

Establishing a respectful working partnership between a university and an Aboriginal community-based organisation

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GUNAWIRRA

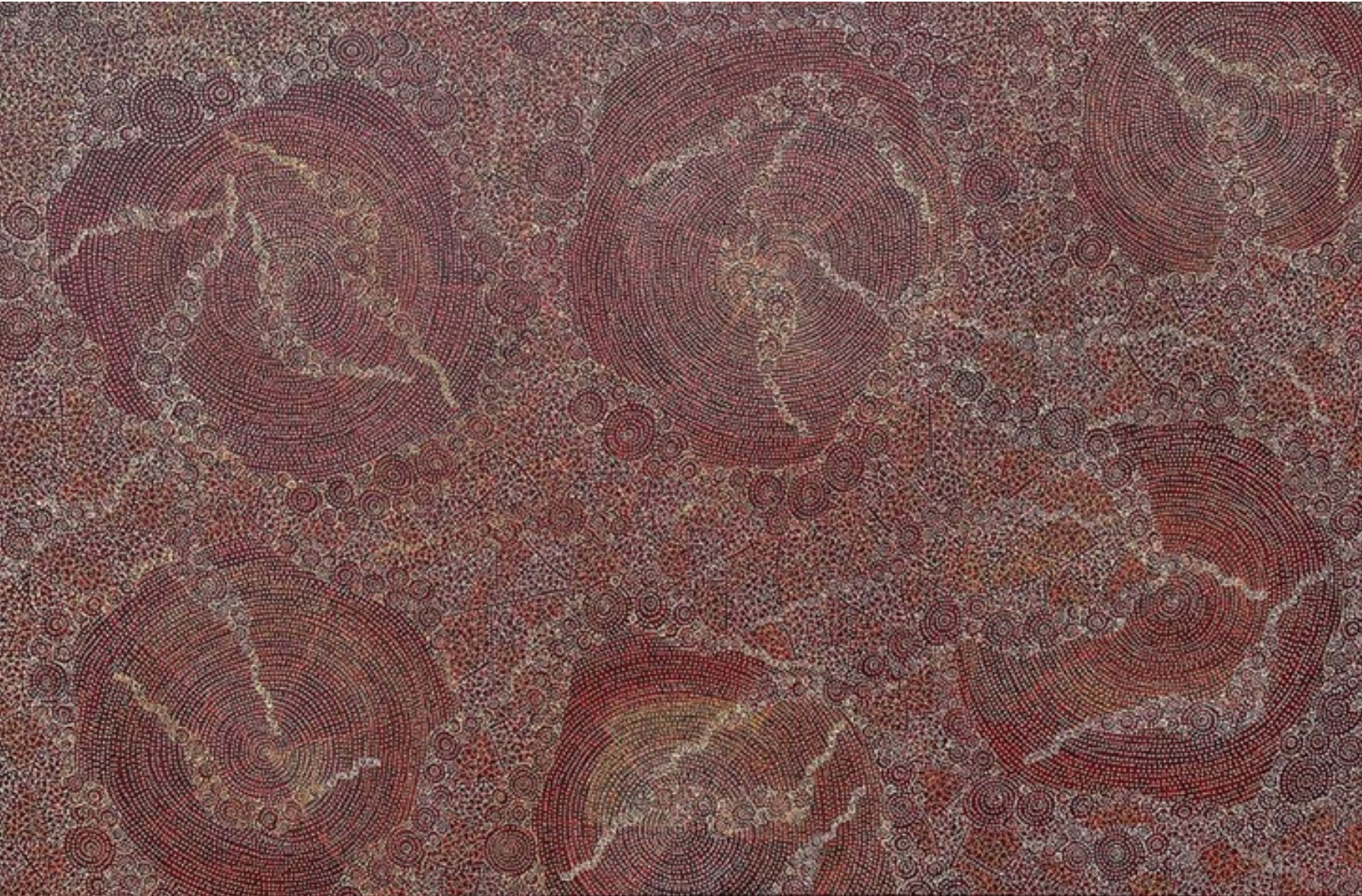
Prevention through Early Intervention



ACU

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Acknowledgement of Country



I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodian of the lands we are each on. I pay my respects to Elders past and present and thank them for their wisdom as we walk in their footsteps.

Figure 1. Ancestors. From Japingka Aboriginal Art.¹ Retrieved from <https://japingkaaboriginalart.com/collections/best-selling-aboriginal-artists/>

Context

- 500-650 nations
- European colonisation resulted in transgenerational trauma
- Traumatic death
- Separation from land, kin, culture and language
- Stolen generations
- Healing through connection to culture

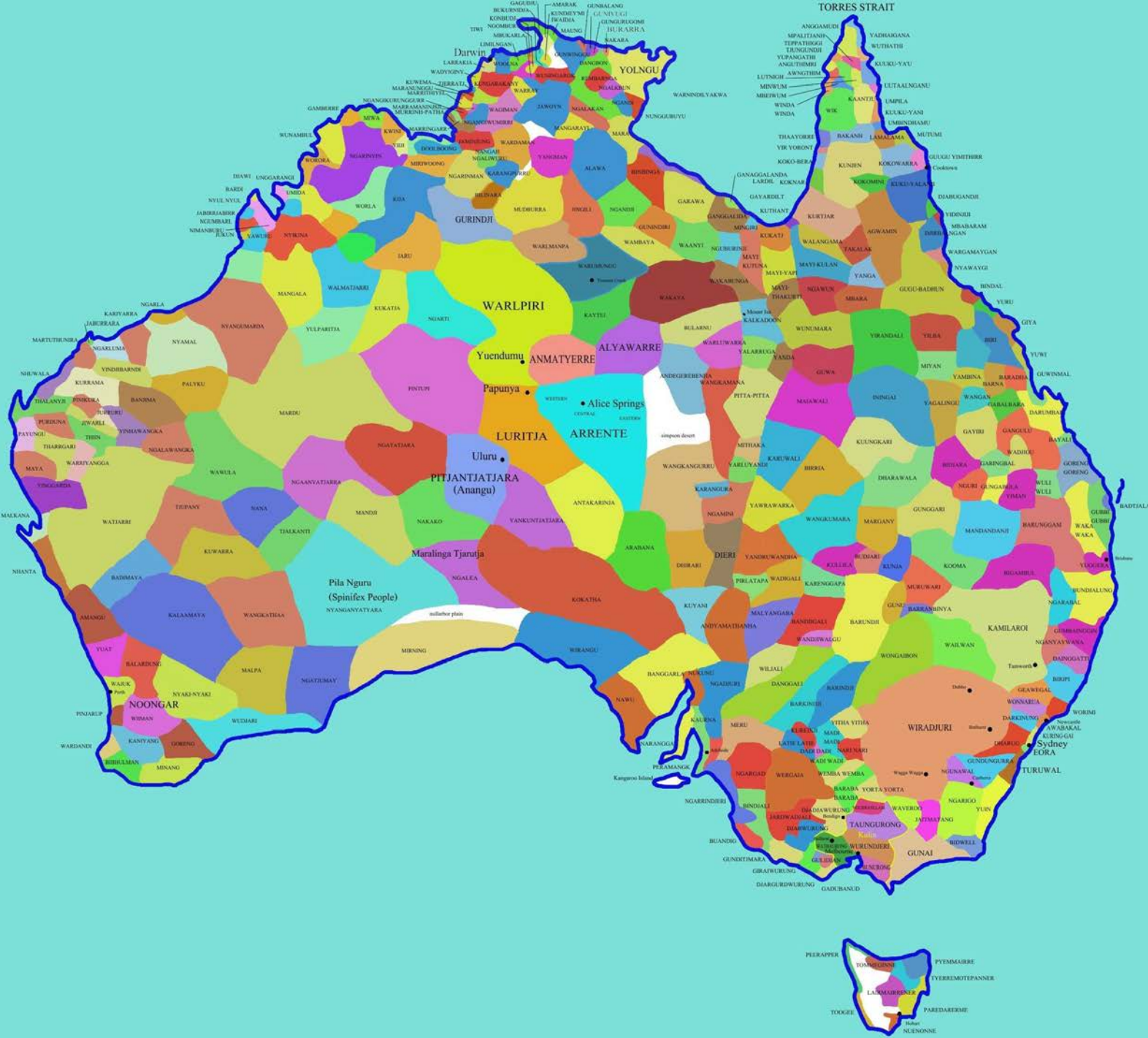


Figure 2. Map of Indigenous Australia. From AIATSIS.² Retrieved from <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>



Gunawirra – *prevention through early intervention*

"focus on healing intergenerational trauma, trauma and grief through the influence of cultural identity, knowledge, and creativity. "³

Young Aboriginal mother's programme

support for women from pregnancy to starting school.

Figure 3. Golden Wattle.⁴ Retrieved from Gunawirra. N.D.

<https://gunawirra.org.au/>

Establishing a Partnership

- **Research by and for Aboriginal people** – community led research⁵

2.2.2 Aboriginal **community involvement, support and consent** has been sought.

2.2.3 ... **Aboriginal oversight and meaningful engagement** at all stages of the project.

2.2.4 **Formal agreements** have been developed...

2.2.5 There is **appropriate Aboriginal Governance** of all stages of the project.

2.5.2 **Aboriginal people** should be **employed on research projects**, wherever possible there should be training and development opportunities...⁶

- **Yarning, building relationships**

1.5 At every stage, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research must be founded on a process of **meaningful engagement**.

- universities and research sponsors should **be open to changing and developing their practices** to respond to and accommodate local protocols.

1.6 **Building relationships** based on trust is a key foundation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research. Consequently:

- engagement should involve an **honest exchange of ideas** about aims, methods and potential outcomes for all parties, with a view to strengthening Indigenous peoples' self-determination through **participation and collaboration in research**.⁵



Establishing a Partnership

• *Respect*

2.1.1 **Co-designing a research project** with Aboriginal people and communities will help ensure that it is determined as a priority, a need and is of benefit to the Aboriginal people and communities affected.⁶

• *Cultural capability*

2.3.5 Questionnaires, surveys, and other **documents must be determined culturally appropriate** by the Aboriginal people and communities affected.⁶

1.13 Researchers... must be able to demonstrate a level of **cultural competency and experience appropriate to the research project**, including self-awareness, knowledge and understanding of relevant Indigenous culture, laws and protocols, and an ability to engage and communicate respectfully and effectively.⁸

1.14.4 creating a culturally safe environment⁸

• *Reciprocity*

research activities and outcomes should include specific **benefits that respond to the needs and interests** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, **including those who participate in the project** and others in the community who may be affected by the research.⁸

We're learning from each other.



References

- ¹King, S. (n.d.) Ancestors [painting]. Japingka Aboriginal Art. <https://japingkaaboriginalart.com/collections/best-selling-aboriginal-artists/>
- ² Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (AIATSIS). (2021). Map of Indigous Australia. AIATSIS. <https://aiatsis.gov.au/explore/map-indigenous-australia>
- ³ Gunawirra. (2021). Gunawirra. <https://gunawirra.org.au/>
- ⁴ Gunawirra. Golden Wattle [Images]. Retrieved from <https://gunawirra.org.au/>
- ⁵ Rawlings, V., Flexner, J. L., & Riley, L. (2021). *Community-led research: Walking new pathways together*. Sydney University Press.
- ⁶ Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council NSW (AH&MRC NSW). (2020). AH&MRC Ethical Guidelines: Key Principles (2020) V2.0.
- ⁷ Nungari, C. *Dreamtime Sisters* [Images]. Retrieved from <https://www.utopialaneart.com.au/products/sp5081-colleen-wallace-nungari>
- ⁸ Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (AIATSIS). (2020). AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research.





Where to from here?
What's next for us...

- Meet in person!
- Ethics / Recruitment / Data collection
- Data analysis and dissemination
- Next year: Report findings