

The top section of the cover features a dark red background adorned with various Indigenous art patterns. These include concentric circles, wavy lines, and dotted patterns in shades of green, yellow, and red.

FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH STRATEGY

2023 – 2028



Office of
Indigenous
Engagement

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we work and learn. We pay respect to the First Nations Peoples and their Elders, past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Indigenous Australians. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities are also respectfully referred to within this Strategy as Indigenous Australians, First Australians and First Nations Peoples.

Further, we acknowledge the unceded land, sea, and waterways of First Nations people; the sovereignty of First Nation peoples; the detrimental impacts invasion/colonisation have had and is having on First Nations peoples; and we acknowledge First Nations Self-Determination. This land is and will always be Aboriginal land.

COVER ARTWORK

Billabong Camp was designed for the CQUniversity Office of Indigenous Engagement to depict time-worn tracks that lead to a shady place of water, where clans gather under paperbark trees after a long, hot journey. The design places people at its centre, referencing students, researchers, people

and community. Tracks to a place by water and paperbark trees symbolises the energising, holistic values of the learning journey. The motifs depict people, tracks and meeting places; a story that relates to each individual, on a journey that holds limitless pathways of learning, growth and connection.





MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH

As Vice-President of Research at CQUniversity, I am proud to introduce our First Nations Research Strategy (2023 – 2028); developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders across CQUniversity in partnership with First Nations and non-Indigenous champions from across the country.

As Australia's largest regional University, CQUniversity recognises the significance and influence of rural, remote, and regional Australia. We recognise that a significant proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders represent, and are represented, in these communities and our strategy reflects a commitment to initiatives that support community-driven research. The strategy describes a commitment to First Nations-led research that benefits the people of Queensland, Australia, and the globe. I look forward to a prosperous, beneficial, and positive future for all Australians; empowered and inspired by our First Nations Research Strategy.



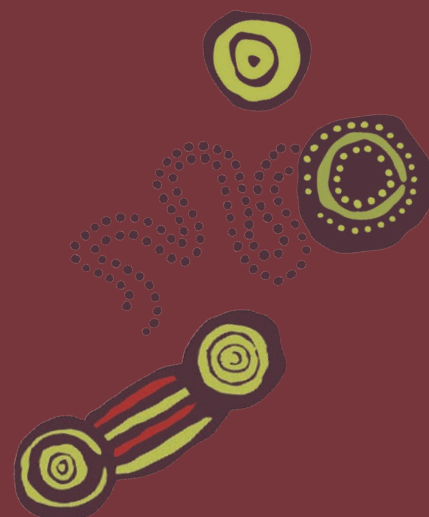
MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

As an Aboriginal man of the Jirrbal people of North Queensland, Deputy Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement, Co-Director of the Jawun Research Centre, and BMA Chair in Indigenous Engagement; I am humbled and honoured to stand beside my colleagues at CQUniversity and introduce our First Nations Research Strategy (2023 – 2028). Through the strategy, we will deliver work that makes a difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, and communities.

We will lead, collaborate, co-design and celebrate First Nations peoples as the first researchers of this continent and the significance, power and proprietary of community-driven research. We look to a future of responsible and accountable research led by our people, for community and with our non-Indigenous colleagues.



Building on existing strengths and world class reputation in the fields of First Nations health and wellbeing, public health and disaster management, language and communication, coastal management and marine science, the Strategy aims to enhance the skills and professional attributes of First Nations and non-Indigenous researchers and students by investing in high-quality research training and offering career development opportunities.



OVERVIEW

CQUniversity's First Nations Research Strategy 2023-2028 is a key initiative of our Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024 and guides longer-term commitments to advancing First Nations research excellence and innovation. The Strategy aligns to CQUniversity's focus on applied and high-impact research that drives positive change for communities and expanding our global research collaboration and partnerships across Australia, the Pacific, Asia and North America.

The First Nations Research Strategy 2023-2028 focusses on the growth and development of First Nations led and informed research across the breadth of disciplinary areas at CQUniversity. It builds on existing strengths and world class reputation in the fields of First Nations health and wellbeing, public health and disaster management, language and communication, and in coastal management and marine science. The Strategy aims to enhance the skills and professional attributes of First Nations and non-Indigenous researchers and students by investing in high-quality research training and offering career development opportunities.

Research at CQUniversity is situated within the paradigms of Reconciliation and Voice-Treaty-Truth, supporting the Self-Determination and rights of First Nations peoples across Australia. We are committed to providing equality of opportunity through access to innovative education, training and research excellence, and to embracing the strengths and leadership of First Nations peoples.

Our research aligns with First Nations ethical principles and practice, and will endeavor to address the priorities identified by First Nations stakeholders. Opportunities for collaborative and participative research partnerships, and two-way capacity development are embedded in research that is co-designed with and for First Nations communities. Our goals respond to the urgent need to create sustainable and tangible improvements alongside First Nations leaders and communities, and to maximise individual and collective impact through strengths-focused outputs and research translation that delivers community benefit beyond the research project life cycle.

CQUniversity's research aims to engage at the interface of First Nations and Western knowledge systems in a space that is respectful of different cultural worldviews, values and practices. We acknowledge that First Nations peoples maintain distinct societies and ways of knowing and understanding that are learnt and retained through languages, relationships to land, kin and cultural practices. These knowledges are foundational to the intellectual, social and cultural capital of Australia, and are growing and evolving to offer critical insights into contemporary research enquiry across an array of disciplines.



Safeguarding the cultural and intellectual property of First Nations partners and Custodians.



PRINCIPLES

CQUniversity commits to embedding a strong culture and practice of First Nations research across the institution. Our research is framed by principles that align with the ethical conduct of research, is rights-based and empowering, and that safeguard the cultural and intellectual property of First Nations partners and Custodians.¹





OUR RESEARCH AIMS TO:

1. BE FIRST NATIONS LED AND INFORMED

We aim to engage in research that is co-designed with First Nations leaders and research partners, be they from community, industry or other institutions. This means our research is informed by the perspectives and aspirations of First Nations peoples, and that First Nations researchers or advisors are genuinely engaged in all stages from project inception through to communication of results and translation into practice. We will ensure that the ownership of First Nations knowledges and intellectual property are always appropriately acknowledged and protected.

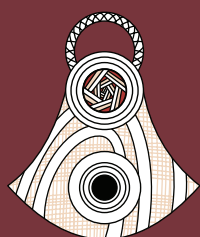
2. DELIVER BENEFIT AND IMPACT

Our First Nations focused research aims to deliver positive impact and benefits for First Nations peoples and communities, and according to their priorities and values. Measures for these benefits and outcomes will be designed through genuine partnerships with First Nations stakeholders, and in conjunction with research co-partners. We will seek to translate research into practical change, and advocate outcomes through dialogue with government, industry and the wider community.

3. SUPPORT FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

CQUniversity will provide an environment of research excellence that supports First Nations researchers and research programs to excel. We will continue to foster the capabilities of First Nations and non-Indigenous researchers through a range of training and career development opportunities. We aspire to create a culturally competent research environment in which two-way knowledge sharing, reciprocity, mutual respect and understanding, and life-long learning are common practice.





CQUniversity's Jawun Research Centre and Jilbay Research Higher Degree Academy are established leaders in First Nations research excellence and postgraduate research training.

FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH

CQUniversity's Jawun Research Centre and Jilbay Research Higher Degree Academy are established leaders in First Nations research excellence and postgraduate research training. The University's Institutes, other Centres and Schools also engage in First Nations led and informed research, often in partnership with community and other stakeholders. Continual growth in research activity and impact is reflected in our national and international standing, and by the scope of projects and funding. Over the five-year period 2018-2022 CQUniversity researchers secured a total \$6.02 million (AUD) in First Nations research funding from Category 1 competitive grants (ARC, NHMRC, MRFF), Category 2 public sector and Category 3 industry sources.

JAWUN RESEARCH CENTRE

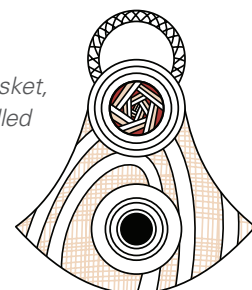
Jawun Research Centre is a flagship for First Nations health and wellbeing research in Australia and sets a pioneering agenda for change, underpinned by the principles of engagement, leadership and sovereignty for First Nations communities. Jawun's aim is to conduct engaged and high impact research to support First Nations communities and organisations to improve

community health and well-being. The Centre also invests in research capacity strengthening and education to develop the next generation of First Nations researchers.

Jawun is a Dyirbal word from the language of the Jirrbal people of Far North Queensland that means a style of weaving and a dilly bag that is unique to the world. Jawun is an organising metaphor, placing First Peoples language in the Centre's collective purpose and vision. As a hub of likeminded researchers, Jawun staff and students work in partnership with communities and organisations, adhering to cultural protocols and ethics of place, with four main research focus areas:

- » Collaborative Research for Community Wellbeing and Public Health
- » Disaster Management and Engagement
- » Language, Culture and Wellbeing
- » Community led Mental Health and Genomics 'Jingay'.

This image of the bi-cornial dillybag or basket, a unique multi-functional receptacle, is called a Jawun in Dyirbal language and used by Jirrbal people and is visual depiction of the Jawun Research Centre.





JAWUN RESEARCH CENTRE HAS ADOPTED 5 STRATEGIC GOALS:

1

Grow engagement with First Nations communities and organisations through improved communications and contribute to existing and new community and organisational partners through research activities.

2

Expand impact and reach by advocating our work to key stakeholders. Measure and report on the impact of our research using community-defined outcome measures to strengthen the evidence base for community wellbeing.

3

Enhance First Nations governance and leadership of Jawun through regular review of policies and practices, and by enhancing membership and employment opportunities.

4

Grow First Nations research capacity by increasing Jawun staff and supervising First Nations research candidates, and by continually improving the quality and cultural responsiveness of research practice.

5

Grow funding through annually increasing First Nations led grant applications and encourage the appropriate use of First Nations research design methods in funding submissions.



Jawun's research partnerships include the groundbreaking project with Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service – Yarrabah, Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Service – Casino, Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (DIYDG) and Queensland Government (Advance Queensland) to investigate community models and pathways to youth mental health care. This research responds to policy calls for First Nations community-driven initiatives to improve extant mental healthcare focused on youth.

The findings have helped inform community service providers and First Nations youth in the co-design of novel youth-guided and community-driven ways to support mental health services.

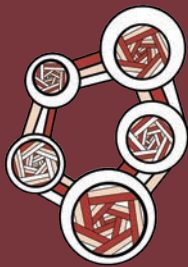
Stories about this collaboration can be found at:

» www.cqu.edu.au/youthvoice



Learn more about
our CQU Yarrabah
Mental Health Research





The name Jilbay is a Dyirbal word that translates to “old peoples’ wisdom”, and through sharing makes students clever – Jilbaybili – and makes supervisors/fellows more culturally clever – Jilbaymali.

JILBAY FIRST NATIONS RHD ACADEMY

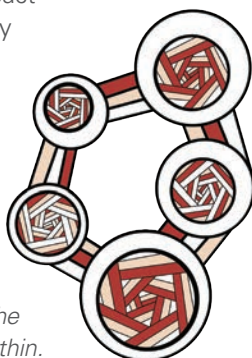
The Jilbay First Nations RHD Academy is a First Nations research-focused community of practice hosted within the Jawun Research Centre and the Office of Indigenous Engagement (OIE) in collaboration with the School of Graduate Research. The name Jilbay, is a Dyirbal word that translates to “old peoples’ wisdom”, and through sharing makes students clever - Jilbaybili - and makes supervisors/fellows more culturally clever - Jilbaymali.

Jilbay is the first internally funded Academy of its kind for any Australian university and offers a culturally safe and supportive research environment for First Nations candidates throughout their RHD study program. The Academy delivers a range of events and activities for candidates including cultural mentoring, residential schools, training sessions and regular face to face and virtual interaction. First Nations Elders are also invited to Jilbay activities to provide wisdom and guidance on Indigenous research protocols and engagement.

THE OBJECTIVES OF JILBAY ARE TO:

- » Support existing and future First Nations candidates throughout their RHD program with an emphasis on completions and graduate success.
- » Grow capacity in First Nations candidate supervision and the application of First Nations research methodologies and ethics.
- » Contribute to the University’s overall impact in First Nations research, including quality and engagement, and with an emphasis on community benefit.

The Jilbay symbol is the opening of the Jawun and is a representation of the students and their supervisors of the Jilbay RHD Academy. The placement of the Jilbay symbol represents peering into the bag and accessing knowledge being held within.



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The First Nations Research Strategy works in conjunction with a suite of CQUniversity plans and initiatives designed to advance First Nations focused research, learning and teaching, student success, and workforce participation.

The Strategy is aligned to the University’s Strategic Plan 2024-2028: We Change Lives, where success is defined by a world-standard research portfolio that is solution oriented and responsive to community needs.

Our commitment to research excellence includes researcher training and development, an emphasis on impact and translation, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

ALIGNED STRATEGIES INCLUDE:

- » University Strategic Plan 2024-2028
- » Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024
- » First Nations Workforce Strategy 2020-2025
- » First Nations Cultural Competency Framework 2023-2028
- » First Nations Curriculum Framework and related policies.



RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Four priority areas are identified to focus effort and investment in First Nations research capacity. The priorities are presented in Figure 1 and will be delivered through a set of commitments outlined in Table 1.

1. DEVELOPING RESEARCH CAPABILITIES AND SKILLS.

The purpose is to develop the research skills of First Nations HDR candidates and invest in the development and leadership capabilities of First Nations and non-Indigenous researchers at all career stages. We will revise the research methods curriculum to include First Nations approaches and invest in research education through a series of First Nations focused courses and guides.

Success measures: First Nations HDR completions; recruitment of First Nations researchers; nomination and receipt of research awards; completion of research and supervisor training programs.

2. EXPANDING INCOME AND REACH.

We aim to increase overall First Nations research income and build on an extensive record of success in securing competitive grants and funding from multiple sources. We will continue to expand our First Nations research portfolio through our world leading Institutes and Centres and create opportunities for First Nations leadership in research governance.

Success measures: volume of research income; number and quality of First Nations led and informed research projects.

3. CREATING PARTNERSHIPS AND MEANINGFUL COLLABORATIONS.

Building and maintaining long-term collaborative research partnerships with community leaders and organisations provides the foundation to applied research and its collective impact. We will engage meaningfully with extant and new First Nations community partners, and seek mutually beneficial collaborations with governments and industry, and internationally with other institutions.

Success measures: maturing of collaboration into formal partnerships, such as joint funding applications, memorandums of understanding, contracts and agreements.

4. TRANSLATING IMPACT, EDUCATION AND COMMERCIALISATION OUTCOMES.

We aim to increase our research productivity, quality and relevance through research outputs and publications in appropriate fields, and against national and international benchmarks. By working with First Nations communities and stakeholders we will develop suitable measures for translating research into positive change. We will pursue opportunities to convert research scholarship into education and training and develop joint commercialisation ventures that realise financial returns.

Success measures: publications and ranking; translation of research into education materials; and commercialisation opportunities.

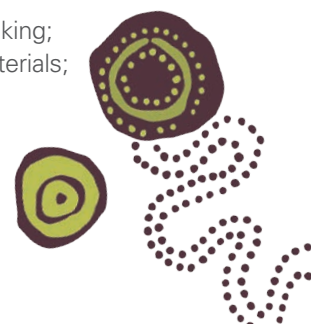




FIGURE 1. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

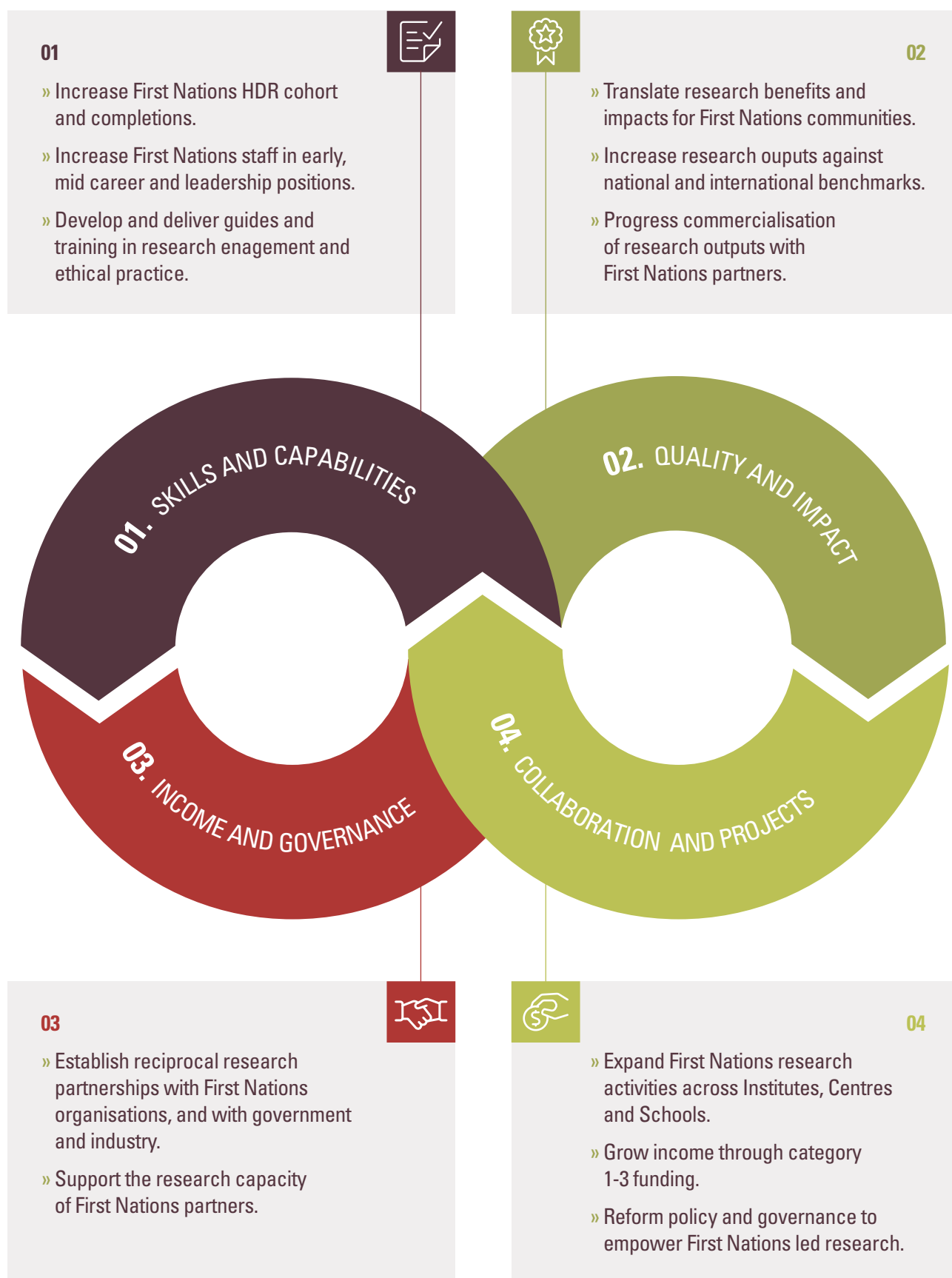
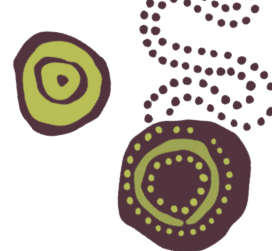


TABLE 1. RESEARCH COMMITMENTS

AMBITION 2023-28	FUNDING AND OPPORTUNITIES	PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES
1. Increase percentage First Nations research income over the period.	1.1 Increase number of applications and total value (\$) in Category 1-3 research funding.	By 2028, \$25 million in research income secured.
2. Grow research volume, quality and impact that delivers benefits to First Nations communities, and the wider society.	2.1 Increase publication outputs in First Nations research across recognised metric.	By 2028, minimum of 300 peer reviewed publications.
	2.2 Increase/maintain national and international rankings.	By 2025, world class or above.
3. Translate research outcomes into education, training and commercial products.	3.1 Increase research and commercialisation of products and services with First Nations co-partners.	By 2025, scope opportunities for new research commercialisation.
4. Partner and collaborate with First Nations communities and organisations, and with government and industry, on new research initiatives.	4.1 Scope and develop new research and commercialisation partnerships with First Nations stakeholders, and with government and industry.	By 2028, 10 new MoUs, agreements or contracts.
5. Train the current and next cohort of First Nations HDR graduates.	5.1 Grow the First Nations HDR student load and completions.	By 2028, 30 First Nations HDR EFTSL and 10 graduations.
	5.2 Increase First Nations enrolments and completions in Graduate Certificate Research	By 2028, 10 graduations.
	5.3 Develop a pre-research internship and/or traineeship program for aspiring First Nations research students.	By 2025, suitable funding for 2 places is secured and internship/traineeships offered.
	5.4 Increase identified scholarships for First Nations HDR students.	By 2025, total identified scholarships increased to 5 annually.
	5.5 Develop identified co-funded industry scholarships.	By 2027, 1 industry scholarship has been created.
6. Support the career development of First Nations researchers.	6.1 Appoint First Nations academics to identified research positions and provide career progression opportunities.	By 2028, 10 new First Nations research positions appointed.
	6.2 Establish a pilot post-doctoral or early career researcher program for First Nations graduates.	By 2026, secure funding for 2 post-doctoral positions.
	6.3 Explore internal and external opportunities for internship, cadetships, exchange or industry placement programs.	By 2027, staff and graduates are participating in exchange and internship programs.
7. Build skills and capabilities in First Nations led and informed research across CQUniversity.	7.1 Provide performance incentives for staff to complete training as First Nations HDR supervisors.	By 2028, 75 CQU staff have completed Jilbay supervisor program. By 2026, included in academic promotion pathways.
	7.2 Develop performance incentives for staff to complete training in First Nations research practice.	By 2028, 100% of CQU researchers have completed First Nations research training. By 2026, included in academic promotion pathways.
8. Reform governance and policy systems to foster an ethical and culturally empowering research environment.	8.1 Establish a First Nations research leadership group with membership across Institutes, Centres and Schools.	By 2024, leadership group is meeting regularly.





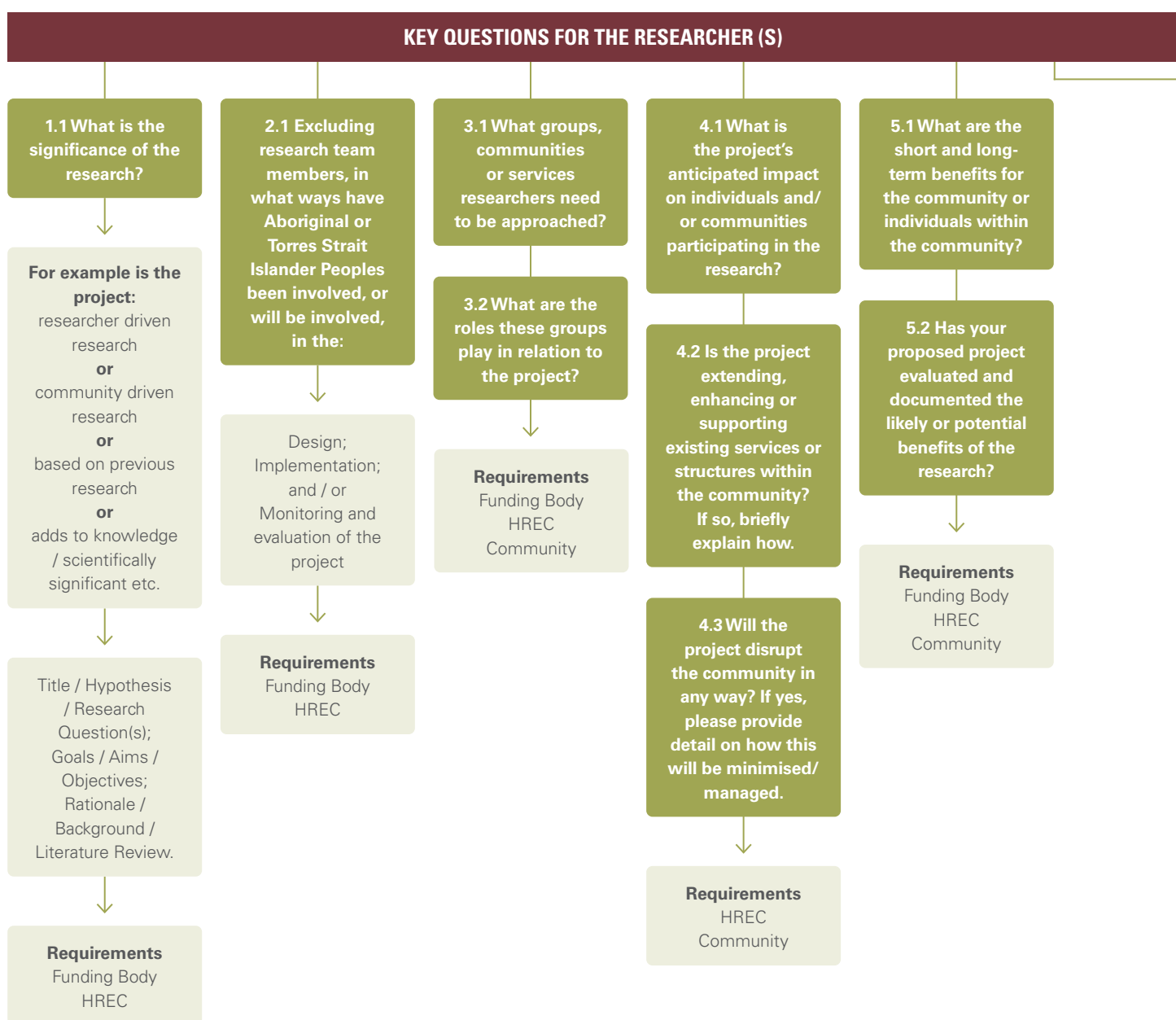
	RESPONSIBILITY	TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT	PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES	RESPONSIBILITY
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Offer training in grant writing and create internal peer review process for funding applications.	Every year organise a grant writing workshop.	Office of Research, Institutes, Centres and Schools.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Collaborate with First Nations partners to develop a definition of First Nations led and informed research.	By 2024, develop and publish a definition.	Institutes, Centres and Schools.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools			
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Incorporate research into university curriculum and training programs.	By 2028, complete micro-credentials, masterclasses, guides and other learning materials.	Institutes, Centres and Schools.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Support the capacity of First Nations community partners to engage in research (e.g., employment of research staff, remuneration, training).	By 2024, funding proposals to include dedicated support component (where feasible).	Institutes, Centres and Schools.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Deliver programs for HDR candidates to complete their studies through the Jilbay Academy and Schools.	By 2024, implement the Jilbay HDR Growth and Support Package	Jawun Research Centre, School of Graduate Research.
	School of Graduate Research			
	Jawun Research Centre, School of Graduate Research			
	School of Graduate Research, Jawun Research Centre	Revise research methods curriculum across Schools by including First Nations methodologies and perspectives.	By 2026, Schools and Colleges to include suitable First Nations research curriculum.	Deans, Heads of Schools and Colleges.
	School of Graduate Research			
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Offer First Nations staff identified professional development opportunities.	Every year identified funding offered to complete early, mid-career and leadership researcher programs.	Office of Research.
	Office of Research, Jawun Research Centre	Recognise the cultural workload requirements for First Nations research staff.	By 2026, academic profiles and position descriptions have been amended.	People and Culture Directorate.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Nominate staff and students for external research awards and prizes.	Every year, a minimum of 2 nominations.	Institutes, Centres and Schools.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Hold workshops and seminars in First Nations research methods, practice and ethics.	Every year, a minimum of 2 seminars and/or workshops delivered.	Jawun Research Centre.
	Institutes, Centres and Schools	Develop training programs, guides and other resources on: » research practice and quality assurance, » engagement and partnership development.	By 2028, micro-credentials and/or training programs are available in the marketplace.	OIE, Jawun Research Centre.
	Research Leaders	Develop a First Nations data sovereignty policy and procedure, and a First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property protocol.	By 2025, both policies are operational.	OIE, Research Leaders.

FIRST NATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH READINESS

Researchers engaging with First Nations partners and community need to consider multiple aspects in research co-design, including participation and leadership, priority setting, and the benefits and risks of any activity. To help inform research planning and preparation, a series of questions have been developed and are outlined in Figure 2.

Please take the time to seriously consider how you or your team respond to these questions; doing so will result in a research proposal that is meaningful, respectful, responsible, competitive and applicable for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their communities.

FIGURE 2.



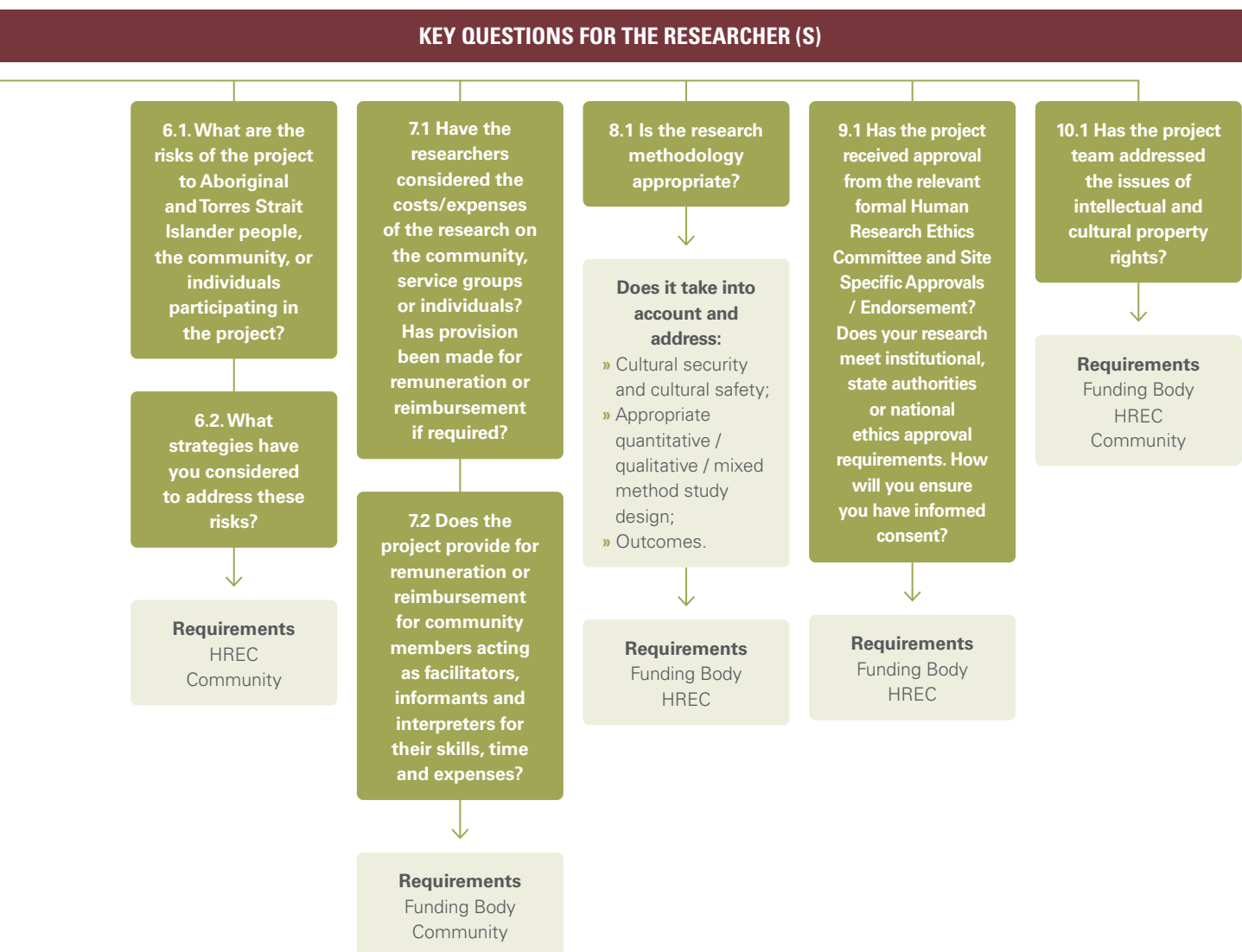
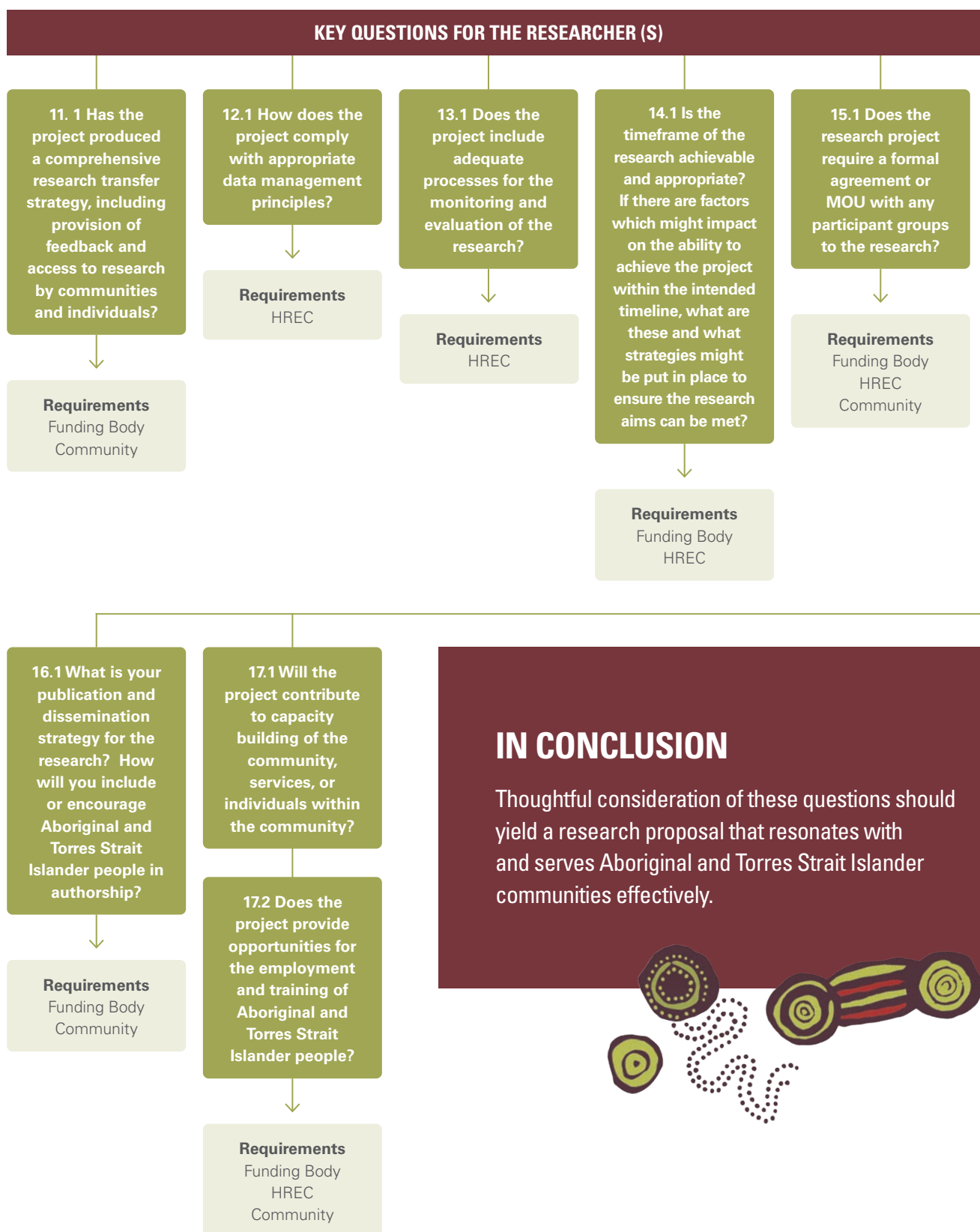


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FIGURE 2. continued





REFERENCES

¹ Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies *Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (the AIATSIS Code)*; National Health and Medical Research Council *Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*; Australian Council of Graduate Research *Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education*; United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j) Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices.

² Tsey, K., Lawson K., Kinchin, I., Bainbridge, R., McCalman, J., Watkin, F., Cadet-James, Y., Rossetto, A. (2016). Evaluating Research Impact: The Development of a Research for Impact Tool. *Frontiers in Public Health* 4.. Harfield, S., Pearson, O., Morey, K., Kite, E., Canuto, K., Glover, K., Streak-Gomersall, J., Carter, D., Davy, C., Aromataris, E., & Braunack-Mayer, A. (2020). Assessing the quality of health research from an Indigenous perspective: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander quality appraisal tool. *BMC Medical Research Methodology* 20, 79 (2020). Huria, T., Palmer, S.C., Pitama, S. et al. Consolidated criteria for strengthening reporting of health research involving indigenous peoples: the CONSIDER statement. *BMC Med Res Methodol* 19, 173 (2019).





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