

# KEY MESSAGES

## Knowledge exchange and capacity building in urban Aboriginal health

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### Policy context

In the past, research has been conducted on Aboriginal people by external non-Aboriginal organisations with little or no partnership with the community. More often than not, the findings from research are not disseminated back to the participating Aboriginal community in a meaningful way that enables them to make proper use of the findings to bring about change.

One of the core aims of the CRE was to contribute substantially to the knowledge of urban Aboriginal child health through data generated from the Study of Environment on Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH), knowledge exchange and translation and research capacity building. The Centre shared findings from the research in urban Aboriginal child health through a Knowledge Exchange (KE) program, led by an Aboriginal Knowledge Broker with experience in research and ACCHSs health service provision. The sharing process enabled the ACCHSs to understand the data, provide feedback and to develop evidence guided new or enhanced programs based on their extensive knowledge of their communities.

Capacity building for many Aboriginal communities is often a very one-way process that involves non-Aboriginal people developing capacity building programs without consultation with Aboriginal people to explore the areas they feel there is a need for further capacity building. The CRE was designed for two-way capacity building (both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers) and to build a group of Aboriginal researchers who can lead research in partnership with communities into the future. Together, the KE and capacity building programs resulted in positive changes for the Aboriginal communities.

### Key messages

- > Knowledge exchange is a dynamic and iterative process in which researchers can learn from Aboriginal primary healthcare providers and care providers can learn from researchers, to continuously improve the research and inform health care provision
- > Strong partnerships and governance, Aboriginal leadership and building Aboriginal capacity and an explicit focus on using the research evidence to improve health can bring about change
- > Research data that is shared in a two-way process between researchers and care providers can drive new programs to improve health
- > A commitment to Aboriginal research capacity building is essential to ensure Aboriginal staff members can engage with and lead the research, but also allows non-Aboriginal members of the research team learn from their Aboriginal colleagues about how to conduct and disseminate research in a way that is culturally appropriate.

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