

## Closing the Heart Gap

### What is the problem?

We need to understand why Indigenous Australians are less likely to receive evidence-based-cardiovascular (CV) care despite being at higher risk for heart attack and stroke. To motivate change, we also need to demonstrate the health and economic savings that could be achieved if evidence-based-CV care were better implemented in this community.

### About this research translation project

This is a collaboration that partners Indigenous health researchers and clinicians with data scientists, biostatisticians and health economists. We will link clinical data collected by Australian general practices, hospitals, and government agencies to determine how variation in CV risk, clinical events and treatment influences Indigenous and non-Indigenous health outcomes. We will answer several important questions including:

1. What factors place Indigenous Australians at increased risk of CV disease?
2. Are existing risk assessment scores accurate and, if not, can we create a new score that more accurately predicts CV risk among Indigenous Australians?
3. How does current implementation of evidence-based CV care differ for Indigenous vs non-Indigenous Australians?
4. Does evidence-based CV care improve health outcomes among Indigenous Australians and, if so, by what magnitude?
5. What economic savings can be achieved if evidence-based care is implemented sooner?

The findings of this research will be shared with stakeholders including peak Aboriginal & Torres

Strait Islander health organizations, primary health care organizations and health agencies at the state and federal level. Working with these stakeholders the research team will devise strategies for improving implementation of evidence-based care for Indigenous Australians with a focus on short-to medium-term improvements in CV care.

### What will be the impact?

This research will reveal how CV disease is currently treated in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities. Demonstrating improvements following implementation of evidence-based CV care will have high translational impact and is an important step toward a national Indigenous CV implementation science initiative with potential for scalability and direct community benefit.



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