



## Kikirrii Dan Walmai (KDW Project)

Kikirrii Dan Walmai means ‘Our Health Resurrected’ in Kala Lagaw Ya, the language from Western and Central islands of the Torres Strait. The name was gifted to Professor Jaquelyne Hughes by her father, Koemabiag of Wagadagam, Mabuiag Island, and linguist, Athe Patrick Whap. Flinders University is utilising Kikirrii Dan Walmai Project as a collective name for the many projects that will work to improve and restore the health of Maluilgau.

KDW Project is a Torres Strait led research and community action program of work in response to the urgent community-identified need to restore health to people living in isolated communities of ZENADH (the Torres Strait).

Professor Jaquelyne Hughes and Associate Professor Karla Canuto co-lead KDW Project activities.



**Professor Jaquelyne Hughes (nee Whap) (Wagadagam)**  
**Nephrologist and Clinical Researcher**

Professor Jaquelyne Hughes is Wagadagam of Mabuyag Island of Torres Strait. She is a kidney specialist physician and clinical researcher, invited through eldership (which recognises her own title of Koike of Medicine – Wagadagam tribe) to assist and support the Torres Strait nation with her clinical professional skills. It is from this position that Hughes has been involved with the KDW Project Annual Report from March 2024 to February 2025.



**Associate Professor Karla Canuto (nee Fell) (Kulkalgal)**

Karla is a Torres Strait Islander, descendant of the Naghir Tribe of the Kulkalgal Clan, and a recognised national leader in Indigenous health promotion. Her connections to family and culture, and her work experience across the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area inform her approach to research which addresses community-identified needs with community-designed solutions.

KDW Project is supported by Flinders University staff, Candice Liddy-Stokes, Katie Cundale, Gracie Ah Mat and Leah Newcombe – who provide project management, administrative support, and academic assistance – and Associate Professor Shahid Ullah who provides statistical support. The team engages Maluilgal clinical nurse, Naizel Enosa from Aragun tribe (Badu Island), and paramedic, Deidree Whap from Panay tribe (Mabuiag Island), who provided valuable community facilitation, cultural advice, language translation, and relationship brokerage for the KDW project team during community consultations.

# KDW Project Activities

- **Community Development (Infrastructure)**

Assisted lead applicant Wakaid Tribal Council to secure \$3.5 million to build a 4-chair dialysis unit on Badu Island.

- **Seeking knowledge about Torres Strait Islander peoples kidney failure**

The first review of Torres Strait Islander peoples and their health story from the data collated on people with kidney failure in ANZDATA to calculate incidence of kidney failure and to inform future trends.

- **Consolidating knowledge developed with health research for TS-NPA (Scoping review)**

A review of published health research that reported data from peoples living within the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area region to better understand research that has already been done and what data exists specific to the region.



**Pictured above:** Community leaders, Elders and invited delegates at the KDW Project Progress Report 1 handback event (21 October 2024) at Ugarie Hall, Badu Island. Photo by Lani Sprague, Senator Green's Office.

## Contact us

Click or scan the QR code to keep up to date with our latest news and learn more about KDW Project.

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We acknowledge Torres Strait Islander people are First Scientists of Kaiwalagal or ZENADH. As Torres Strait Islanders and nationally recognised leaders in our fields, we strive to consistently demonstrate our cultural and academic integrity, and seek to be known as trusted researchers working for our people. We acknowledge that trust relies on building and maintaining relationships, mutual benefits, and a commitment to meaningful partnerships. The KDW Project is committed to working in partnership with local communities and stakeholders for the benefit of the peoples of ZENADH.

**Front cover artwork:** *Cessa's Beads*. Handcrafted bead design by Cessa Nakata, digitised by Gracie Ah Mat.

