

eGFR3 Kidney Health Study

The eGFR3 Kidney Health Study (eGFR3 Study) is learning about the long-term kidney health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults who live in NT, WA and Qld.

The kidney health research assessment of the first eGFR Study, occurred during 2007–2011, led by Menzies School of Health Research at that time. Some of the participants agreed to be re-contacted by the research team.

In 2024–2025, eGFR3 Study invited those same people to participate again, to seek their agreement (consent) to reassess their current kidney health, collect, and collate demographic and socio-economic information, and to link health information from medical record data sets, to tell a fuller story of long-term kidney health.

Local communities and health services who were part of the first eGFR Study have partnered in eGFR3 Study, which is led with a Tri-governance approach to decision making and supporting the study progress. eGFR3 Study is a multi-partnered study funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (2020–2027) and delivered from Flinders University since 2022.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advancement Program acknowledges that the eGFR baseline and eGFR2 studies were initiated, conducted and supported by the Menzies School of Health Research under the leadership of Professor Louise Maple-Brown. We acknowledge that the eGFR3 Study, under the leadership of Professor Jaqui Hughes, was initiated at Menzies School of Health Research and continues at Flinders University.

eGFR3 Study in 2025

- The in-person participant assessment phase of the eGFR3 Study was planned for 2025 across the Northern Territory, Queensland and Western Australia. We worked with Community Leaders and health service partners to confirm the preferred times for this work and were supported by eGFR3 Study Community-Based Researchers. Community engagement activities, such as training Community-Based Researchers occurred around the community visits.
- In March, the eGFR3 Study Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Governance Group hosted its 6th annual workshop. Workshops were delivered in Broome, WA, in 2025, and previously delivered in Mparntwe, Waiben and Garamilla.

- In June, the eGFR3 Study delivered a poster presentation at Lowitja Institute 4th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference about the impact of training Community-Based Researchers in response to community wishes.
- In July, the eGFR3 Study supported the NAIDOC Family Fun Day in Darwin, as well as other events throughout the year, making information about the study available to community.
- In August, the eGFR3 Study celebrated the publication of a research paper (spanning work from 2007–present) by an international journal. The research explained how a blood test at the baseline health-assessment, which detected inflammation and cardiac-muscle damage, was predictive of annual decline in kidney function among some participants¹.
- Community development advocacy included writing to leaders in governments and peak organisations in support of feedback from eGFR3 Study workshops and community events – the need for clear community messaging in community-understood languages about how to prevent progressive kidney disease. Responses to letters sent in January 2025 included National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation thanking the eGFR3 Study Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Governance Group for their leadership and advocacy, and committing to advocate for this need as part of their funding submission to the Federal Budget.
- In August, the eGFR3 Study contributed to the NHMRC public call for research priorities in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health. Our submission requested NHMRC prioritise funding for kidney health support and targeted health interventions for communities living with highly progressive chronic kidney disease.

- In September, the eGFR3 Study delivered four research presentations at the 60th Anniversary Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology Congress (Perth). Information about the eGFR3 Study is shared directly with partners of the study and regularly updated on the project website, which is found here:

<https://www.flinders.edu.au/fhmri/research/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-advancement>

¹ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/20543581251363126>



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