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Editorial

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Welcome to the latest edition of the Journal of the Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet*. This month we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Health *InfoNet*, which began in 1997 with the vision to 'maintain the evidence base to inform practice and policy in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health'. We are pleased to continue this work through publication of our Journal, which facilitates access to information that supports those working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector.

Once again, we are delighted with the range and quality of papers submitted for publication in this Edition of the Journal.

We know that the literature is replete with examples of poor practice in the assessment and testing of not only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but of Indigenous people throughout the world (Adams et al., 2014). While there have been significant steps forward in this important area, there remains much to be done. Stevens et al. provide a welcome addition to the literature on the appropriate development and use of screening tools and tests, in their description of the adaptation of the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) into Pitjantjatjara. The approach to partnering with the community will be instructive to others working to address this important issue.

Through collaboration with local Aboriginal researchers, Tucker et al. have conducted a cross sectional assessment of the validity of a culturally modified drinking motives questionnaire, finding it suitable for use with Aboriginal populations in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Cultural capability is an imperative for those aspiring to work in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector yet there is relative dearth of high-quality evidence of the efficacy and impact of programs (Kelaher et al., 2018). Rissel et al. describe the systematic evaluation of a cultural awareness training program for professionals and students in central Australia, reporting positive short-term impacts but noting the need for further research on the medium-term impacts of training.

Tashkent et al. provide a timely review of the causes, consequences and treatments of liver disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. They call for urgent efforts to enhance treatment to produce better outcomes.

Diabetes remains a significant risk to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In a systematic review of the available literature on a range of risk factors, Atkinson-Briggs et al. found that the self-reported health related behaviours were 'suboptimal'. They recommend regular assessment and, importantly, multi stakeholder input from individuals, communities and a range of health professionals.

Collectively, this selection of research and review papers reminds us of the importance of community engagement in the process of not only gathering research data but also the approach to health concerns when working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Adams, Y., Drew, N., & Walker, R. (2014). Principles of practice in mental health assessment with Aboriginal Australians. In P. Dudgeon, H. Milroy, & R. Walker (Eds.), *Working together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health and wellbeing principles and practice* (2nd edition ed., pp. 271-288 (chapter 216)). Department of The Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Kelaher, M., Luke, J., Ferdinand, A., Chamravi, D., Ewen, S., & Paradies, Y. (2018). *An evaluation framework to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health*.