

# The eGFR3 Study Newsletter

## Community Engagement

Flinders University and Professor Jaqui Hughes are making significant contributions to advancing kidney knowledge in the Torres Strait with a successful research symposium held on Waiben in August. Community leaders, health service providers and community members attended to discuss current research activity, outcomes of previous research and provide input to future research.

Flinders University was invited to attend the bi-annual Winds of ZENADH Cultural Festival in September and hosted an information booth sharing eGFR3 Kidney Health Study information and other Flinders University research activity in the Torres Strait. The booth was a local point of community engagement and knowledge exchange.

## eGFR3 Study in Kalgoorlie

eGFR3 Study team members Diana Mosca and Vanya Webster travelled to Kalgoorlie in October to meet with previous eGFR participants. The eGFR3 Study team partnered with Bega Garnbirringu Health Service to conduct face to face data collection in a familiar accessible location.

## eGFR3 Study in Galiwin'ku

The eGFR3 Study team travelled to Galiwin'ku in September and completed face to face data collection for the region. The eGFR3 Study team thank Miwatj Health Services, Community Based Researcher Veronica Gondarra, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Governance Group members Wanamula Gondarra and Rrapa Dhurrkay for supporting the eGFR3 Study in Galiwin'ku.

The eGFR3 Study team learnt from Senior Elders and leaders about the strength, wisdom and orthography used to share health knowledge with community in the program *Marrtji Limurr Rrambañi Gunga'yun Yolŋu'-yulŋuny Mala* (*Walking together to support Yolŋu people for good health*). This is beneficial when sharing the knowledge generated by the eGFR3 Study.



**Photo:** eGFR3 Study team Diana Mosca, Catherine Scotney & Prof Jaqui Hughes at ANZAC Park ready for the Winds of Zenadh march. Photo credit Lewis James Media



**Photo:** Wakaid Elder Robert Sagigi Snr (left), Badhu Elder Tom Jack Ebod Baira (right) with Mr William Wailu (middle) at the front of the Flinders information stall. Photo Credit Lewis James Media.



**Photo:** left to right Senior Elders and leaders Mr George Garambaka Gurrudiwi, Fabian Garawirrtja, Wanamula Gondarra, Cherlyn Thompson (eGFR3 team member), Ruth Gulamanda, Vanya Webster (eGFR3 team member), and *Marrtji Limurr Rrambañi Gunga'yun Yolŋu'-yulŋuny Mala* program support manager (University of Melbourne) Juanita Mooney.

## Ardyaloon Open Day

The eGFR3 Study team and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Governance Group Co-chair Sian Graham participated in the Ardyaloon Open Day in August. The team were invited to host a Flinders booth to share information about the eGFR3 Study with a focus on knowledge exchange with community and seeking expressions of interest for Community Based Researchers (CBR) for the region. The team were invited to return in December to meet with participants.

## Aim 4 Workshop

eGFR3 Aim 4 describes research governance structures and support community led kidney health action. The lead Aim 4 Researchers, Carolyn Renehan and chief investigator Professor Odette Pearson, conducted a major workshop with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Governance Group (ATSCGG) at Flinders University in Darwin. The purpose was to co-design eGFR3 Study Aim 4 methodology defined at the ATSCGG workshop in March 2025.

## Sharing Knowledge

Prof Jaqui Hughes led a group to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) Congress in Perth. The group supporting Flinders included 14 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kidney health champions, including team members from the eGFR3 Study, Community Based Researcher Deidree Whap, and ATSCGG Co-chair Sian Graham. A culturally safe space was created by the group, to connect with delegates and exchange knowledge focusing on the stewardship of renal care. Prof Jaqui Hughes and Sian Graham were awarded the ANZSN 2025 Rural Science Award for their abstracts: *'Partnering through governance- eGFR3 Study'* and *'What our families & Communities must know- eGFR3 Study'*.



**Photo:** eGFR3 Study team members, Vanya Webster and Cherlyn Thompson at the Ardyaloon Open Day



**Photo (top):** Prof Jaqui Hughes receiving the 2025 Rural Science Award at the ANZSN conference. Photo Credit ANZSN

**Photo (below):** Kidney health and research group supporting Flinders at ANZSN with international plenary speaker Dr Api Talemaitoga and Prof Carol Pollock AO, Chair of Kidney Health Australia



## Thank you

Thank you to all stakeholders, partners and champions for your continuing support for the eGFR3 Study. The eGFR3 Study team will finish meeting participants at the end of 2025. We appreciate ongoing partnerships with communities and health services in Far North Queensland, NT and WA. We look forward to providing and receiving feedback about the study.

## Principal Chief Investigator Professor Jaqui Hughes

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## More Information

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