



**GLOBAL HEALTH  
ALLIANCE**  
MELBOURNE



ANNOUNCING THE  
Local to Global Initiative



## Why?

Research published by The Lancet-Lowitja Institute Global Collaboration<sup>1</sup> found Indigenous people had poorer health and social outcomes in comparison with non-Indigenous peoples across 28 nations.

GLHAM believes that strengthening networks between people working in indigenous health - both in Australia and in overseas development contexts - has the potential to accelerate the creation of strategies to tackle this inequity.

The Sustainable Development Goals also require us to have a renewed focus on reducing inequality, and the SDGs clearly can't be achieved without a more direct focus on Indigenous populations in our overseas development programming.

## Who?

Melbourne has a large and growing collective expertise around Indigenous health in Australia and in the developing countries where our members work. This knowledge comes from the communities we work with and learn from, grassroots health organisations, researchers, academics and international organisations. The GLHAM initiative is a way we can harness and share this Indigenous health knowledge and learn from local and international members.

Formed in 2016, Global Health Alliance Melbourne's (GLHAM) vision is for Melbourne, Victoria to be recognised as the Asia-Pacific's hub for global health and development expertise. Based on the highly successful Washington Global Health Alliance, GLHAM strives to be a facilitative organisation of global health entities in Melbourne that coordinates, convenes and promotes health equity and development on behalf of its members.

GLHAM also has opportunities to leverage, highlight and showcase the expertise of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It will be an opportunity for the expansion of the network of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander staff in the alliance, to build their knowledge and skills and acknowledge and promote their contribution to our collective learnings on health.

## What?

The first phase of the initiative will involve a yarn between Alliance members involved in Indigenous health, and Indigenous employees of Alliance members facilitated by Professor Shaun Ewen. It will be a day of listening, learning and networking; sharing knowledge and ideas in a respectful, collaborative environment.

Local to global will also build on the work and partnerships that have been established under the leadership of ACFID's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs Community of Practice<sup>2</sup> and DFAT's Indigenous People's Strategy 2015-2109<sup>3</sup>.

1 [https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource\\_document/Effective-Development-Practice-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Communities.pdf](https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/Effective-Development-Practice-with-Aboriginal-and-Torres-Strait-Islander-Communities.pdf)

2 [https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource\\_document/Companion-document-to-the-Practice-NoteFINAL.pdf](https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/Companion-document-to-the-Practice-NoteFINAL.pdf)

3 <http://dfat.gov.au/news/news/Pages/australian-indigenous-peoples-strategy.aspx>



Activities that will be discussed at the first gathering might include:

- learning about who is active in the Indigenous health space across the Alliance;
- using local knowledge, drawing upon Indigenous strategies and expertise, and how they might inform overseas development programming;
- holding ourselves accountable - such as the degree to which the Aboriginal Peak Organisation Guidelines are being implemented;
- as part of Local to Global, GLHAM will also promote, support and engage with the following:
  - the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity program;
  - Melbourne Poche Centre for Indigenous health opportunities;
  - First 1000 Days Australia;
  - activities that expand networks for Indigenous staff in global and local organisations; and
  - teaching and learning in centres such as the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and other interested educational bodies.



## What next?

We'll be in contact to let you know the date of the first yarn. In the meantime, please contribute your thoughts and ideas about Local to Global by contacting the Executive Director or GLHAM, Misha Coleman on [ed@glham.org](mailto:ed@glham.org).

## GLHAM Foundation Members:

Australian Red Cross, Bio Melbourne Network, Burnet Institute, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Global Ideas, Medicines Development for Global Health, Monash University, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Save the Children, and the University of Melbourne.

The following is an example from an Alliance member - The Fred Hollows Foundation - which is beginning the conversation about taking practice from their Australian domestic programs into their international programming.



## Scoping Project: Initial exploration of Indigenous and Tribal peoples eye health



**The Fred Hollows Foundation**

The Fred Hollows Foundation has begun an initial examination of its role in improving eye health outcomes of Indigenous and tribal people in the 25 countries in which it works. Informed by the recent study by Lancet-Lowitja, The Foundation is in the

process of sourcing key data relating to Indigenous and tribal peoples to create country profiles for each of 25 countries where it is already programming. In addition, The Foundation is conducting more detailed case studies on three countries, Cambodia, Kenya and Australia.

Regions in which The Fred Hollows Foundation works that have a known presence of Indigenous and tribal peoples (based on a preliminary internal desk-top scoping exercise) include:



Contact: Jaki Barton, The Fred Hollows Foundation

<sup>1</sup> Based on internal consultations, Indigenous and tribal peoples are not only found in the mountainous north. Approximately 49 ethnic groups with at least 240 subgroups geographically disperse throughout the country's lowlands, midlands and highlands and across The Foundation's project sites.