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Editorial

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This special edition of the *International Journal of Critical Indigenous Studies* focuses upon the work scholars within the growing discipline of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health studies. The lamentable state of Indigenous health in Australia is reflected in Indigenous populations elsewhere, especially where settler colonialism has left an indelible mark. This special edition therefore speaks to where Indigenous health outcomes and the efficacy of remedies are causing concern. Common to all is the demand that Indigenous people are placed front and centre of all attempts to improve health outcomes and that improvements are sought in culturally sensitive ways. Terry Dunbar presents findings from a research study that set out to investigate the Indigenous experiences of health and family services in the Northern Territory, Australia. The study asserts that cultural security is an integral and vital element of any policy that will impact upon Indigenous peoples. Dunbar concludes by arguing that in seeking positive change with regard to cultural security or otherwise, the most vociferous champions of that change are likely to be the Aboriginal communities affected. The article by Bronwyn Fredericks, Karen Adams, Sandra Angus and Melissa Walker also highlights the need to involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in this case women, in the design and development of strategies affecting their lives. Utilising routine communication methods such as the 'talking circle' and the process referred to as 'talkin' up', where women 'talk back' to one another about issues of personal importance, the article argues that the health strategy which emerged through these consultation approaches was more accurately informed by and responsive to women's health need. Indeed, the resulting strategy reflected the women's sense of themselves and the clear direction they felt *their* health services and policies should take.

The article by Marlene Burchill, Phyllis Lau, Priscilla Pyett, Steve Kelly, Peter Waples-Crowe and Siaw-Teng Liaw concerns a multiple disciplinary research team's need to establish a *bona fides* research approach when developing a culturally appropriate model of care for urban Aboriginal people with diabetes. Keen to 'Aboriginalise' their research processes using Aboriginal researchers, the team negotiated academic conventions and protocols to arrive at a range of methods, metaphorically described as 'hunting and gathering', which ensured culturally appropriate outcomes. The 'hunting' phase of the research engaged Aboriginal researchers to make connections with Aboriginal people with diabetes, whilst the 'gathering' phase involved bringing the participants together in focus groups. The authors contend that neither phase would have been as successful without the Aboriginal researchers' cultural knowledge and their patience in building relationships with Aboriginal people. Finally, the article by Kathleen Clapham draws on fifteen years' experience of working as a member of multi-disciplinary teams in public health intervention and health services research. Clapham argues that Indigenous health and policy programs are best served by an Indigenous led and developed research agenda. Such an agenda will bring about improved Indigenous health outcomes. Clapham extends her argument by reflecting upon the impact of Indigenous leadership in her own research in the field of injury prevention. She concludes with a clarion call for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to take leadership in the processes for achieving change in health outcomes.

Book Review

Recognition Odysseys: Indigeneity, Race and Federal Tribal Recognition Policy in Three Louisiana Indian Communities. Brian Klopotek. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011

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