Harvey	Director, Healing Foundation
PVC Steve Larkin	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership), Charles Darwin University
TBC	National Congress of Australia's First Peoples
Ms Marlene Thompson	Indigenous New Career Academic, University of Newcastle (representing Waminda, South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation)
Dr Lawrence Perry	Lecturer, university of Newcastle

Advisory Committee

The NIRAKN's Advisory Committee meets annually and provides strategic advice to the Director and the Management Committee on the operation of the network and priorities for research. The Advisory Committee is chaired by Ms Angela Barney-Leitch. In 2016, the Advisory committee continued to promote NIRAKN with one outcome being NIRAKN having a representative on the NHMRC 2016 Research Translation Faculty Symposium planning committee.

NAME	POSITION
Ms Angela Barney-Leitch	Director, Indigenous Policy, Queensland Department of Education and Training
Aunty Valda Coolwell	Esteemed Community Elder based in Queensland
Aunty Joy Murphy-Wandin	Esteemed Community Elder based in Victoria
Ms Henrietta Fourmile	Associate Professor, Office of Indigenous Engagement, Central Queensland University
Dr Yvette Roe	Postgraduate Student representative, James Cook University
Professor Peter Buckskin	Dean: Indigenous Scholarship, Engagement and Research. University of South Australia
Professor Terry Dunbar	Professor, University of Adelaide
Ms Samantha Faulkner	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisor, National Health and Medical Research Council
Mr Russell Taylor	Chief Executive Officer, Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Currently vacant due to recent National Congress elections	National Congress of Australia's First People.

Partner Organisations

NIRAKN has five partner organisations that are all represented in NIRAKN's governance and research activities. NIRAKN's partners are active members and provide valuable contributions to key decisions as well as promoting NIRAKN's goals and vision. In 2016, partner organisations continued to be involved in Management and Advisory committee meetings. Their staff members accessed a range of NIRAKN's capacity building activities including the mid-year program and the Indigenous Researchers Conference (refer below).

United Nations University	UNU contributes, through research and education, to efforts to resolve pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation	The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on building culturally strong, community led healing solutions. They support organisations around the country to design and deliver healing programs that work for their communities.
National Congress of Australia's First People.	The National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is a national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The Congress is owned and controlled by its membership and is independent of Government.
Ninti One	Ninti One is a national not-for-profit company that builds opportunities for people in remote Australia through research, innovation and community development.
Waminda, South Coast Women's Health and Welfare	South Coast Women's Health and Welfare Aboriginal Corporation is a culturally safe and holistic service, providing women and their Aboriginal families an opportunity to belong and receive quality Health and wellbeing support. Their key focus is on providing tailored strength based care.

Appendix 2: NIRAKN members

Aileen Moreton- Robinson	Queensland University of Technology
Anita Lee Hong	Queensland University of Technology
Asmi Wood	Australian National University
Barry Judd	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Bronwyn Fredericks	Central Queensland University
Chris Wilson	Flinders University
Clair Andersen	University of Tasmania
Dawn Bessarab	University of Western Australia
Debbie Duthie	Queensland University of Technology
Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews	Macquarie University
Greg Blyton	Newcastle University
Ian Anderson	University of Melbourne
Jakelin Troy	University of Sydney
Jeff Hudson	Healing Foundation (Partner Organisation)
Jill Guthrie	Australian National University
John Maynard	University of Newcastle
Juli Coffin	University of Western Australia
Karen Martin	Griffith University
Kathleen Butler	University of Newcastle
Kathleen Clapham	University of Wollongong
Kevin Williams	Ninti One (Partner Organisation)
Kim Scott	Curtin University
Larissa Behrendt	University of Technology Sydney
Len Collard	University of Western Australia
Linda Ford	Charles Darwin University
Loretta Kelly	Southern Cross University
Lynette Henderson-Yates	University of Notre Dame
Maggie Walter	University of Tasmania
Marcelle Burns	University of New England
Mark McMillan	University of Melbourne
Marlene Longbottom	Waminda (Partner Organisation)
Michael Adams	Edith Cowan University
Michelle Trudgett	University of Technology Sydney
Natalie Harkin	Flinders University
Odette Best	Queensland University of Technology
Pat Dudgeon	University of Western Australia
Peter Radoll	University of Canberra
Rowena Ball	Australian National University
Roxanne Bainbridge	James Cook University
Sam Johnston	United Nations University (Partner Organisation)
Scott Avery	National Congress of Australia's First Peoples (Partner Organisation)
Shino Konishi	University of Western Australia

Simone Tur	Flinders University
Stephen Kinnane	University of Notre Dame
Steve Larkin	Charles Darwin University
Sue Green	University of New South Wales
Sue Stanton	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
Terry Dunbar	University of Adelaide
Wendy Aitken	University of Tasmania

NIRAKN Affiliate members

Ali Baker	Flinders University
Ambelin Kwaymullina	University of Western Australia
Bindi Bennett	Australian Catholic University
Bradley Moggridge	New South Wales Office of Water
Brenda Croft	University of New South Wales
Brian Marshall	University of Sydney
Bronwyn Carlson	University of Wollongong
Catherine Chamberlain	Monash University
Chelsea Bond	Queensland University of Technology
Clint Bracknell	Sydney University
Faye Rosas Blanch	Flinders University
Francis Wyld	University of Adelaide
Gregory Phillips	Monash University
Harry Vanisum	Griffith University
Janet Mooney	University of Sydney
Jenine Godwin-Thompson	University of Queensland
John Evans	University of Sydney
Lynne Stuart	University of the Sunshine Coast
Nerida Blair	Australian Catholic University
Norm Sheehan	Southern Cross University
Sandra Phillips	Queensland University of Technology
Simon Graham	University of Melbourne
Valarie Cooms	Adjunct, University of Sunshine Coast

Appendix 3: NIRAKN Travel Bursary Reports

Associate Professor Asmi Wood
Ms Marcelle Burns
Dr Mick Adams

Asmi Wood (Law node)

I would like to begin by thanking NIRAKN, the HUB and particularly Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson for opening doors for us, opportunities which I would not have believed possible.

The NIRAKN travel grant enabled me to visit Oxford University, Oxford England. While I was primarily at St Stephen's, I was also invited to speak at St Hughes and Magdalene Colleges. I participated in the Sumer School, presented papers and chaired sessions at which the grant was acknowledged. I presented on legal contemporary issues of mutual interest. In the comparative constitutional law area, I spoke about the issue of Indigenous recognition in the Australian Constitution and how this would impact on the Imperial Act that enabled the original *Constitution Act*. I also spoke about animal rights law, particularly in the legal areas touching on the live export industry in Australia. I was invited to write up my talk for possible publication in the *Oxford Journal of Animal Ethics*. I will do so and will acknowledge NIRAKN in this paper if accepted for publication.

I was also fortunate to be able to meet with Indigenous higher degree by research students at Oxford, Cambridge and at the LSE. I do acknowledge the grant in facilitating these meetings as these locations are several miles apart. I was able to discuss possibilities for post graduate study in Australia (for M Phil Students) and for possible post docs for PhD, D. Phil students. I also spoke to them about a possible successor to NIRAKN, which might possibly take root if the conditions are right and encouraged them to keep an eye out for this development and to help to work cooperatively to strengthen this institution in any way they could.

I was also invited to speak at the University of Barcelona where I was a visiting professor. I spoke to several PhD students there and was also able to pursue some research on Catalan separatist and pro-independence movements. I was also fortunate to meet with Roma groups in Villanova (which is about 50 miles outside Barcelona). I am grateful for some contribution towards translators, as I do not speak either Catalan or Roma. I hope that I will be able to do some work on the comparative legal issues between Aboriginal and Roma or Catalan legal issues as per the hegemonic powers which at present, primarily control their affairs.

I am happy to provide further details of my travel and work. For the present could I please conclude with gratitude for the help, advice and support I was

given on this application. Of course this application is not an exception and I do not mention it except for the specific reporting requirements. Everyone from Distinguished Professor Moreton-Robinson down have always supported not just me, but at least in my personal knowledge and experience, every Indigenous scholar. I am saddened that our network is reaching its culmination but look forward to its continuation, albeit in another form. Thank you all once again and the kindest regards.

Asmi Wood ANU law School Canberra 23 August 2016.

Marcelle Burns (Law node)

Dear Professor Moreton-Robinson,

This email is to report on my NIRAKN International Travel Bursary, awarded in March 2016, to attend the Centre of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues, Summer School – Decolonizing Knowledge and Power: Postcolonial Studies, Decolonial Horizons, from 11-21 July 2016, Barcelona, Spain. The total bursary was \$5,000 and was spent on airfares and course fees, as per the submitted budget.

The Summer School was lecture intensive, and included presentations from a number of distinguished scholars in decolonial theory and practice. Highlights of the program were Enrique Dussel (philosophy of liberation, transmodernity) and Ruthie Wilson Gilmore (Racial Capitalism) who provided rich scholarly analysis of some of the problematics of modernity, capitalism and colonialism – both historically and today. The school was attended by approximately 100 people, and provided opportunities to meet and develop networks with a number of post-graduate students and scholars working in Indigenous and decolonial research, both internationally and in Australia. There was no opportunity to present papers, however the support of NIRAKN was acknowledged in discussions with other delegates.

Participation in the Decolonial Dialogues Summer School enabled me to gain an overview of decolonial theory and practice which will inform my PhD studies in law, bringing an inter-disciplinary analysis of modernity and the production of knowledge contributing to the colonial project. The knowledge gained at the summer school will also inform my work as Project Leader of the Indigenous Cultural Competency for Legal Academics program, as it provides a framework for critique of dominant legal doctrines and continuing forms of coloniality which contribute to the unequal positioning of Indigenous peoples in domestic and international law.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NIRAKN Management Committee for providing the bursary to support my development as a researcher.

Kind regards

Ms Marcelle Burns, University of New England.

NAISA report by Dr Mick Adams (Health and Wellbeing node)

The purpose in attending NAISA was to participate and present as a panel member of the Health Node presentation titled: *Roles and responsibilities: Connection of gender to health and wellbeing of Aboriginal women and men in Australia*. The panel consisted of Health Node scholars; Professor Bronwyn Fredericks, Professor Dawn Bessarab and PhD Candidate Marlene Longbottom – Thompson.

The panel presented the findings from our four different qualitative research projects conducted across Australia that applied Indigenous research methodology. We discussed the importance of gender in informing health and wellbeing. Each member demonstrated through our knowledge translation the individual discoveries that transpired from each of our project which posed solutions to addressing pressing health challenges in our communities.

The panel demonstrated that whilst there were many similarities between men and women's health and well-being, there were also differences and that the intersection of gender with other social determinants of health was an important variable when responding to women and men's health needs.

The NAISA conference gave me the opportunity to present on my ground-breaking and unique research study on male sexual and reproductive health that incorporated the specific cultural understandings and needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males on the sensitivities of the topic.

The NAISA conference provided me with an opportunity to connect with Indigenous researchers nationally and internationally to develop a cultural model of education to overcome the barriers and utilise access, treatment processes and support systems that are required to improve the status of Indigenous males.

I attended sessions that were mostly related to my field of research and sessions that attracted my interest e.g. knowledge transition and social and emotional wellbeing. I had the pleasure being accompanied by brother Rodney Stoter (Professor Frederick's partner). As a pair we were able to discuss and critique the content of the presentations we attended.

"It was good to catch up with fellow male health researcher Dr Mohi Rua from the University of Waikato who gave a presentation on Maori Men's Positive and Interconnected Sense of Self, being and Place." Dr Mick Adams, NAISA Bursary recipient

In addition, I attended sessions to support our Australian members in their presentation and enjoyed attending the lunch time storytelling series presented by brother Mic Edwards and Australian playwright,

scriptwriter and musician Richard Frankland MA from RMIT University. I also accompanied Professor Bronwyn Fredericks to attend NAISA Business Meeting, an experience in itself.

Dr Mick Adams, Edith Cowan University.

Appendix 4: NIRAKN Member Publications

BOOKS

NIRAKN Hub

Moreton-Robinson, Aileen. ed. 2016. *Critical Indigenous Studies: Engagements in First World Locations*. Tucson, Arizona: The University of Arizona Press.

Law Node

Behrendt, Larissa. 2016. *Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling*. Brisbane: University of Queensland Press.

Yuraki Node

Esmaili, Hossein, Gus Worby, and **Simone Tur.** eds. 2016. *Indigenous Australians, Social Justice and Legal Reform: Honouring Elliott Johnston*. Annandale, NSW: The Federation Press.

Konishi, Shino, Maria Nugent and Tiffany Shellam. eds. 2016. *Indigenous Intermediaries: New perspectives on exploration archives*. Canberra: ANU Press.

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Appendix 5: Evaluation - NIRAKN Research Capacity Building Program

Evaluation of the NIRAKN Research Capacity Building Program

Workshop

Hilton Hotel, Surfers Paradise
July 11-15, 2016.

Maryrose Casey
August 2016

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1 SUMMARY

The National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network (NIRAKN) is an inclusive, multidisciplinary hub and spokes model network of Indigenous researchers at various stages of their careers. NIRAKN's Research Capacity Building Program mentors, trains, supports and engages new and emerging researchers across disciplines and institutions through skills, information and knowledge transfer. The foundational steps towards achieving these aims include capacity building workshops to provide skills and knowledge development and facilitate the establishment of connections between Indigenous scholars.

Established and funded through an Australian Research Council initiative in 2013, NIRAKN, among other capacity building programs and events, has conducted annual residential workshops to build postgraduate, early and mid-career Indigenous researchers' capacity and skills; enhance research; connect researchers; and support career development. The purpose of this report is to evaluate the fourth workshop program held in 2016 in relation to the aims of NIRAKN. The fourth workshop was as successful and productive for the participants as the previous three in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

As in previous years, the program was based on a multifaceted approach to capacity building Indigenous scholars and sought to cater for individuals at different points of their academic career and development. The 2016 workshop focused on building academic careers with attention concentrated on building understanding about grant opportunities and application processes, project management, academic structures and promotion processes. Research was the focus for other sessions that engaged with ethical research, models of innovative methodologies and collaborations, Indigenous methodologies, quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The respondents' evaluations were uniformly positive to both the formal sessions and the opportunities for informal networking. The standard of the presentations was, as with the other programs in the series, of an exceptional high standard of delivery and content. The question on the evaluation forms about the impact for the participants of the workshops indicates a high level of success in the aim to build capacity. All the respondents walked away feeling empowered by information, successful role models and a deeper knowledge of academia.

2 INTRODUCTION

The NIRAKN Capacity Building Workshops aim to develop and support the community of skilled, qualified Indigenous researchers.

The goals identified to support the achievement of this aim include:

- to build research capacity, expertise and experience.

- to connect Indigenous researchers at all career stages across disciplines, nationally and internationally,
- to develop a culturally supportive and inclusive research environment.

To achieve these goals, NIRAKN has delivered a program of capacity-building workshops open to post graduates, early and mid-career Indigenous scholars over the last 4 years. The fourth of these was at the Hilton Hotel, Surfers Paradise July 11th-15th, July 2016.

The workshop program has been consistently successful. As previously, the workshop sessions were aimed at higher degree by research candidates nearing completion and early career researchers working in academia. The sessions were led by leading established Indigenous scholars or where appropriate representatives of funding bodies.

There were a number of new sessions in the 2016 workshop. Picking up on the respondents stated needs in previous evaluations there was a focus on Indigenous methodologies and quantitative research. Other innovations included a question and answer panel session where postgraduates and early career researchers had the opportunity to ask senior academics about issues. There was also a session devoted to postgraduates making brief presentations about their research followed by questions and feedback.

The program consisted of 15 workshop sessions including a plenary session introducing the participants to the history and structure of NIRAKN. The titles of the sessions were:

- Introduction to NIRAKN
- Understanding the Research Ethics Process
- Postgraduate session
- Networking Project session
- Project Methodology- Bound and Unbound Sovereign Acts Project
- Quantitative Research
- Yarning as a Methodology
- Developing ARC grant applications: Tips for Success
- Developing and Administering your ARC grant proposal
- How to Develop NHMRC grant applications
- Academic progression and promotion and Planning and Performance reviews for academics (A-E)
- Postgraduate presentations
- Role of Indigenous PVC and Leadership
- Media and PR tips
- Copyright and Intellectual Property

The aim of this report is to evaluate the ways in which the capacity building workshop reflected and fulfilled NIRAKN's aims.

3 EVALUATION METHODS

This evaluation, like the evaluations of the previous workshops in 2013, 2014 and 2015, is based on three sources of information:

- my observations as a participant observer of the workshops and presentations offered.
- eight informal interviews of participants conducted by myself focused on asking people's response to their experience.

The form of these interviews was my introducing myself and my role as an external evaluator and then asking basic open ended questions about two areas. Firstly, how the participant was finding the workshops they had attended. Were they useful? In what ways were they useful? In what ways were they not useful? Then I asked for any additional comments the participant would like to make in terms of the structure and content of the workshops.

- self-completion questionnaires submitted by participants.

All participants were encouraged to submit a self-completion questionnaire. The questionnaire was a modified version of the one used for the first workshop series in 2013 with additional questions about the overall series. Reflecting the intentions of the workshops to build on people's capacity, skills and networks, the questions focused on pre-existing expectations and needs and the level to which the participant thought that these had been met, with a follow-up question that invited suggestions for future sessions. There were also a series of questions seeking to discover the word of mouth recommendations that participants had heard or shared (questionnaire attached in the appendix). The 2014 additions to the 2013 version included a series of questions about capacity building resources on the participant's own campus. The additions for 2016 focused on the overall series of workshops.

There were 50 people registered to participate in the program, including 18 postgraduate candidates. The numbers in the rooms on each day suggest that there were at least 20-30 people present on each of the 5 days. A completed questionnaire was submitted by 26 people. This is a high rate of participation in the evaluation process representing 52 % of the overall number of participants. The respondents had all attended a broad range of workshops.

In the questionnaire, respondents were invited to categorise themselves as postgraduate, early to midcareer, senior scholar or presenter. Of the submitted questionnaires, 16 were from postgraduates (including one who identified as postgraduate and early to mid-career) that is approximately 61.5%, seven from early to mid-career that is 27%. The remaining three

questionnaires came from senior scholars. Given the overall workshop focus on capacity building postgraduates and early career academics, the high number of postgraduate and ECR responses representing 88.5% is useful to give a strong indication of the participants' experience in general. Of the early career researchers and postgraduates 41% had not attended NIRAKN workshops or masterclasses before, 29.5% had only attended masterclasses and the remaining 29.5% had attended capacity building workshop previously.

The data collected is qualitative in keeping with the aim to ascertain meaningful answers relevant to the objectives of the workshop program. This report offers:

- An overall evaluation of the workshops in the program incorporating the feedback from the participants.
- Summary of the responses to the questionnaires

4 THE PROGRAM

All the sessions were valuable and contributed to fulfilling the aims of the NIRAKN workshops. The presenters were experienced and generous sharing useful and important information with the postgraduates and early career researchers. All the presentations were well structured and well presented.

This section considers each of the presentations and workshops with discussion of the specific feedback and responses to the evaluation questionnaire.


THE SESSIONS

Introduction to NIRAKN

This session provided an introduction to NIRAKN and the terms of participation in the workshops and in academia based on respect. This session was incorporated as a formal presentation after feedback from the first workshop. The participants who are not familiar with NIRAKN were enthusiastic about hearing about the network and possibilities and opportunities it has offered. The session was positive and productive in including all the participants in the aims of the workshop.

Understanding the Research Ethics Process

This session was a comprehensive introduction to Australian research ethics in practice relating to research. Areas covered included: What do ethics committees do? What are the ethical codes and guidelines with practical examples? Particular attention was paid to the ethics around the insider position where the researcher is investigating their own families or communities and issues of consent.



The feedback to the session was enthusiastically positive. The presenter was 'clear and engaging' and the information provided and discussed was described as 'excellent', 'essential', and 'invaluable'. This information gave participants 'a deeper understanding' of the Australian ethics guidelines and practices and left them feeling 'more confident' applying for ethical clearances.

Postgraduate session

This session was a further innovation to the model of information sessions. A panel of senior academics invited postgrads to ask questions. The senior academics generously offered the benefit of their personal experiences with research and academia.

Participants described the session as 'inspirational', 'enlightening and motivating' at the same time as it was 'encouraging and affirming'.

Networking Project session

This session introduced a pre-existing research project that focused on non-Indigenous supervision of Indigenous students. The participants were introduced to the project, the funding and the current status of the research and its findings so far and offered the opportunity to contribute as part of the research.

This was a practical example of a research project and the information offered detailed the type of ethical clearance needed and funding source as well sharing the questions the researchers wished to investigate. The topic led to a rich discussion.

Project Methodology- Bound and Unbound Sovereign Acts Project

This session was a practical example of research project that was funded by NIRAKN.

It is an example of an extraordinary project that provoked meaningful discussion about process and different modes of research.

The participants valued the presentation of practical examples of different types of research and outcomes. It was described as 'thought provoking' and 'set a bench mark for quality research'. It was useful and inspiring in the way the researchers 'explicated, constructed and deconstructed their theoretical and methodological frameworks'.

Quantitative Research

This session was a provocative and useful examination of the pitfalls of statistical research. The presenter shared previously published research which he then reviewed to reveal his own errors that resulted from embedded preconceptions. The central theme that

'statistics are tools not answers' was well illustrated by the presenter.

The session was well received and persuasive.

Yarning as a Methodology

This was a dynamic and rigorous presentation of the Indigenous methodology and methods of using Yarning as part of qualitative research.

Participants, especially those developing their own research methodologies found it 'inspiring', 'insightful and practical'.

Developing ARC grant applications: Tips for Success

This session offered the story of the presenter's career focusing on his experience with grants that offered a picture of possibilities and opportunities.

The responses described it as 'relevant', an 'honest reflection about success and opportunities'. Others considered the presentation 'inspirational', 'down to earth and highly motivating'.

Developing and Administering your ARC grant proposal

This session was a clear, detailed presentation focused on various ARC grants scheme by scheme including discussion of criteria. It was a good complement to the personal story of the previous session. Respondents found the session 'practical and useful'.

How to Develop NHMRC grant applications

Focussing on the NHMRC grants, this session combined the elements of the two previous sessions; personal experience applying for grants and the criteria and processes of applying.

The respondents found the presenter 'engaging', 'informative' and 'insightful'.

Academic progression and promotion and Planning and Performance reviews for academics (A-E)

This session was a provocative and informative session about academic career paths engaging with the expectations at different levels.

The participants found it 'timely' and 'critical to understanding the academic work place'. The responses repeatedly praised the session as 'invaluable' because it 'demystified universities'.

Postgraduate presentations

This session was an addition to the program. The postgraduate candidates present were invited to

make a 3-minute thesis presentation and a one-minute reflection on the workshops followed by questions and feedback from the room.

Rigorous feedback around the questions of what why and how

The 'honest support and engagement by senior scholars' made this session 'liberating' as did 'hearing about other candidates' journeys and processes developing their own methodologies'.

Role of Indigenous PVC and Leadership

This session was a personal account of engaging with the upper hierarchies of universities, from the point of view of A Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous.

Responses to this session were overwhelmingly positive with participants expressing their appreciation of the generosity and openness of the presenter. The presentation was 'insightful' and offered a 'broad range of helpful information for operating in a professional environment'.

Media and PR tips

These dynamic and informative presentations about campus support for media engagement, online opportunities to engage with wider public audience and the importance of extending the impact of research by engaging with multiple media opened up new possibilities and ways of sharing research.

The participants thought it offered 'invaluable information' and provided 'fantastic insights into how to disseminate research'.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

This session was an in depth presentation dealing with the facets of copyright law and the history of developments in relation to the protection of traditional knowledge and cultural knowledge. As one respondent described it, this was an opportunity to listen to 'an academic hero whose work' they had read a lot.

This session like many in the workshop provided timely information the participants found 'invaluable'. One respondent felt this workshop should be 'mandatory' for postgraduates. And early career researchers.

NIRAKN NODE MEETINGS

Following on from 2014 and 2015 the NIRAKN node meetings were incorporated within the program facilitating participants' attendance.

RESPONSES TO THE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Awareness of and participation in capacity building workshops on home campuses.


The NIRAKN workshops are intended to complement existing offerings on campuses across the country with a particular focus on Indigenous candidates. The first questions in the survey were aimed at ascertaining if universities were conducting courses dedicated to Indigenous postgraduates and early career researchers. The answer was no from all but one respondent. Capacity building Indigenous students and staff does not appear to be a priority or increasing on Australian campuses.

GENERAL FEEDBACK ON CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Those who had previously participated in Capacity Building workshops were uniformly positive. The main strengths were that the sessions 'targeted multiple levels of experience' and the variety of the presenters and topics and the participation of senior Indigenous academics. As one respondent described, the workshops 'fill the void' that isolated Indigenous scholars experience. The workshops provide a much needed 'space where Indigenous scholars can grow their skills and knowledge in a safe environment'. Another strength identified by participants is the opportunity to network with other Indigenous scholars. There a range of reasons why this was crucial. The reasons included: cultural support; that talking to other Indigenous scholars was inspirational and affirming, giving scholars the support to complete their studies; as well as laying the foundation for future collaborations.

Reasons for Attending the 2016 Workshop

The reasons given for attending the 2016 workshop centred on 'building momentum with their research' and 'increasing their knowledge and skills'. The same reasons recur in all the responses. Participants attended 'to network, learn, critique their own research and others research' in a context where they could talk to senior researchers 'with similar cultural ideas, identities and values'. The other recurring reason was that the workshops offered the opportunity to learn more about Indigenous research that others have undertaken or are conducting and about Indigenous methodologies. The respondents all found the workshops exceeded their expectations. The relevance of the workshops and, in many cases, the timeliness of particular topics made the workshop invaluable.



The high points of the Workshop

A high point for many participants was the opportunity to hear the postgraduate candidates present and discuss their research. The other recurring high point was the realisation, through hearing personal journeys from senior scholars, that anything is possible. This realisation was a result of the generosity of senior scholars sharing their experiences and journeys in academia and in the process offering role models to emerging scholars. Overall the most impressive aspect of the workshops was the creation of a safe environment where new comers and early career researchers could engage in a respectful way with other scholars in a sharing, honest and meaningful way. Another highpoint that was frequently commented on was the importance of the opportunity of conversations with peers and senior academics after sessions about the content

The low points of the experience

The only low points recorded were that there were not even more opportunities to meet senior scholars who were 'heroes' to emerging scholars.

Recommendations to participate in the workshops

Everyone who had previously participated in the workshops recommended them to others and would continue to do so

General thoughts about the NIRAKN workshop program over the last 4 years

The unanimous response to this question was that the workshops were invaluable and they hope they will continue.

What type of events/workshops do you think should be offered in the future?

Given the end of NIRAKN's four years, the responses consistently stated that the capacity building workshops should be continued.

5 CONCLUSION

The 2016 workshop continues the effectiveness and the success of the NIRAKN workshop program and goals focused on building capacity and expertise through sharing knowledges and the acquisition or enhancing of skills. It has clearly done this successfully in the 2016 program as it has in the previous three. The responsiveness of the co-ordinator of the workshops to suggestions about including types of sessions such as Indigenous methodologies has ensured that each program is more successful than the last. It also means that those who can participate in multiple residential workshops gain new knowledge with each iteration.

Given the overwhelming positive responses to the sessions and the high quality and appropriateness of the workshop sessions, it is impossible to do other than reiterate the overview of the 2015 workshop program.

A central goal of NIRAKN is to connect Indigenous researchers across career stages and disciplines. This is an invaluable part of NIRAKN's achievements with these workshops. Based on interviews and the questionnaires one of the strengths of the workshops is breaking down barriers for Indigenous PhD candidates and academics by facilitating engagement with other successful Indigenous academics who as well as generously sharing their experiences, act as potential role models providing inspiration and illustrating possible pathways.

The sharing of experiences about the position of Indigenous academics and issues of cultural safety combined with the development of Indigenous academic networks contributes to fulfilling the goal of creating culturally supportive research environments.

Key factors in these achievements are the focused organisation of the workshops, the care with which they are created and curated and the generosity of established Indigenous academics sharing their career highlights and lowlights to facilitate those who are following them. Another feature contributing to the success of the workshops that was a marked element in the 2015 and 2016 program is the deep mutual respect that was established as part of the terms of exchange.

As the participants attest, these workshops are of a high standard, offering important information and filling a deep need to break down barriers for Indigenous academics.

It was a privilege to be part of this exciting initiative.

Associate Professor Maryrose Casey
Monash Indigenous Centre
Monash University



Capacity Building Workshops Participant Evaluation

This questionnaire is an important part of evaluating the NIRAKN workshops and planning future projects. We appreciate your time in sharing your thoughts. The aim of this evaluation is twofold. Firstly, to find out what you see as your needs. Secondly to gather information about how useful the workshops have been for you and evaluate the overall NIRAKN workshop program.

Name (Optional) _____

Participant or Presenter (please circle the one that fits you)

Career stage/Role

Postgraduate

Senior Scholar/Administrator

Early-Mid Career Researcher

Partner Organisation

Which sessions did you attend? (Please tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding research ethics process | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing ARC grant applications: Tips for Success |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Postgraduate networking session | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing and Administering your ARC grant proposal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Networking | <input type="checkbox"/> Developing NHMRC grant applications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project methodology -Using Bound and Unbound Sovereign Acts project | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic progression and promotion and Planning and Performance Reviews for Academics (A-E) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quantitative Research | <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Academic Indicators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yarning as a Methodology | <input type="checkbox"/> Role of Indigenous PVC and leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Node meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Media and PR tips |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Copyright and Intellectual Property |

An important part of these capacity building workshops is to complement what is available at your universities. The first questions relate to this aspect.

Is there a program of research capacity building workshops and courses dedicated to Indigenous postgraduates at your university? If so what sort of workshops are offered?

Are there general capacity building workshops and courses for postgrads offered at your university?

Have you undertaken any of these workshops or courses?

If so, what types of courses and how did you find them?

If not, why not?



The following questions are in relation to the NIRAKN workshops.

Have you attended NIRAKN workshops before?

If Yes which workshops?

Did you find them useful? What were the strengths and limitations for you?

This capacity building workshop

Why did you come along to these workshops?

What were your expectations?

How were those expectations met? Were the offerings relevant to you? Useful?

How were they not met? Were there issues or areas you would have liked covered? Were the workshops providing the information you require at this stage?

What were the high points of the experience for you?

What were the low points of the experience for you?

The next questions are general about the nirakn program of workshops.

How would you describe these workshops in relation to their value for you?

If you have participated before, have you recommended the workshops to anyone? In what terms?

Did anyone recommend the workshops to you?

What are your general thoughts about the NIRAKN workshop program over the last 4 years?

What type of events/workshops do you think should be offered in the future?

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Table 11: NIRAKN Internal Research Grants awarded to ISK&ST Node

11.2 Abbreviations and acronyms

ADB	Australian Dictionary of Biography
A/Prof	Associate Professor
ACOLA	Australian Council of Learned Academies
ACRAWSA	Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AHURI	Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute
AIME	Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience
ANU	Australian National University
AO	Order of Australia
ARC	Australian Research Council
ASA	American Studies Association
ATSIHEAC	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Advisory Committee
ATSIRS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy
CDU	Charles Darwin University
CI	Chief Investigator
CQU	Central Queensland University
DET	Department of Education and Training
DVC	Deputy Vice Chancellor
ECU	Edith Cowan University
HASS	Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
HDR	Higher Degree Research
HEPPP	Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program
ICCLAP	Indigenous Cultural Competency for Legal Academics Program
ICT	Information communication and technology
IEEC	Indigenous and Employment Committee
IJCIS	The International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies
ISK &ST	Indigenous Sociology, Knowledges and Science and Technology
ISRN	Indigenous Studies Research Network
ISSP	Indigenous Student Success Program
JCU	James Cook University
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KRA	Key Research Area
NAISA	Native American Indigenous Studies Association
NATSIHEC	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium
NCIS	National Centre for Indigenous Studies
NCSEHE	National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NIRAKN	National Indigenous Research and Knowledge Network
NP	Network Participants
NT	Northern Territory
NT PHN	Northern Territory Public Health Network
OL&T	Office of Learning and Teaching
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PVC	Pro Vice Chancellor

QUT	Queensland University of Technology
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UM	University of Melbourne
UoH	University of Hawaii
UoN	University of Newcastle
UoW	University of Wollongong
UQ	University of Queensland
URIC	University Research and Innovation Committee
USA	United States of America
UTAS	University of Tasmania
UTS	University of Technology
UWA	University of Western Australia

