YIPRaW - Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing Program
The Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing Project

The Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing (YIPRaW) project commenced in the second half of 2017 and is a longitudinal study of Aboriginal youth across two sites; one here in Whadjuk Noongar country in WA and one with the Gamilaroi nation in NSW. The youths who will be recruited to participate are aged between 15-20 years old; and we anticipate recruiting 490 youth in WA and 70 youth in NSW.

The research will address three overarching study aims:

1) Explain manifestations and dimensions of resilience and wellbeing in groups of Aboriginal youth;  
2) Validate resilience and wellbeing measures in two different geographic cohorts of Aboriginal youth (on both Noongar, WA and Gamilaroi, NSW country); and  
3) Inform service and program development to build resilience and wellbeing for Aboriginal youth and recommend best practice frameworks to funders and decision makers.

This important translational research project will improve our understanding of Aboriginal youth and their self-assessment and understanding of resilience and wellbeing and improve Aboriginal youth services and community programs to meet the expressed needs for their welfare.

The project is currently conducting preparatory work with oversight and advice from the two Aboriginal Consultative groups providing guidance for both the Whadjuk Noongar and Gamilaroi cohorts on culturally secure practice. How we conduct the project is vital to capturing the voice of Aboriginal youths.

We are happy to be in contact with any youth that would like to participate in the study. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating please contact the project officer Cecilia Strutt on 93602986 or c.strutt@murdoch.edu.au or the research assistant Grantley Winmar on 93602986 or g.winmar@murdoch.edu.au.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the traditional custodians and the traditional custodians of the Kamilaroi nation in the lands on which we work, walk and live. We also acknowledge and pay respect to all of the Elders of both nations, past, present, and future and recognize the long history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this entire land; and acknowledge that the past is not just the past but continues to impact on the present and the future. We have an opportunity to influence the future in our collaborative research and we seek the guidance of the Spirits of the Elders in our task.

The ‘Strong Roots’ Logo for the Kamilaroi cohort in Tamworth NSW.
David Pigram
David works at the South Metropolitan Population Health Unit as an Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer and has also worked as a Project Support Officer at South Metropolitan Health Service. He has held the roles of Men’s Health Coordinator to provide culturally safe men’s health screening and parenting programs; as Men’s Health Project Officer implementing strategies to engage Indigenous men in regular health screening and with the Positive Employment Opportunities for Aboriginal People initiative. David is also a member of the Pigram Brothers Band which has been going since 1995.

Brooke Blurton
Brooke Blurton is a young, passionate Noongar-Yamatji woman from Carnarvon WA working as an Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Brooke has experience within working in a range of different health organisations and Youth services. Brooke is a very strong, resilient & passionate young woman working in Mental Health.

Isabelle Adams
Isabelle Adams has ancestral cultural connections in Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Isabelle has delivered accredited, non-accredited and customised training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in community services, corporate governance, cross-cultural communications, business, early childhood services, financial literacy, leadership, mentoring and personal development, and in cultural awareness for non-Indigenous people. Ms Adams has comprehensive experience on advisory and management bodies and held membership on state and national committees.

Libby Jackson-Barrett
Libby Jackson-Barrett is a Lecturer and Senior Indigenous Researcher within the school of Education at Murdoch University. Libby is passionate about improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students regardless of education context. Libby was the Project Leader for the Skilling Up Project: Improving Educational Opportunities for AEWs through technology-based pedagogy (2014-2016), funded by the for the Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT). Libby’s latest Project is — On Country Learning: Promoting Remote Australian Aboriginal Children's Wellbeing and Creativity.

Braden Hill
Braden is a teacher who has stumbled into university management. Despite sometimes missing the classroom, Braden has an absolute passion for the work that he does in leading the University’s efforts to increase the engagement and success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with higher education. Braden understands the transformative impact that university education can have on Indigenous people, their families and their communities. He has an academic background in learning and teaching, and have a broad range of research interests.

Thierra Clanton
Thierra is a proud Nyoongar, Wongai, Yamatji and Gidja woman and the senior program manager for AIME at Murdoch university. For the last five years at AIME she has transitioned into roles of national presenter, program manager and now senior program manager. Thierra is a proud Murdoch university student who is in her final year of completing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Environmental Management and Sustainability. Working in the Indigenous youth space has been a part of Thierra’s life for the last 14 years and she continues to fight for Indigenous educational equality.

Sharna Walley
Sharna is a Noongar woman who has been working directly with young people for the last 10 years. Sharna has managed a youth mentoring program for the past 5 years and worked with hundreds of Aboriginal youth in the metro region over this time. She is very passionate about building resilience in young people through strengthening their cultural identities and confidence. Sharna has recently started her own company, Boorloo Experiences, teaching culture to the community and to the rest of the world. She also works part-time at Murdoch University as the Equity Project Officer.
NSW Aboriginal Consultative Group

Jo (Ian) Miller
Aboriginal Mental Health Co-ordinator, Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)

Rachel Peake
Stroke Care Co-ordinator for Peel and Mehi Tamworth Stroke Service, HNELHD

Mary-Anne Dieckmann
Palliative Care Nurse, HNE Health, HNELHD

Matthew Crawford
Clinical Nurse Consultant, HNELHD

Raakeeta Smallwood
Project Manager for the Lighthouse Project (which aims to improve access for aboriginal people into health), HNELHD

Cheryl Porter
CEO, Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation

Kate Young
SEWB Health Worker, Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation

Research team members and staff information

Professor Rhonda Marriott - WA
Rhonda is the Director for the Ngangk Yira Centre for Research in Aboriginal Health and Social Equity. Rhonda applies community participatory action research methods and is a chief investigator on 15 research projects that are addressing questions of concern to Aboriginal communities. Rhonda was born in Derby, Western Australia, and is descended from Kimberley Nyikina people through her mother. She is a registered nurse and midwife and celebrates over 50 years in Nursing.

Professor Kim Usher - NSW
I am an experienced academic leader and researcher recognised both nationally and internationally. During more than two decades as a senior academic leader I have initiated and led strategic change across schools, universities, government departments, professional groups and international bodies. Since 2005 I have received more than $4 million in competitive funding for research and/or consultancy activities. My research outputs include in excess of 200 publications in high quality peer reviewed journal and numerous book chapters.

Dr Carrington Shepherd - WA
Carrington Shepherd is a Senior Research Fellow at the Telethon Kids Institute, Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia and ARC Life Course Centre Fellow. He has a passionate interest in bridging the knowledge gap on social inequalities in Aboriginal health in Australia and undertakes research with a social determinants of health focus. His publications span the scientific and public policy domains, and include landmark studies on the health of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Western Australia.

Mary Slatter
Drug and Alcohol Worker, Walhallow Aboriginal Corporation

Neville Sampson
Spiritual Elder and Uncle in the community

Sid Sampson
Uncle in the community

Bob Faulkner
Uncle in the community

Audrey Trindall
Aunty in the community

Lani Brennan
Community Member

John Taylor (known as JT or Jono)
Community Member

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Community Member

John Taylor (known as JT or Jono)
Community Member
In 1994 I started a program called Project KIDS with Professor Mike Anderson. For more than 20 years we have worked with kids, young people and families in cities, towns and remote communities around Australia to understand what helps kids grow to their potential and what makes healthy brains for strong living. Working with families helps me to learn more about how some kids stay really strong even when things get tough and how parents can help their kids (and themselves) to be at their best.

Professor Debra Jackson - NSW
Professor Debra Jackson RN, PhD, FACN is a Professor of Nursing at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). She is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, and a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing (Xi Omicron & Phi Mu). She has a particular interest in family nursing with a focus on parenting, adolescence and resilience. Debra is passionately concerned with health equity and social justice, and a key objective of her work is to enhance the safety and well-being of people in the care of health services through the development of sustainable and culturally sensitive supportive interventions.

Dr Katrina Hopkins - WA
Katrina has a PhD from The University of Western Australia and is currently Senior Research Co-ordinator at the Telethon Kids Institute. Katrina completed her PhD on the psychosocial resilience of Western Australian Aboriginal youth using population representative data from the WA Aboriginal Child Health Survey.

Dr Brody Heritage - WA
Brody Heritage is a Lecturer in Organisational Psychology at the School of Psychology and Exercise Science, Murdoch University. His research interests are currently focused on turnover, retention, measurement, and psychometrics.

Cindy Woods
Cindy Woods is a Senior Research Fellow in the School of Health at the University of New England, NSW, and is the Project Officer for the Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing (YiPRIaW) research project in NSW. She has a passionate interest in Indigenous health and this is one of her research focus areas. Her other research interests include patient safety, alcohol and drug-related ED presentations, nurse retention and sun protective behaviours.

Ella Gorman – PhD Student
Having recently finished my Honours in Psychology at the University of Western Australia, I am a brand new team member and student at Ngangk Yira in 2018. I will be conducting my PhD research as a part of the Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing project. My particular study focus will involve statistically checking the validity of the questionnaires we will use to measure resilience and wellbeing as they are experienced by our Aboriginal youth.

Cecilia Strutt – Project Officer
Cecilia Strutt is the Project Officer for the Young Indigenous People’s Resilience and Wellbeing project. She considers it an honour and a privilege to be working in a cross-cultural environment, to be working on a project that has translational relevance and brings benefit to community; and to be working with the Ngangk Yira team.

Grantley Winmar – Research Assistant
Grantley is a Ballardong Nyoongar man and he was born in Fremantle, however his family come from Quairading in the wheat belt. Grantley has a Bachelors degree in Security Terrorism and Counter Terrorism with his second major being in Australian Indigenous Studies. Grantley has a strong passion for Indigenous mental health and is completing his research Masters in this area. Grantley is a part time research assistant for both Murdoch’s Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre and the Ngangk Yira Centre. He considers it a rewarding privilege to work alongside researchers within these projects and looks forward to seeing the outcomes.
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