



SRNT-Oceania Statement on Acknowledgement Statement and Ethical Principles for research with Indigenous peoples.

February 2021

The Indigenous caucus of the SRNT-Oceania Board has developed a statement on acknowledgement, and a set of ethical principles, to help our SRNT research network members to conduct tobacco and nicotine research safely with Indigenous peoples.

The Oceania region is a geographic region that includes Australasia (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand), Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. All of these localities include Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples across the Oceania region (and elsewhere) represent a diversity of cultures, social structures, languages, knowledge, traditions, teachings, ceremonies and protocols.

Researchers have a responsibility to acknowledge the indigenous peoples of the lands in which the research and researchers are located, and to adhere to ethical principles and conduct in respect of Indigenous peoples and communities.

Engagement with Indigenous peoples must be conducted from an understanding of local Indigenous context, protocols, customs and ways of working.

1. Acknowledgement statement

Rather than offering SRNT-Oceania members a standardised *Acknowledgement statement*, the SRNT-Oceania Indigenous caucus respectfully asks that researchers reflect on their conduct when working, developing and undertaking research, as well as presenting locally, nationally and internationally.

This includes considering;

- how they have engaged with the local Indigenous peoples in their research, what this means
- what local Indigenous protocols need to be adhered to and respected
- how the research may benefit the Indigenous community.

To assist with this reflection on practice we have outlined below a set of evidence-based principles to ensure that research with Indigenous populations is carried out safely and effectively. We thank the STEPS Research team for giving their permission for us to use and adapt the principles from their work, to reflect our SRNT Oceania Indigenous perspectives.

2. SRNT-O ethical principles

- Respect Indigenous peoples' sovereignty and right to **self-determination**.
- Actively **engage** the Indigenous community in the research.
- Respect **diversity amongst Indigenous peoples** and their **respective protocols**.
- Respect and support **Indigenous values, their knowledge and belief systems**.
- ▣ Respect, acknowledge and develop Indigenous **capacity** during the research process, including capacity in communities as well as capacity in academia, to foster a safe environment for Indigenous peoples, their knowledge and ways of being.
- **Trust, respect** and **reciprocity** should characterise the relationship between the researchers and the Indigenous peoples.
- Demonstrate **flexibility** in carrying out research, such that the research is **responsive** to the needs and issues raised by the Indigenous community/ies.
- The research contributes to broader **social change**.
- Research projects must be **relevant and findings used** in a way that meet the needs and priorities of the Indigenous community.
- Be guided by, and follow, existing Indigenous and/or institutional **codes of research ethics** and ethical principles.

References

Evaluation principles to guide culturally safe evaluation practice, 2015. The **Strengthening Evaluation Practices and Strategies (STEPS) in Indigenous settings in Australia and New Zealand** Research Team.
<https://aes.asn.au/images/images-old/stories/files/conferences/2016/Presentations/09Amo hiaBoulton.pdf>

Boulton, A., Warner, L., Wehipeihana, N., Judd, J., Cvitanovic, L., Malouf, P., Cargo, M. (2014). Unleashing the potential of evaluation in the Indigenous space: towards the development of principles to strengthen evaluation practice. AES14 International Evaluation Conference, Darwin, Australia, 8-12 September 2014.

