

Artwork by Trina Dalton Oogjes

marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri

VACCHO HREC Webinar

22 October 2026

VACCHO

marra ngarrgoo marra goorri

Woi-wurrung phrase meaning: ‘Community knowledge, Community health’

What is *marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri***?**

- **Act as an agreement between Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Victorian Government, and health and medical research organisations in Victoria to:**
  - Enhance self-determination in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research
  - Improve the way Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research is conducted in Victoria
  - Encourage alignment to national research standards and guidelines
- **The Accord includes:**
  - Principles
  - Implementation Actions



Accord Principles



PRINCIPLE 1.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership



PRINCIPLE 2.

Trust and Equity



PRINCIPLE 3.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Priorities



PRINCIPLE 4.

Cultural Safety and Humility



PRINCIPLE 5.

Knowledge Equity and Recognition



PRINCIPLE 6.

Data Governance and Sovereignty



Accord Implementation Actions

- Research Ethics Mechanism
- Research Capability Building
- Research Funding
- Research Partnerships
- Research Network
- Research Organisations Institutional Reforms
- Research Translation
- Data Governance
- Monitoring Mechanism

Accord Implementation Actions

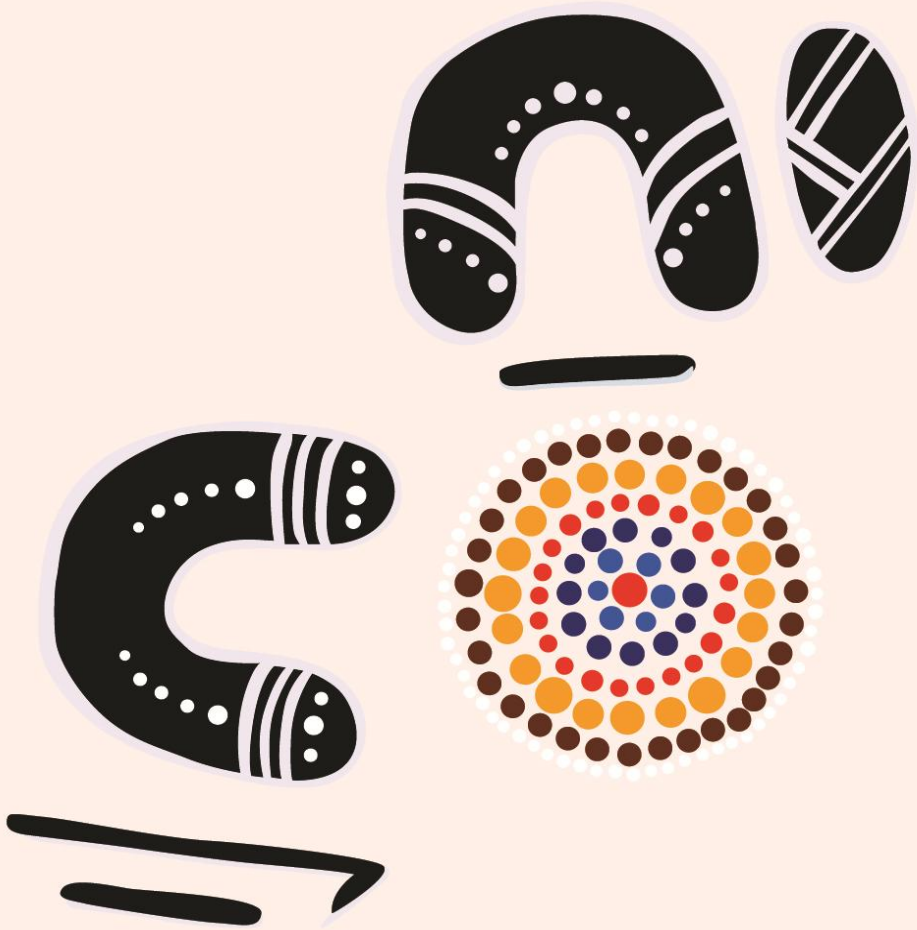


- Research Ethics Mechanism
- Research Capability Building
- Research Funding
- Research Partnerships
- Research Network
- Research Organisations Institutional Reforms
- Research Translation
- Data Governance
- Monitoring Mechanism

Accord Implementation Actions

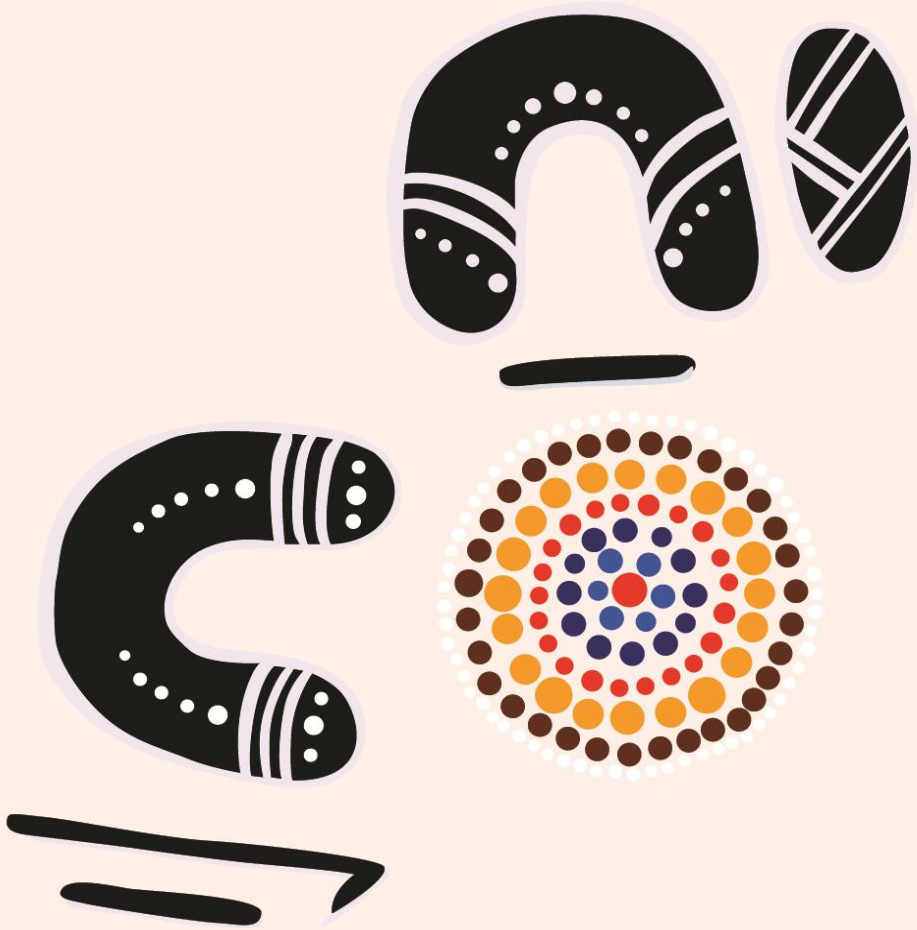
Research Ethics Mechanism

VACCHO Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)



VACCHO HREC

- First and only Aboriginal HREC in Victoria in 25 years
- Registered with NHMRC (not certification)
- Greater than 80% Aboriginal Membership
- Online application portal:



VACCHO HREC: Scope

In scope:

- Low and greater than low-risk **health and wellbeing** research that **impacts** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- Research in Victoria

Out of scope:

- Clinical trials (TBC in future)
- Negligible risk research
- Research outside of Victoria

What about the application form?

Accord Principles



PRINCIPLE 1.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership



PRINCIPLE 2.

Trust and Equity



PRINCIPLE 3.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Priorities



PRINCIPLE 4.

Cultural Safety and Humility



PRINCIPLE 5.

Knowledge Equity and Recognition

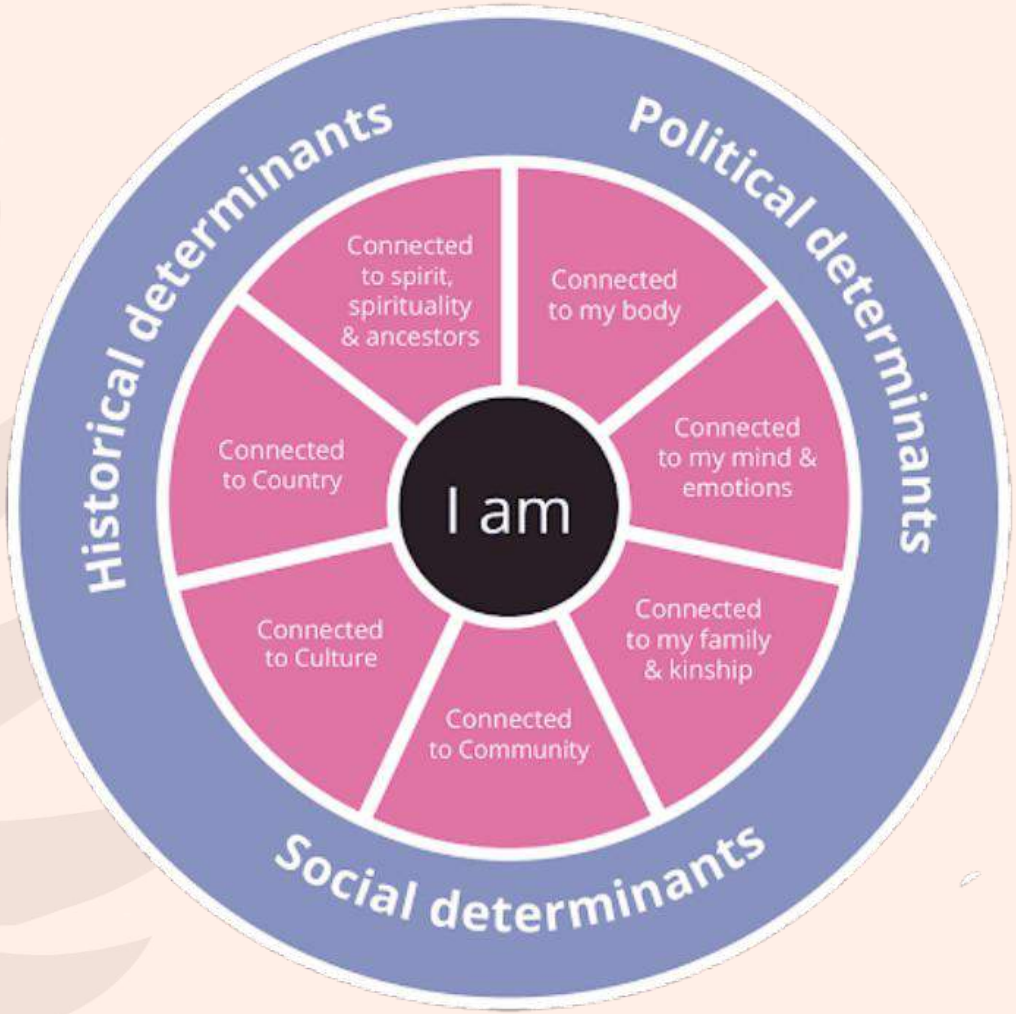


PRINCIPLE 6.

Data Governance and Sovereignty

Common enquiries:

What counts and health and wellbeing?



Social and Emotional Wellbeing Wheel: https://www.balitdurndurncentre.org.au/social-and-emotional-wellbeing/

What part of the application does the VACCHO HREC review?

The VACCHO HREC reviews the **whole application**

The Committee provides both scientific and cultural review of ethics applications

The VACCHO HREC does not provide review for components of an application



When should you submit an application to the VACCHO HREC?

If your research impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria, you need to submit to VACCHO HREC*

Our recommendation is to **submit your application to VACCHO HREC first**, before submitting to your institutional HREC

If you are unsure, contact us!

*Specific to health and wellbeing research



Is there are formal process between existing HRECs and the VACCHO HREC?

At this stage, there are no formal mutual recognition processes with existing HRECs

But we are open to these conversations!



Thank You

Contact:

ethics@vaccho.org.au