

## Survey | Health Literacy Among Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Males in the Northern Territory

The Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Gambling (AODG) Unit at Menzies School of Health Research is leading a research project relating to **Health Literacy Among Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Males in the NT**. The aim of this study is to explore the interplay between health literacy, gender (specifically masculinities) and cultural identity among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males aged 14-24 years living in the Northern Territory (NT), Australia.

**Health literacy** and gender are critical social determinants of health impacting on the lives of Indigenous people worldwide. Yet, very little is known about how these concepts shape the identities of young Indigenous men. This is a mixed-methods study involving a combination of surveys, yarning sessions and photo-voice methods.

**The survey component involves using two survey instruments. Information collected through these surveys has potential to provide practitioners, organizations and governments with insights about health literacy at individual and population levels. In this instance, it will help to better develop and implement health and social services programs for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males.**

We are sending the weblink to complete the survey out to our networks over the following few weeks. Please share with all young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males you know.

We are also able to facilitate group sessions (to complete the survey) with organizations that support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males. If you are interested in a facilitator helping in this way please contact Ben Christie (Menzies) on 0447 414 160.

We have attached an [Information Sheet](#) for your reference. Feel free to get in touch if this project would be of interest and you would have some potential groups who would be interested.

All completed surveys are placed into a raffle for an **iPad giveaway!**

[Click Here to Start the Survey](#)

**Thank you for your time and feedback.** You are helping make us to better develop and implement health and social service programs for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males.

Professor James Smith  
Father Frank Flynn Fellow (Harm Minimisation)  
Menzies School of Health Research  
[www.menzies.edu.au](http://www.menzies.edu.au)

## INFORMATION SHEET – HEALTH LITERACY SURVEY

### What is the project about?

This aim of the project is to address a significant evidence gap about understanding health literacy among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males aged 14-24 years old that in the Northern Territory (NT). We are keen to learn about their understanding of health and how this links to concepts of gender and cultural identity. We are also keen to know how these concepts shape their life aspirations.

### There are three phases to this research. This includes:

- a) Health literacy survey (this will take about 15-45mins to complete)
- b) Yarning circle (this is a small group discussion that will take about 1 to 1 ½ hours); and
- c) Photovoice (this involves taking photos or short videos and the time taken depends on how much or how little you want to document)

You have been identified as a potential stakeholder that can contribute to this study. As such, you are being invited to participate in the health literacy survey.

### Who is completing the research?

The Lowitja Institute has funded Charles Darwin University (CDU) and Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) to lead this project. The research team also includes representatives from NT Government (NTG), Edith Cowan University (ECU), Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BIITE), Flinders University (FU) and Deakin University (DU). Service providers and local organizations with an interest in the health and wellbeing of young Indigenous males include of Darwin Indigenous Men's Service, Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre (MLLLC), AFLNT, Fred Hollows Foundation and Healing Foundation.

This project involves both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous investigators. Investigators include Prof James Smith (Menzies), Mr Jason Bonson (NTG), Dr Mick Adams (ECU), Prof Barry Judd (CDU), Dr Stephen Hagan (BIITE), Prof Adrian Miller (CDU), Prof Richard Osborne (DU), Prof Murray Drummond (FU), and Mr Ben Christie (Menzies).

### What will the project do?

It is envisaged this research will help to develop a baseline level of health literacy among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males in the NT. Overtime, this will help to monitor changes in the levels of health literacy among this various programs, services and policies can be better tailored to meet the health and social needs of this group. It may also contribute to the development of age, gender-specific and culturally appropriate health education resource development or sharing purposes, such as with the EILG in Phase 3.

### How will the project be done?

This research will be conducted in the NT only. The survey will be undertaken either online or face-to-face with a member of the research team. These will typically last for 15-30 minutes. You will be invited to participate in one or more of these research activities throughout the project. The survey data will be combined with information collected through the yarning circle and photovoice components.

**When will this project happen?**

The research will occur between June to March 2019.

**Benefits and Risks**

The primary aim of this research is to better understand the health needs of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males. The information we collect will be helpful for planning and implementing better health and social programs, services and policies for this group.

There are no specific risks to you or the community if you choose to give information in this research.

**Use of your information**

If you participate in the survey you should know that your information will remain anonymous. Your responses will only be presented in a summarized form when combined with the other responses received.

Any personal contact details you provide will only be used to provide you with a giftcard as a way to say thank you for participating in the study.

During this project, staff may also take photos or videos clips. Please let them know if you don't want to be recorded or if you don't want your image used in a certain way.

Mandatory reporting requirements means that legally the researchers may be obliged to disclose the information you provide, particularly in areas relating to crime, sexual activity and violence. Information that you provide may be used in publications or other products such as research papers, reports, presentations or the development of health education resources.

Upon completion of the project, a final report with findings and recommendations will be available at: <https://www.lowitja.org.au/male-health-literacy-nt>

**Safety of your information**

We will store recorded information in a safe and secured location at CDU and Menzies.

**Who to contact**

If you have questions about this form, the project, or about the information that you provide, please contact Mr Ben Christie, Project Officer on (08) 8946 8534 or Professor James Smith, Principal Investigator on (08) 8946 8685. If you have any questions or concerns that you would prefer not to direct to project staff, please contact the Ethics team at CDU Human Research Ethics Committee on (08) 8946 6923, on the toll free number, 1800 466 215 or by email, [ethics@cdu.edu.au](mailto:ethics@cdu.edu.au)