

Research Project Information Sheet



Research Project Title

Music Producers Development Program (MPDP): The role of First Nations music producers as a cultural determinant of health.

Ethics Approval Number: [A242183](#)

Research Team Contact Details

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Project Description

The purpose of this research project is to change the autonomy of First Nations artists in the recording studio enabling First Nations artists to tell First Nations stories. Centred around a seven-day music production workshop designed to build music production capacity in emerging First Nations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (FN/ATSI) music producers with a focus on empowering decision making in the recording studio and enabling recording on Country. At the conclusion of the workshop program a yarning session between participants will give the research team an opportunity to collect data on FN/ATSI issues in the recording sector with the goal to enable increased FN/ATSI representation in the recording studio. Additionally, the data gathered will contribute to the cultural determinants of health for FN/ATSI artists in the recording sector.

You have met the Expression of Interest (EOI) criteria and you are invited to participate the Music Producers Development Program and associated research project. NB, the EOI phase included community consent sent to us via a letter, email, or verbal communication with Uncle Kev for linguistically diverse regions. The participant acknowledge that they have already provided evidence of community consent to Uncle Kev.

This project is funded by a Queensland Government First Nations Commissioning Fund in the Grow phase. There is additional industry support from Ableton, Audio Technica and the University of the Sunshine Coast. While the EOI gives a detailed description of the MPD program, the participant acknowledge they must be of First Nations (Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander) Australian descent, be between, 18 to 30 years of age, and be a permanent resident of QLD.

Participation

This research is guided by the AIATSIS research ethics framework (AIATSIS 2020) structured around the four principles of 'Indigenous self-determination, Indigenous leadership, impact and value, and sustainability and accountability depicted in figure 1 (p. 9).

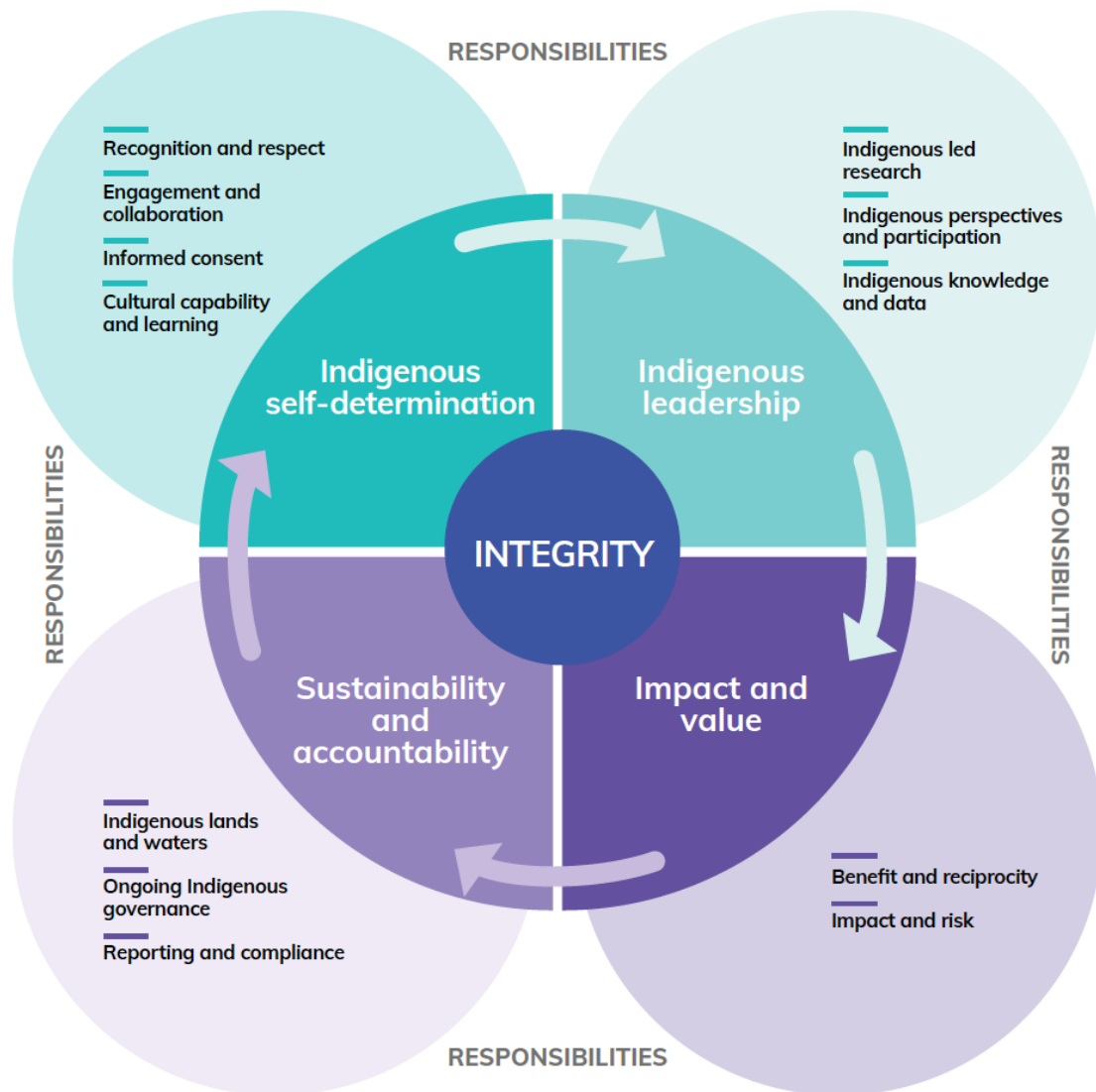


Fig 1: AIATSIS research ethics framework structure. Image source: AIATSIS (2020, P. 10)

If you agree to participate in this research project, you will be asked to take part in various data collection approaches. Upon agreeing to participate in the MPDP, participants will take place in an initial online yarning session. This session is designed to build rapport with the participants and clarify the content requirements of the MPDP session. It will not be recorded or used for research data gathering. During the MPDP, all participants will be observed, and data will be collected in the form of field notes or storyboards by the research team. An informal and unstructured yarning session will be recorded at the end of each day to capture any thoughts on the activities of the day. At the conclusion of the MPDP a final yarning session will be held and recorded to gather research data. During this yarning session, similar topics to those listed below will be discussed:

- Can you tell us why you produce music and what inspires you to continue?
- What are some of frustrations or shortcomings you've faced while trying to produce music in your community?
- What have been the effects of your music production in your community?
- Have you ever experienced any inequality or discrimination throughout your time in a recording studio or DIY production environment?

The yarning session may take up to approximately 90 minutes.

To ensure a participant is happy with their comments or unknowingly said something culturally sensitive, all participants will be provided with a full interview transcript in a Word document for approval. This is so the data can be consulted with the community representative and participant and edited/deleted/removed, including culturally sensitive material, before approving the transcript for possible publication and dissemination. Additionally, participants can withdraw their contribution to the data set at this approval stage. This is planned to negate the risk of accidentally revealing culturally sensitive information. An information

sheet on the transcription review process, along with transcription consent will be provided to the participant, including a provision that community consultation has taken place.

An anonymous online exit survey will be distributed to participants a short time after the conclusion of the MPDP. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The survey will ask questions such as:

- Did you find the MPDP beneficial to your music production practice?
- What can the MPDP do better if it were to run again?
- Did you feel culturally safe during the MPDP?

Data gathered from this project will be published in a high-quality creative industries or social justice journal. All publications will be disseminated to the research participants. The research team will negotiate with participants and community leaders to develop desired community research outputs such as plain English summaries or creative research outputs such as podcasts to be developed to disseminate research findings through Uncle Kev's networks. Each participant will review any such output and edit or redact as appropriate. Additionally, a participant will have the opportunity to showcase their work at Big Sound 2025.

Your participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate but change your mind during the MPDP, associated yarning sessions and observation, you may exit the research project and your responses will not be saved. You can still participate in the MPDP and not be part of the research project. Your decision to participate (or not), will in no way impact your current or future relationship with UniSC or members of the research team.

Consent

Consent to participate will be confirmed with plenty of time before any approval or beginning of any MPDP activities. Your consent is voluntary, and no force, bullying, pressure or withholding of services (such as the production equipment as part of this program) will be used to obtain your consent. Consent is for your data and information to be collected, stored, and used in analysis and publications in an identifiable format. You can still contribute to the research project and be deidentified at your discretion. Participants can decline to consent or withdraw consent at any time during the research project. Participants will be informed if the project or process changes and in situations when early or interim results are found. Information will be clear, understandable and provided in a language or format that is understood by the participants; an interpreter may need to be provided to help with this process. Community consent will have been sought and negotiated at the EOI phase. Participants will be provided two opportunities for consent: the first being at the point of any data collection; and the second being before any release of data.

Risks and Benefits

There are risks associated with your participation which may include:

- Workplace health and safety issues while working in the studios on the UniSC Sippy Downs campus. These risks will be mitigated by all participants undertaking the K1 recording studios induction process.
- Participants' health and wellbeing will be monitored during the project, especially during intensive work periods, to mitigate fatigue-related issues. Planned work schedules enabling a minimum of a continuous 10 hours break between each workday and a maximum of 8 hours of work to be undertaken in any 24 hours.
- Regular monitoring of noise levels during sessions and frequent reminders to participants about the availability and use of ear protection. Hearing Protection must be worn in high SPL tracking spaces (drum kits, amplifiers) supplied by UniSC.
- COVID-19 risk management planning aligns with state and federal guidelines.
- Hosts will provide on-site information, including awareness around local cultural and community matters.
- Cultural risk where a possible conflict between participants arises along cultural or other lines. This will be mitigated by Uncle Kevin Starkey as a respected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elder to ensure appropriate navigation of conflict if this occurs.
- Reputational risk if the program is interrupted by natural disaster or sensitive cultural business. Normal emergency protocols for the University will be followed, and if the project should be interrupted in any way, all participants will be provided with the opportunity to retake the program in further iterations of the project.
- Financial risk if a sensitive cultural family business (Sorry Business) arises, that precludes the participant from attending. Any matters of this nature that arise will automatically qualify the participant to include them in further iterations of the project.

If any of these matters cannot be resolved or if you become upset during the course of the project, and you do not wish to continue, you can stop immediately. The themes expressed or presented in this data collection may create uncomfortable or distressing feelings. If you need to talk to someone you may wish to contact family or friends/your General Practitioner/Lifeline (131114)/Beyond Blue (1300 224 636)/UniSC Student Wellbeing (5430 1226)/1300 MH CALL (1300 642 255). You may wish to have

a yarn with others in your mob or we can connect you with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing services on 1300 117 095. We hope you find benefit in this project beyond the equipment supplied by our industry partners, and we appreciate your input as a contribution to increasing capacity, and representation in the Australian recording sector.

Privacy, Confidentiality and Results

Any data collected as a part of this research project will be stored securely as per UniSC's Research Data Management Procedures. All comments and responses will be treated confidentially unless required by law. The results of this research project may be presented at external or internal conferences or meetings, or by publication. If you would like a summary of findings of this research project, please contact the Chief Investigators (listed above).

Concerns or Complaints

If you have any concerns or complaints about the way this research project is being conducted, you may raise them with the Chief Investigator (listed above). If you prefer an independent person, you may contact the Chair of the UniSC Human Research Ethics Committee: telephone (07) 5430 2823; email humanethics@usc.edu.au.

Please save the information above if you choose to participate.

Consent – Written

Consent to Participate in Research



Music Producers Development Program

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- I consent to my responses being saved and used for related, ethics approved, projects undertaken by this research team.

As part of this research project and any related dissemination methods used, I would like to:

- Be identifiable
- Be deidentified
- Take part in the podcast

Furthermore, I understand that:

- On agreeing to participate I am giving my consent freely.
- Informed consent for this research is assumed by completion of this form and subsequent completion of participation.
- There is minimal risk or discomfort associated with participation in this project.
- I can review any quotes or mentions of my likeness used in the research dissemination.
- There is a transcription review and further podcast consent form to be signed before any data will be released.

Participant

Name

Signature

Date