



# GLOWS

## Indigenous Health Grant

Guiding Local Opportunities for Wellbeing

A new 3-year grant program, co-created by the Lowitja Institute, UQ Poche Centre for Indigenous Health and Gilead Sciences.

The GLOWS Indigenous Health Grant program represents Gilead Sciences largest commitment to health equity for Indigenous communities with \$4.4M AUD invested in Australia over three years.

## HIV AND VIRAL HEPATITIS IN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Blood borne viruses in Indigenous communities are more than just health issues; they are the result of the systemic and structural inequities that continue to disrupt Indigenous culture and wellbeing.<sup>1,2</sup>

These factors are recognised as having a fundamental and disproportionate impact on the prevention, testing, diagnosis and care of HIV and viral hepatitis for Indigenous communities.<sup>3,4</sup>

HIV notification rate for Indigenous people was **1.3 times** higher than the rate for non-Indigenous people in Australia (4.9 compared to 3.8 per 100,000).<sup>5</sup>

Hepatitis B notification rate was **1.3 times** higher in Indigenous Australians compared to the rate in non-Indigenous Australians.<sup>5</sup>

Indigenous Australians make up **19%** of Australian born people living chronically with Hepatitis B.<sup>5</sup>

Hepatitis C notification rate was **4.5 times** higher in Indigenous Australians compared to the rate in non-Indigenous Australians.<sup>5</sup>

One in six (**16%**) new diagnosis' of Hepatitis C were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.<sup>7</sup>

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOLUTION

The GLOWS Indigenous Health Grant Program represents a step forward in supporting Indigenous peoples' rights to autonomy over their health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on addressing disparities that continue to drive the transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis in Indigenous communities.



**GILEAD**  
Creating Possible



**LOWITJA**  
INSTITUTE



UQ Poche Centre  
for Indigenous Health

The grant program consists of a financial commitment of

**\$4.4M**  
**AUD**

over three years, to further increase health equity and address disparities that continue to drive disease transmission, and work towards elimination.

The GLOWS Indigenous Health Grant Program, is a co-created initiative led and designed by Indigenous Peoples. It aims to support initiatives that align with at least one of the following funding priorities:

**Prevention and Education**

Reforming and reinvigorating prevention strategies in HIV and viral hepatitis, whilst navigating racism and structures that act as barriers to disease prevention and education.

**Priority Populations**

**Individual and community agency**

Supporting Indigenous-led organisations to strengthen skills, capabilities and infrastructure and ensure the ongoing sustainability of HIV and viral hepatitis services. Additionally, create opportunities to support individual personal development and agency to encourage the next generation of leaders and mentors.

**Reformed Health Care**

Dismantling structural barriers to improve access to HIV and viral hepatitis prevention and care services and building culturally safe and respectful environments for Indigenous people to navigate care.

**5 GRANT TYPES AVAILABLE IN YEAR ONE**

Large Project Grants

Medium Project Grants

Incubator, seed or demonstration grants

Scholarships & MAEs

Education and development gathering RFP

To find out more visit [www.lowitja.org.au/research/funding-opportunities](http://www.lowitja.org.au/research/funding-opportunities)

**GILEAD CORPORATE GIVING**

**HIV**

In 2023 for the second year running, Gilead was recognised as the **number one** private philanthropic funder working to end the HIV epidemic through robust community partnerships and philanthropy.<sup>8</sup>

In 2022, the Gilead Foundation and Gilead Corporate Giving donated nearly **\$300 million** combined globally. Other corporate giving programs include Zeroing In<sup>®</sup>, the Gilead COMPASS Initiative<sup>®</sup> and RADIANT<sup>®</sup>.<sup>8</sup>

**VIRAL HEPATITIS**

Over **20 years**, Gilead has worked to improve the lives of people living with viral hepatitis through community partnerships.

In 2023 Gilead launched the expanded **ALL4LIVER Grant**, a grant program with the theme of 'Test. Link. Prioritize', designed to support innovative projects that drive testing, improve linkage to care and/or elevate viral hepatitis on the public health agenda.

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**References**

1: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. July 2023. Determinants of Health for Indigenous Australians. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/social-determinants-and-indigenous-health>. Accessed October 2023. 2: Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Annual Report 2006-2007, 2007. Available at: [https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/about/publications/annual\\_reports/2006\\_2007/pdf/hreoc\\_ar2006-07.pdf](https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/content/about/publications/annual_reports/2006_2007/pdf/hreoc_ar2006-07.pdf). Accessed October 2023. 3: Barlow, K et al. September 2008. Culturally Competent Service Provision Issues Experienced By Aboriginal People Living With HIV/AIDS. Canadian Institute of Health Research. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2936585/>. Accessed October 2023. 4: Nolan-Isles D et al. March 2021. Enablers and Barriers to Accessing Healthcare Services for Aboriginal People in New South Wales, Australia. International journal of environmental research and public health, 18(6), 3014. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18063014>. Accessed October 2023. 5: National Indigenous Australians Agency. February 2023. 112 HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Available at: <https://www.indigenoushpf.gov.au/measures/1-12-hiv-aids-hepatitis-sex-transmissible-infect#:~:text=In%202016%E2%80%932018%2C%20there%20were,compared%20to%203.8%20per%20100%2C000>). Accessed October 2023. 6: MacLachlan, J.H., Allard, N., Towell, V. and Cowie, B.C. (2013). The burden of chronic hepatitis B virus infection in Australia, 2011. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 37: 416-422. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.12049>. Accessed November 2023. 7: Kirby Institute. 2023. HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual surveillance report 2023 – Hepatitis C. Available at: [https://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/Annual-Surveillance-Report-2023\\_HCV.pdf](https://www.kirby.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/documents/Annual-Surveillance-Report-2023_HCV.pdf). Accessed January 2024. 8: www.gilead.com. May 2022. Gilead Reaches Number One Spot as Top Overall Philanthropic Funder of HIV-Related Programs, According to Funders Concerned About AIDS Report. Available at: <https://www.gilead.com/news-and-press/press-room/press-releases/2022/5/gilead-reaches-number-one-spot-as-top-overall-philanthropic-funder-of-hivrelated-programs-according-to-funders-concerned-about-aids-report>. Accessed January 2024.