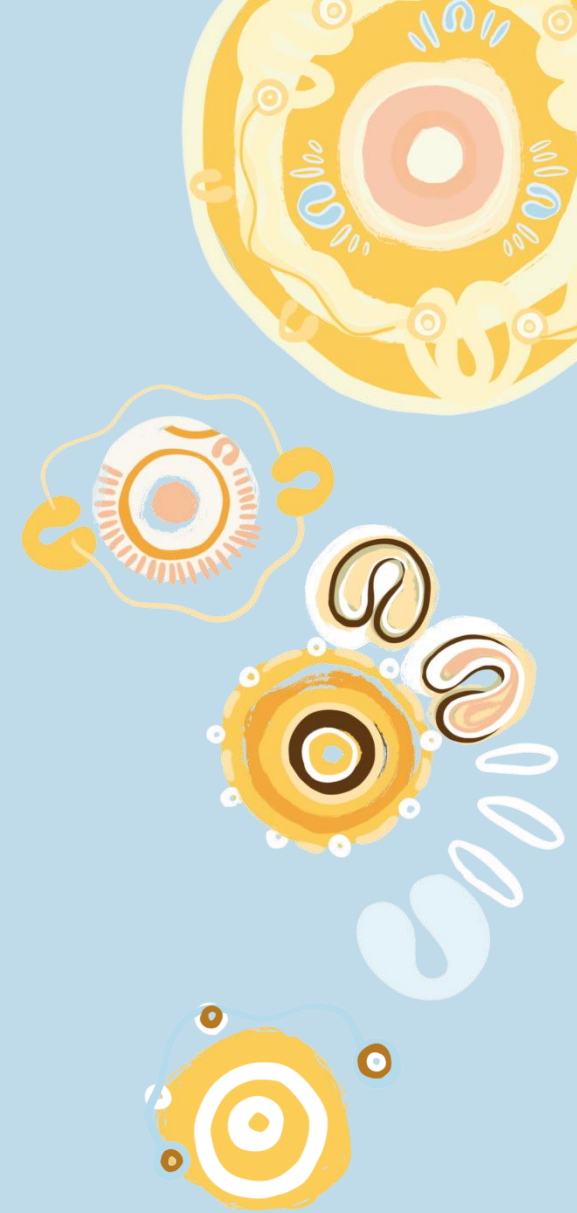


Aboriginal-led research consortium to support better outcomes for Aboriginal families (2026-2030)

Briefing Session – 17 December 2025

Daniel Madeddu

Executive Director, Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs, Ministry of Health



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The NSW Ministry of Health acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of NSW and pays respect to Elders past and present.

“Our shared ground: Pathway of healing and connection”



By Lakkari Pitt - a proud Gamilaroi Ularoi yinarr from Walgett

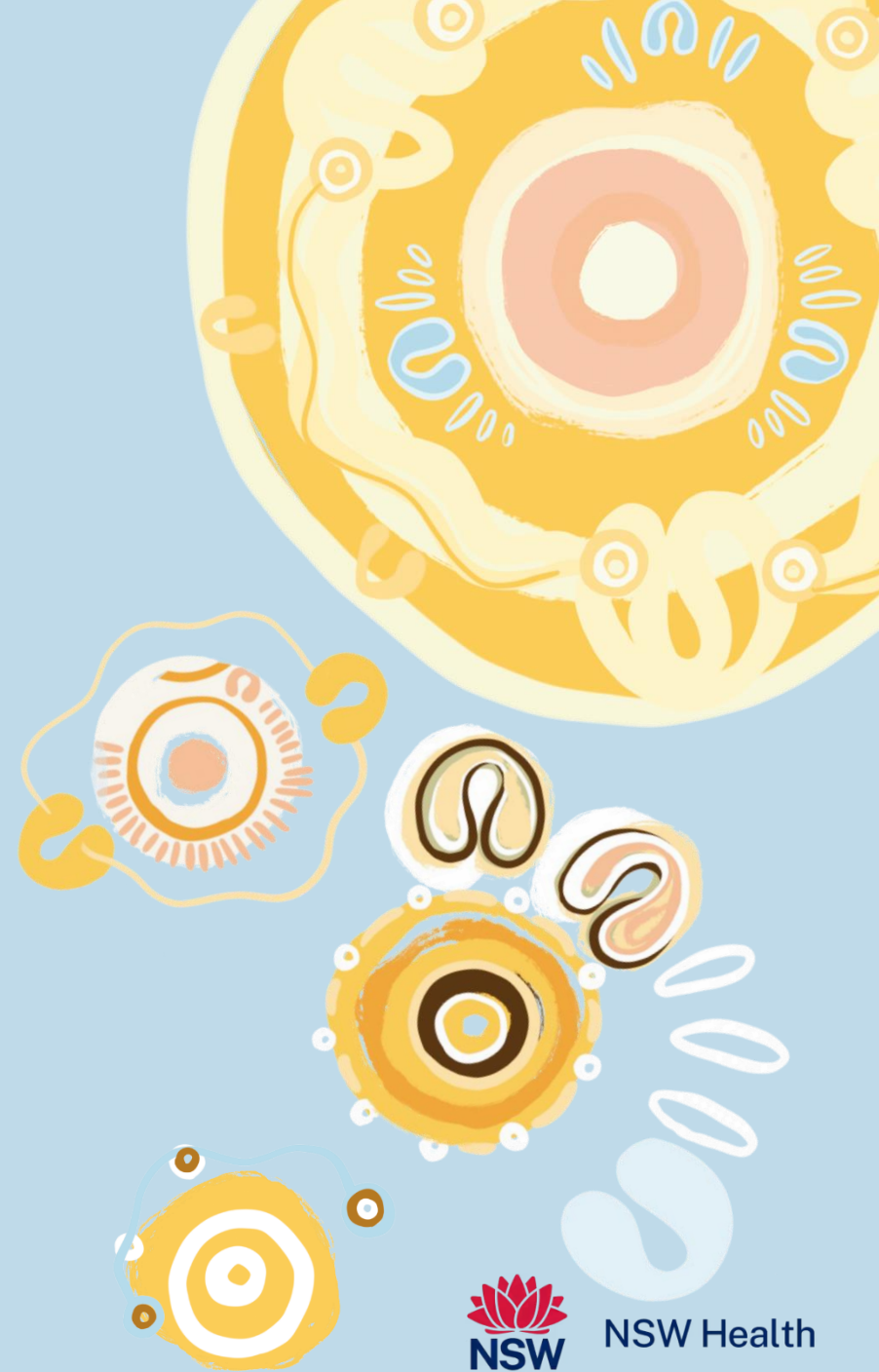
This artwork symbolises a healing journey that is filled with reflection, hope and renewal.

Round meeting places represent our Country and communities.

Lines throughout the artwork depict flowing water which is vital to our health and wellbeing.

Calm yellow, blue and pink colours reflect the beautiful and peaceful nature of our ancestors. Browns symbolise Country and our connection to it.

Introductions





Selection Panel



Ashley Brown, Director, Strategy, Reform and Transformation, Centre for Aboriginal Health

Francine Campbell, Consumer Representative, Consumer Informed AOD Research and Analysis (CIARA) Working Group, CAOD

Brendon Cutmore, Director, Information and Performance Support, Regional Health Division

Lisa Smithers, Director, Alcohol and Other Drugs Evidence Generation, Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence

Daniel Madeddu, (Selection Panel Chair), Executive Director, Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs

For the sake of fairness and transparency, please do not direct any questions about the Aboriginal-led AOD research consortium grant to Selection Panel members.

Please follow the Grant Guidelines and submit any questions via email to: moh-aod-researchandevaluation@health.nsw.gov.au



Probity Advisor



The Probity Advisor's role during the grant process includes:

- Ensuring that process used to assess grant applications is done **impartially** and that **fairness** is demonstrated
- Ensuring that best probity practice was applied throughout grant process and during the evaluation process to ensure that there is **accountability and transparency**, that **confidentiality** is maintained, that any potential **conflicts of interest** were managed and **value for money** was achieved
- Providing independent probity validation
- Providing confidence to Applicants that appropriate processes were fully adhered to, and that no Applicants was given an unfair advantage, or was unfairly discriminated against; and
- Providing a point of contact if there are any issues of a probity or process nature that needed to be discussed.

- **CONTACT DETAILS**

- **Name:** John Pinhorn
- **Email:**
jpinhorn@procuregroup.com.au
- **Phone Number:** 0408 488 682



Purpose of the Briefing Session



- Describe the key focus area of the Aboriginal-led research consortium
- Explain the background to the Aboriginal-led research consortium
- Outline:
 - the grant structure and timelines
 - the eligibility and selection criteria
 - the grant documents, selection process and contact details for Q&A



About the session



- One hour (40 minutes for presentation and 20 minutes for Q&A)
- Recorded for probity and reference – will be posted on NSW Health web page
- Guest microphones muted until the end
- Post questions in the chat function - we will respond to as many as we can today
- All questions and responses will be documented and posted on NSW Health web page through Q&A updates
- Bound by legislative and policy frameworks that govern grants administration (see Grants Administration Guide as reference)



Focus of Aboriginal-led research consortium



Supporting Aboriginal families (including during pregnancy, and families with children aged up to 5 years) by improving referral and access to services, minimising AOD harms and providing strong interagency support to keep families together.

The consortium aims to:

- draw on the strengths of Aboriginal people,
- focus on self-determination, and
- embedding cultural determinants of health and wellbeing into services, evaluation and research.





Alignment with NSW and national priorities

The grant aligns with:

- The National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the NSW Implementation Plan
- The Government response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug 'ice'
- The Government response to the 2024 Drug Summit recommendations
- The priorities of the NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2024-2034 which
 - highlights the importance of the strength, resilience and protective factors for the health of Aboriginal people.
 - focuses on self-determination and embedding cultural determinants of health and wellbeing into services, evaluation and research.



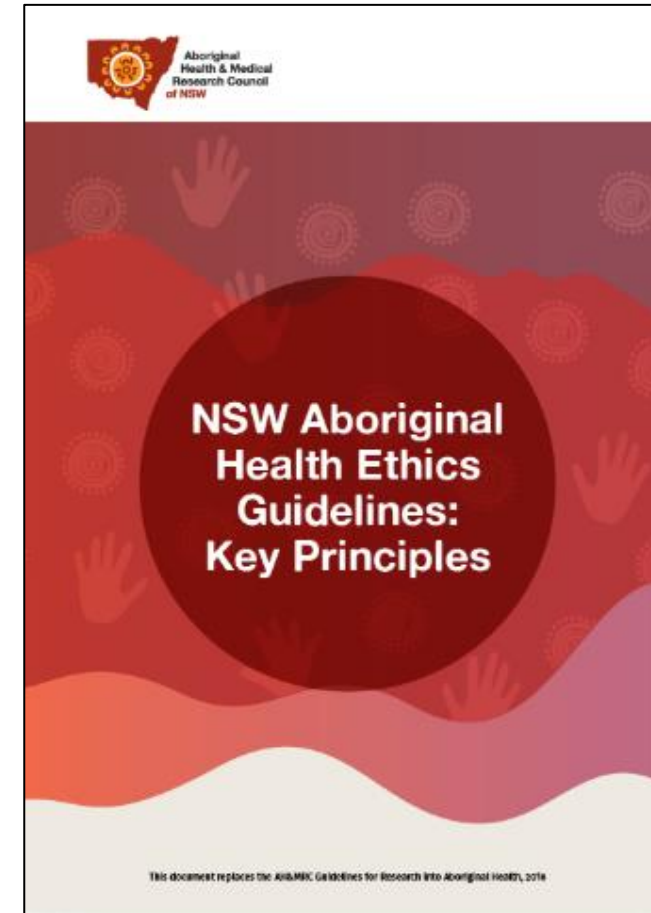


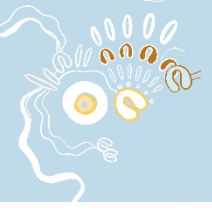
AH&MRC Aboriginal Health Ethics Guidelines



Projects must align with the 5 principles of the AH&MRC NSW Aboriginal Health Ethics Guidelines: Key Principles.

1. Net benefits for Aboriginal peoples and communities
2. Aboriginal Community Control of research
3. Cultural sensitivity
4. Reimbursement of costs, and
5. Enhancing Aboriginal skills and knowledge.





Consortium purpose



A consortium is needed to build partnerships between Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal organisations, research groups, Local Health Districts and non-government organisations to achieve research that is Aboriginal-led, answers research questions that are important to Aboriginal people, and creates sustainable system level improvements to services.

To address the breadth of work, the consortium should:

- Be Aboriginal-led.
- Have a lead investigator who is employed by a NSW-based ACCHO, university or research agency.
- Have a track record working with Aboriginal communities, health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO).
- Have a track record conducting culturally appropriate research aligned with the focus area.
- Possess the methodological expertise to provide the research capabilities required for the focus area.

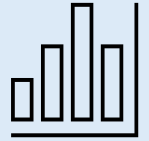
Annual **workplans and agreed outputs** will be **co-designed in close collaboration with Ministry policy partners**.



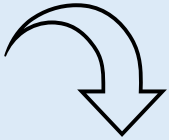
Grant objectives



Form a new consortium, separately branded, to lead NSW based Aboriginal research work in AOD



Build research programs and/or assets that will generate high-quality research evidence that is relevant to the focus area.



Support the translation of research evidence into sustainable AOD policies, programs or services in NSW.



Build the number and capacity of Aboriginal researchers with expertise in AOD, to develop the workforce and build cultural competence across the sector.



Build research capability and capacity across ACCHOs and NSW Health to create, understand and use this knowledge and evidence in the delivery of services.



Grant Structure



- New, competitive, closed grant opportunity.
- Total value of grant program is up to \$2,000,000 over four years (2025/26–2029/30).
- Up to \$500,000 will be available per year (for financial years 2025/26–2029/30).
- The grant will be administered by the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD) with strategic advice from the Centre for Aboriginal Health (CAH) and the Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence (CEE).



Selection Criteria - Eligibility



Eligibility Criterion 1

The administering organisation must be a legal entity based in NSW.

- The lead investigator must be employed by the administering organisation.

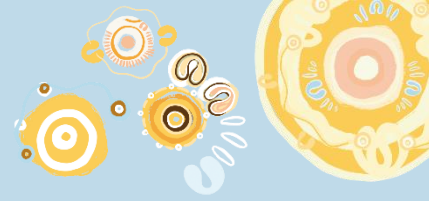
Eligibility Criterion 2

All projects must be Aboriginal-led and have governance structures that prioritise Aboriginal leadership and NSW Health partnership.

- An Aboriginal person must lead the project as the Lead Chief Investigator. Non-Aboriginal researchers can apply as a Co-Chief Investigator with an Aboriginal Lead Chief Investigator.



Selection Criteria - Eligibility



Eligibility Criterion 3

Funds must be primarily allocated to NSW-based team members.

- One of the aims of this grant is to build on and extend research capability in NSW. The grant funding awarded must be primarily allocated to NSW-based institutions and staff. Consortia can include investigators from other jurisdictions if required, however, funding from the grant must be demonstrated to build research capability in NSW.
- All members and investigators must have the right to work in Australia through being an Australian citizen or permanent resident or having an appropriate working visa for the full term of the grant.

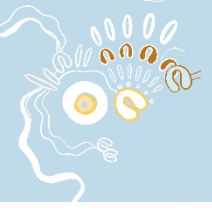


Selection Criteria - Eligibility

Eligibility Criterion 4

The administering organisation must be an ACCHO, university or public health research agency.

- If the administering organisation is an ACCHO they must have demonstrated research experience and partnership/s with a university or research organisation/s. If the administering organisation is a university or public health research agency they must have demonstrated Aboriginal leadership and partnership/s with Aboriginal people, communities and/or organisations including ACCHOs.
- We expect all funding recipients to be employed by not-for-profit organisations, universities, or government agencies (e.g. local health districts). If there are instances where this is not the case, this needs to be discussed with the Ministry for each specific purpose and on a case-by-case basis.



Selection Criteria - Assessment



Assessment criteria determine which EOIs proceed to the next phase of the assessment process

Criteria	Weighting
A. Demonstrated skills, capacity and expertise of the research team relevant to the research focus area of supporting Aboriginal families. This includes skills in multidisciplinary research approaches and evidence translation.	50%
B. Demonstrated ability to work in partnership with NSW Health, supporting research capability development and generating evidence oriented to improving NSW AOD policy and programs.	20%
C. Expertise in Aboriginal health and cultural appropriateness. A demonstrated track record of working with Aboriginal communities and ACCHOs.	20%
D. The governance structure and partnerships underpinning the proposed research team which highlights its strengths, transparency and accountability. Evidence that the consortium is Aboriginal-led with internal governance structures that prioritise Aboriginal leadership and collaboration across the consortium members.	10%



Prior to applying



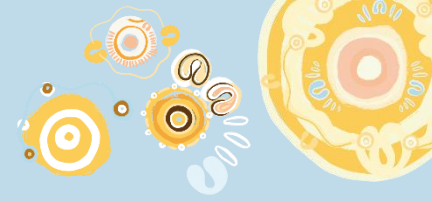
- Read the grant guidelines and confirm that you are eligible
- Review the sample grant agreement and standard grant funding conditions
- Download the EOI response template from NSW Health AOD webpage
- Consult with your networks to determine how best to address the assessment criteria
- Direct any questions about the grant opportunity via email to moh-aod-researchandevaluation@health.nsw.gov.au
- Continue to check the NSW AOD webpage for any updates
- Slides and Q&A from the webinar will be made available on the NSW AOD webpage: [NSW Health: Alcohol and other drugs](#)





EOI submissions

- Applicants are only eligible for consideration if they submit a complete Expression of Interest form (including 1-page CVs for consortium members) and meet all the eligibility criteria
- Completed EOI forms must be emailed to moh-aod-researchandevaluation@health.nsw.gov.au by **4 March 2026 at 11:59pm AEST**
- All applications will receive an email acknowledgement within 3 business days
- It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up if no confirmation receipt is received
- No confirmation emails will be sent during the Ministry of Health's low activity period (Saturday 20 December 2025 to Sunday 11 January inclusive).



After the EOI is submitted

- NSW Health staff will determine if each EOI has satisfied the eligibility criteria.
- The selection panel will assess each eligible EOI on their merits against the assessment criteria.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to give a presentation to the selection panel and participate in an interview.
- The selection panel will determine the successful grant recipient and submit their recommendation to the Chief Health Officer for approval
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified of the outcome.



Key Resources

Information Sources on the NSW Health AOD website:

- Aboriginal-led research consortium grant guidelines
- Expression of interest (EOI) form
- Sample grant agreement
- Standard grant conditions
- Briefing session from today – recording and slides
- Grant Q and A (will be updated as they are submitted).

Support for applicants:

- Enquiries can be directed to the CAOD team at moh-aod-researchandevaluation@health.nsw.gov.au
- Responses to questions that may impact equity and transparency of the application process will be published on the AOD website. Please continue to check the website to ensure you remain updated on information.



Timeline – Important Dates

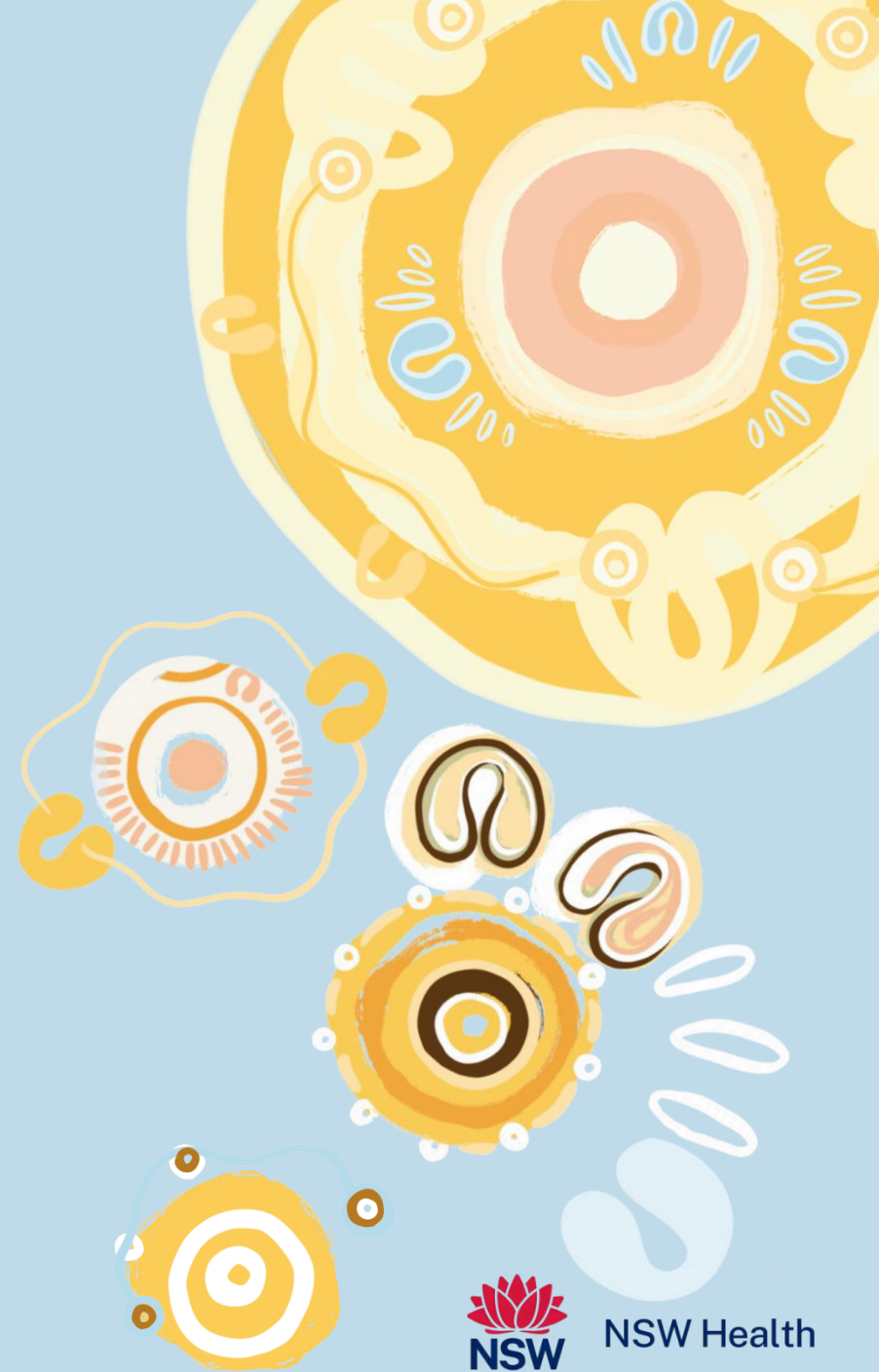


Stage	Date
EOI opens	4 December 2025
Initial Briefing on Aboriginal Research consortium	17 December 2025
Last date for questions via email	22 February 2026
Last date for posting of answers to questions on AOD website	25 February 2026
EOI closes	4 March 2026
Selected applicants invited to panel presentation and interview	March/April 2026
Refinement and co-design of research plan and key deliverables	April/May 2026
Agreement signed	June 2026
* Dates provided are indicative and may change as the grant process progresses.	



Questions?

Please raise your hand or type your question into the chat





Thank You

