Aboriginal health is an ASRI

- serious commitment by FUSA to Aboriginal health (ASRI: 5 year commitment, 3 year funding)
- ASRI funds (~$100K/yr), and significant co-investment from Faculty of Health Sciences (~$75K/yr)
- Enables establishment of FAHRU to support FAHR
Flinders Aboriginal Health Research Goals

• Sustainable improvements to health of Aboriginal people through research
• Flinders envisages becoming a leading provider of Aboriginal health research
• Benefits to both FUSA and the communities we serve

The FAHRU team

From left
• Anne Amos
• Dr Inge Kowanko
• Kim O'Donnell
• Helen Liddle
Role of FAHRU

- Coordinate, support, conduct and grow Aboriginal health research
- Match needs of research users to skills of research providers
- Enhance collaboration
- Help to obtain funds for research
- Promote principles of ethical Indigenous research
- Encourage capacity development /exchange
- Disseminate research findings
- Influence policy, practice, education

Flinders Aboriginal Health Researchers (FAHR)

- Large group
  - 48 named on ASRI submission
  - + 65 active
  - + >50 interested
  - + many others outside FUSA
- Working across SA and NT
- Research spans health and social sciences
- All are committed to research that
  - meets Aboriginal people’s needs
  - leads to sustained improvements in Aboriginal health
Holistic Aboriginal view of health

‘...health is not just the physical wellbeing of an individual, but the social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing of the whole community in which each individual is able to achieve their full potential as a human being thereby bringing about the total wellbeing of their community’ (NAHS 1989)

FAHR track record

Developing relationships with Aboriginal communities and organisations
Reputation as trustworthy, ethical research partner

Examples of multi-d collaborations, larger long-term programs
Publications, higher degrees, leadership positions
>$6 million over 3 years (05-08) from 98 research grants
FAHR research areas include:

- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Health services and systems
- Workforce development
- Social and environmental determinants of health
- Appropriate research methodologies
- Complex chronic conditions
- Injury and violence
- Infectious diseases and consequences
- Health indicators and trends

Major collaborations

- Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health in partnership with AHCSA
Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health

- www.crcah.org.au
- FUSA is a core partner with CDU, La Trobe, UQ, Melb U, MSHR, QIMR, AIATSIS, DoHA, CAAC, DDHS, NT DHCS, and 7 associate partners
- CRCAH supports high quality strategic research that improves Indigenous health outcomes
- Aboriginal community driven research agenda and research development process
- research integrates capacity development and transfer into policy/practice
- Year 3 of 7 year DEST funding

Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health

5 research programs
- Comprehensive Primary Health Care, Systems and Workforce
- Healthy Skin (scabies and skin diseases)
- Social Determinants of Health
- Chronic Diseases
- Social and Emotional Well Being

FAHR involved in
- development of programs
- in kind and CRCAH funded projects
Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health

- Partnership of AHCSA, FUSA and Aboriginal health services in Eyre Peninsula (PLAHS, PW, CKAHS)
- Year 2 of 5 year NHMRC funding
- Focus on prevention and management of chronic conditions of Aboriginal people
- Builds on and brings together our past and current research
- Integrates capacity development
- Emphasis on research dissemination and transfer
- Strong base for attracting funds

Current and planned activities (1)

- Draft action plan for year 1
- FAHR advisory group and steering committee
- Marketing FAHR and FAHRU
  - Brochure
  - Website in development
  http://www.flinders.edu.au/healthsc/research/research/FAHRU.htm
  - Media, networking and yarning
  - Flinders Aboriginal health research expo - 24/11/05
Current and planned activities (2)

Informing FAHR
- Research funding opportunities
- Strategic directions and trends and directions
- Capacity development opportunities
- Ethics, guidelines, key reports

Current and planned activities (3)

• Building relationships
  - with Aboriginal communities and organisations
  - with other researchers within and outside FUSA
  - with service providers, policy makers
• Promoting and modeling best practice
  Aboriginal health research
Current and planned activities (4)

- Helping FAHR obtain research funds and develop partnerships
  - match needs, opportunities and expertise
  - new groups, grants, submissions, post grad students
  - Database of FAHR research
- Stronger involvement in CRCAH and CCRE

Other planned activities

- Methodology workshops and cultural awareness training
- Seminar program
- Interactive website
- Promote research to Aboriginal people
- Identify priorities and needs of Aboriginal people and other stakeholders
- Encourage curriculum innovation
- Proactive approach to gaining new research program funding
Contact us

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http://www.flinders.edu.au/healthsc/research/research/FAHRU.htm