

A Call for Community Hubs in the North

Findings from the Taingiwilta Pirku Kawantila Project

Taingiwilta Pirku, Taingiwilta Miyurna, Taingiwilta Yungkulungkularna

Strong Community, Strong People, Strong Services

Acknowledgment of Country: The Taingiwilta Pirku Kawantila Project proudly acknowledges the Kurna people as the traditional custodians of the land of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains region. We pay our respects to Kurna Ancestors and Elders and acknowledge the cultural authority of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We recognise the important contribution of cultural knowledge and knowledge based on lived experiences of the Aboriginal Governance Panel and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who contribute significantly to this research. This research is being done in partnership with Aboriginal communities and with service providers in the northern metropolitan area of Kurna Yerta. Taingiwilta Pirku Kawantila is the project name given by Kurna language and knowledge holders – Kurna Warra Karrpanthi – meaning ‘Strong Community in the North.’

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITY HUBS: WHAT HAVE WE HEARD?

During yarning circles we repeatedly heard that an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Hub is desperately needed, representing a central place for community to promote connection, belonging and identity in the North. Community members and service providers called for a place where community can connect with one another and with culture. Some participants suggested a one-stop-shop service centre model while others preferred a community centre model. The Hubs must be tailored to community needs and be designed and set up by community. As one participant stated:

“That’s right. One community engagement. Yep. Everyone within the community knows what’s going on. It’s a meeting point, to a place where you can sit around and do whatever, other services coming in. Yeah, perfect”. - **Aboriginal community member in the North**

A range of Community Hub models identified

- Aboriginal Community Hub or Wellbeing Centre with visiting service providers
- Aboriginal Community Mental Health Hub
- Holistic Aboriginal-specific One-Stop-Shop service centre with co-located multidisciplinary services
- Aboriginal-specific intensive wrap-around service centres specific to one sector or need
- Men’s Hub and Women’s Hub
- Nunga Family Centre with Elders, Grannies, Aunties and Uncles supporting kids
- Integrated Community and Sporting Hub
- Navigation Hub that provides links and connections to other services

Principles and ways of working in a Community Hub in the North

- Designed to feel like a culturally responsive Aboriginal space
- Accessible and family friendly
- Uphold the principle of Culture, Country and Community in design and service delivery
- Aboriginal community controlled (owned and led)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers with opportunities to upskill
- Non-Indigenous workers trained in cultural competency
- Access to technology
- Strengthen links between government services and Aboriginal community-controlled services

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Advocating for Community Hubs in the North

The *Taingingwilta Pirku Kawantila* project team have shared these findings with the Northern Mental Health Alliance, Aboriginal Primary Health Care services, Local Councils, the Northern Nungas Network and State Government. We will continue to advocate for the establishment of a Community Hub with sustainable funding and regular cultural events in Northern Adelaide with designated spaces and programs for Elders, men, women, youth, children and families.

For further information please contact Natasha Howard on Natasha.Howard@sahmri.com.

Project Background

This 5-year project is led by a team of researchers within Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity at SAHMRI. It aims to examine whether codesigned strategies to optimise and coordinate the health and social service system will meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and strengthen social and emotional wellbeing. The project is governed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and service providers employed in health and social service organisations that support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Northern Adelaide.

During the codesign phase, the Taingingwilta Pirku Kawantila team yarned with 55 local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and service providers and 28 non-Indigenous service providers to discuss community needs, service gaps, success stories, and solutions to strengthen the service system.

Aboriginal Governance Panel:

Toni Shearing – Northern Adelaide Local Health Network
Olive Bennell – Nunga Mi:Minar
Schania Czygan – Sonder
Uncle Frank Lampard – Elder, NALHN Board member
Uncle Frank Wanganeen – Elder
Nathan Rigney – Wellbeing SA
Poppy Pitson – Department of Education
Darrien Bromley – InCompro
Nikki Clinch – SA Government

Chief Investigators:

Prof Alex Brown – Telethon Kids Institute, Australian National University
A/Prof Natasha Howard – Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity, SAHMRI
A/Prof Odette Pearson – Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity, SAHMRI
Prof Mark Boyd – NALHN, Adelaide University
Dr Anna Dawson – Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity, SAHMRI
Prof Judith Dwyer – Flinders University

Associate and Partner Investigators:

Kurt Towers – Watto Purrunga Aboriginal Primary Health Care Service, NALHN
Shane Mohor – Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
Sonia Waters – AnglicareSA
Cynthia Avila – Sonder
Kim Morey – Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity, SAHMRI

Taingingwilta Pirku Kawantila Research Team: Natasha Howard, Eugene Warrior Jnr, Anna Dawson, Tina Brodie, Courtney Hammond, Kate Lake, Charlotte Sapio, Chrystal Sumner

Artwork: Taingingwilta Pirku Kawantila Project Artwork by Violet Buckskin 2022
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For more information please visit our website: <https://sahmri.org.au/research/themes/aboriginal-health/programs/implementation-science/projects/taingingwilta-pirku-kawantila-project>