



PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Project Title	Improving immunisation rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children in the ACT
Supervisor name	Louise Hawkins
CHS/ACTHD position	Child and Adolescent Immunisation Team (CAIT) Manager
Address	City Health Centre, 1 Moore Street, Canberra City
Telephone	5124 1602
Email	Louise.hawkins@act.gov.au

Lead discipline (please select one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

Does this project involve research led by, or relating to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders?

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|---|-----------------------------|

Outline of the project (250 words max)

This project is in collaboration between CHS CAIT and ACT Health, Immunisation Unit and is aimed at looking at increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children's immunisation coverage rates in the ACT.

The [National Immunisation Program](#) (NIP) Schedule is a series of immunisations given at specific times throughout your life. The immunisations range from birth through to adulthood. All vaccines listed in the NIP Schedule are free. Eligibility for free vaccines under the NIP is linked to [eligibility for Medicare benefits](#).

The CHS CAIT offer the NIP to all babies and young children under the age of 6 in dedicated immunisation clinics across the ACT. All vaccines are uploaded onto the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) (AIR) through the DHR.

As part of the *National Immunisation Strategy for Australia 2019–2024*, strategic priority 1 is focused on improving immunisation coverage and working towards achieving and maintaining immunisation coverage rates of 95% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 1, 2 and 5 years. In the ACT, we have seen a decrease in some NIP coverage rates, which is a concern for the health outcomes of indigenous children.

This project is aimed at reviewing the immunisation coverage data, identifying barriers to

vaccine uptake, and investigating evidence-based approaches to improve vaccine uptake.

This will inform our immunisation policies and programs in the ACT, with the overall aim of improving health outcomes for indigenous children in the ACT.

Proposed research methods

- Qualitative interviews, focus groups, surveys
- Quantitative – review of data from the Australia Immunisation Register and reports through DHR

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

Medical/Nursing student with an interest in public health

Benefits to the student and to the department

This project will provide the student with an opportunity to work across both CHS and ACT Health in helping to review and analyse data to help improve the health outcomes for indigenous children and their families in the ACT. The results of this project will help inform future policy and program design and improve immunisation services that are easily accessible, equitable and meeting the needs of the ACT community.

How does this project align with any or all of the three strategic objectives of *Better Together: A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system* (100w max)

[Better together - A strategic plan for research in the ACT health system 2022–2030](#)

Objective 1

- Capturing information about the consumer experience to improve care and health outcomes
- Effective partnerships between providers and consumers
- Mobilise routine data in continuous improvement
- Identity gaps in services
- Innovative improvements for service provision and delivery in response to consumer and health system needs
- Improving health outcomes for indigenous children

Objective 2

- Collaborative opportunity between CHS and ACT Health, utilising skills across teams
- Access to community-based population
- Future healthcare need

Objective 3

- Use of existing data systems
- Monitor consumer preferences
- Address deficits in health and wellbeing in the ACT
- Investigate costs and benefits to ACT of alternative solutions

ACTHD/CHS Department where the student will be based

The student will work across both CHS and ACT Health sites.

For CHS the student will be based at City Health Centre, 1 Moore Street
 For ACT Health they will be based at the Health Protection Unit in Holder

Will the student be in a patient facing role at any time during the project?

No - however, there will be an opportunity for the student to undertake some observation time at one of our CHS early childhood immunisation clinics.

Will the student require access to CHS and/or ACTHD network / DHR / applications / database? If yes, please identify

Yes, they will need access to CHS DHR if they need to run any reports on immunisation data and they will also need access to ACTHD network to access data from the Australia Immunisation Register.

Will the student require CHS / ACT Health building access? If yes, please identify

Yes – CHS City Health Centre and ACTHD Health Protection Unit

Supervisor availability across key dates

Friday 10 Nov – Preplacement presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-12pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes
Placement period 10 Nov – 9 Feb Please indicate availability across this time. <i>E.g. leave over Christmas/New Year</i>	<i>Louise Hawkins and Fiona Steele</i> <i>There is usually a shutdown period over Christmas of 2 weeks</i>
At least two face-to-face sessions with the student each week during their 6-week placement.	Yes
Friday 9 Feb – Final presentation session, Canberra Hospital Auditorium <i>Approximate duration 9am-1pm – supervisors are not required for full session. Possible Webex option.</i>	Yes

I have read and I agree to the [ACT Health privacy policy](#) which includes statements on how the ACT Health Directorate acts lawfully to collect and use data to report on activities and to plan for future events and initiatives; including that we may use your details to contact you if required for program delivery and/or evaluation and to inform you of future similar opportunities.

Please submit form to health.research@act.gov.au