

# IAHA 2013

Protecting and Revitalising Culture Through  
Our Professions

- Novel vehicles for cultural revitalisation
- Create culturally and personally safe spaces within our professions, our services, our communities
- Privilege Indigenous knowledge
- Engage and acknowledge Traditional Practitioners, Cultural Mentors and Cultural Educators
- Science/health sciences as platform for cultural revitalisation
- ACCHS as network for cultural education
- Extending our collective perspective
- We are better, stronger together



Model  
of Care

Tjukurrpa

Lore  
Law  
Continuity

KANYINI

Spirit  
Soul

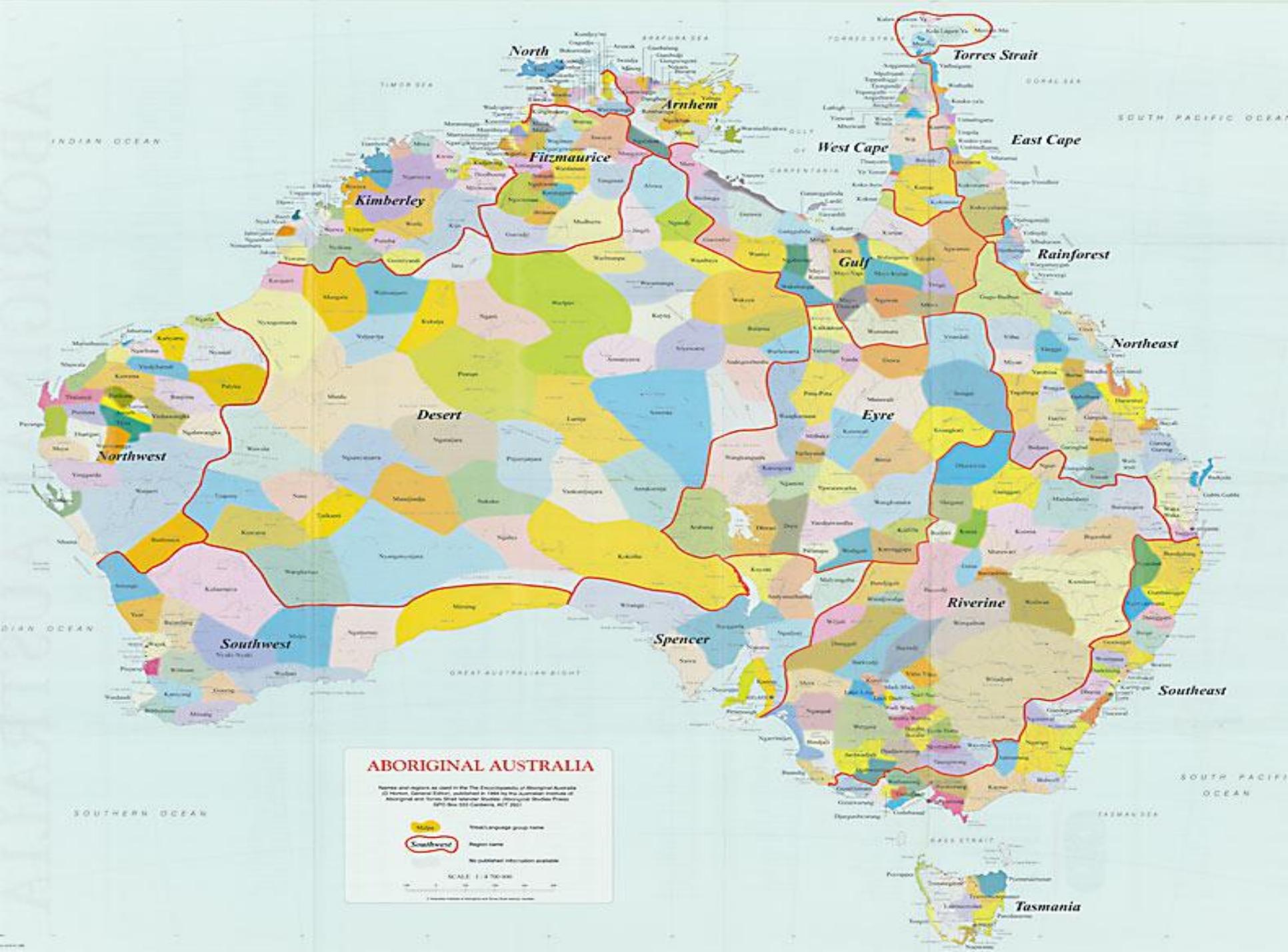
Kurrunpa

Ngurra

Land  
Home  
Country

Walytja

Family  
Community  
Humanity



### ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA

Names and regions as used in *The Encyclopedia of Aboriginal Australia*  
 © Weston, General Editor, published in 1988 by the Australian Institute of  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (Aboriginal Studies Press)  
 (P.O. Box 351 Canberra, ACT 2601)

- Murni Murni language group name
- Southwest Region name
- No published information available

SCALE 1 : 9 700 000

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# Cultural Determinants Human Rights

Self Determination	UDHR; UNDRIP
Freedom from discrimination	ICERD; ICESCR
Individual and Collective Rights	UNDRIP; ICCPR
Freedom from assimilation and destruction of culture	ILO Convention (No. 169) on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples; ICCPR
Protection from removal/relocation	CRC; ICERD; UNDRIP
Connection to, custodianship and utilisation of country and traditional lands	ILO Convention; ICESCR; Convention on Biological Diversity
Reclamation, revitalisation, preservation and promotion of language and cultural practices	CRC; ICESCR
Protection and promotion of TK, IIP	ILO Convention; UD Bioethics and Human Rights
Understanding of lore, law, traditional roles and responsibilities	UNDRIP

Determinant	Example	Indicator/Measures (for example)
Self Determination	ACCH sector	The number of new and established CCHS
Freedom from discrimination	3AQ culturally safe services	Zero tolerance policies Increased number of social initiatives Decreased number of complaints to AHRC
Recognition of individual and collective rights	Citizenship, cultural rights, human rights Some knowledge cannot be individually owned e.g. genetic/biological information	Australia incorporates Articles of international HR instruments in domestic legislation; Constitutional reform – does not allow Cth to enact racist legislation; Compulsory research agreements that ensure legal and ethical protections, addressing self determination, priority setting, benefit sharing
Freedom from assimilation and destruction of culture	Inclusive policies and resourcing	National curriculum 1 + 2 schools addressing history, Indigenous culture Policy impact assessments Political representation

Determinant	Example	Indicator/Measures
Protection from removal/relocation	Birthing Dialysis Education Ongoing removal of children	Develop a model of service delivery, funded to provide co-located 1/2/3 services The number of ACCHS supported to provide comprehensive co-located care
Connection to, custodianship, and utilisation of country and traditional lands	Formal acknowledgement and validation of cultural knowledge and practices Upscaling Indigenous enterprises	Increased number of Rangers and trainees More micro-financing initiatives/opportunities Native Title determinations Heritage and national park orders
Reclamation, revitalisation, preservation and promotion of language and cultural practices	AIATSIS APY Women’s Council	Language education courses Employment of cultural educators Funded local cultural education initiatives Network of CIS
Protection and promotion of TK and IIP	International HR instruments and agencies UNPFII, ECOSOC, UNESCO	Domestic legislation (Cth) Ethical guidelines and legal protections – custodianship of traditional/cultural language, songs, stories, images, designs, biological material Authority to negotiate benefit

<b>Determinant</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Indicators/Measure</b>
Understanding of lore, law, and traditional roles and responsibilities	Not lazy, addicts, wife beaters, child abusers Strong, resilient Surviving in difficult environments, strict social structures, clear social roles	Men's cultural education network – NACCHO and member services

# Indigenous Resilience

- Current studies demonstrate that strong cultural links and practices are protective factors and improve childhood and adolescent resilience against emotional and behavioural problems
- Lead to stronger sense of self, identity, confidence, self-worth
- Improve outcomes for health, education, employment
- Cultural resilience = the capacity of a community or cultural system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change in order to retain key elements of structure, identity that preserve its distinctness (Healy 2006)
- Denial of cultural and traditional practices leads to poorer health outcomes – racism, discrimination and social exclusion associated with risk factors, biomedical markers of chronic disease,
- Applied to individuals, families, communities, cultural structures/networks

<b>Indigenous Practices</b>	<b>Science</b>
Connection to country	Geography, topography
Travel, exploration (land, sea)	Navigation, Astronomy
Kinship	Genealogy
Subsistence	Agriculture
Land and Sea Management	Environmental science, marine biology
Weather patterns, seasonal change	Meteorology
Water cycles	Hydrology
Traditional medicine	Medicine, pharmacology
Construction – boats, accommodation, fish traps, irrigation and pond systems	Engineering

# Pintupi Kinship

Gender	Skin name	First marriage preference	Children will be
Male	Tjapaltjarri	Nakamarra	Tjungurrayi, Nungurrayi
Female	Napaltjarri	Tjakamarra	Tjupurrula, Napurrula
Male	Tjapangati	Nampitjinpa	Tjapanangka, Napanangka
Female	Napangati	Tjampitjinpa	Tjangala, Nangala
Male	Tjakamarra	Napaltjarri	Tjupurrula, Napurrula
Female	Nakamarra	Tjapaltjarri	Tjungurrayi, Nungurrayi
Male	Tjampitjinpa	Napangati	Tjangala, Nangala
Female	Nampitjinpa	Tjapangati	Tjapanangka, Napanangka
Male	Tjapanangka	Napurrula	Tjapangati, Napangati
Female	Napanangka	Tjupurrula	Tjakamarra, Nakamarra
Male	Tjungurrayi	Nangala	Tjapaltjarri, Napaltjarri
Female	Nungurrayi	Tjangala	Tjampitjinpa, Nampitjinpa
Male	Tjupurrula	Napanangka	Tjakamarra, Nakamarra
Female	Napurrula	Tjapanangka	Tjapangati, Napangati
Male	Tjangala	Nungurrayi	Tjampitjinpa, Nampitjinpa
Female	Nangala	Tjungurrayi	Tjapaltjarri, Napaltjarri

# Conceptual Framework for Genetic Research and Biobanking in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

## VALUES – Cultural Context

SOVEREIGNTY

CULTURAL  
INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SPIRIT & INTEGRITY

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT

PRIORITY

CAPACITY BUILDING

BENEFIT

SUSTAINABILITY &  
TRANSFERABILITY

ETHICAL RESEARCH

RESEARCH IMPACT

SELF DETERMINATION

FREE PRIOR &  
INFORMED CONSENT

BENEFIT SHARING

## RIGHTS – International Context

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nerds



- Health sciences as a platform, vehicle for cultural revitalisation
- Training and education in medicine and allied health that privileges Indigenous knowledge
- Train clinicians, scholars, researchers, educators, influencers
- Health professions/professionals for preservation of cultural integrity

# Service Locations



**NACCHO**

National Aboriginal Community  
Controlled Health Organisation

-  **Aboriginal Medical Service**
-  **Affiliates**

# Benefits

- Individual and programmatic success
- Creating an inclusive professional community
- Shifting attitudes, cultural change
- E.g. Cuba – doctors are public servants, trained not for individual gain but social responsibility
- Greater understanding of health and medical systems
- Greater sectoral capacity
- Informed public advocacy
- Improved health and social wellbeing
- Positive (inter) generational change