

## **Aboriginal community researchers: promoting meaningful research outcomes in remote Aboriginal communities**

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Over the past 3 years, Ninti One Ltd has employed more than 120 people as Aboriginal Community Researchers in remote communities across Australia.

Local people are trained and engaged to join our research teams, contributing their deep cultural knowledge at all stages of the research cycle: setting priorities and research questions; obtaining community approvals and participant informed consent; creating survey and other research instruments and supporting material; working with project leaders from academic, industry and government organisations; collecting and analysing data; presenting results and feeding back research findings to community members and organisations.

The ongoing and enduring benefits of community control over priority setting and service delivery are well known, especially in relation to Aboriginal health services. Our network of Aboriginal Community Researchers provides a practical way for Aboriginal communities to have much greater influence and control over research and the findings. So-called “mainstream” researchers also gain a greater understanding of the community and cultural context in which they are working, and the research project inevitably benefits from more meaningful and deeper engagement with participants. For the individual, working as an Aboriginal Community Researcher is a source of meaningful work as people are valued for their local and cultural knowledge, it pays well, and commonly leads to other employment opportunities.

In a team presentation, Aboriginal Community Researchers will give a firsthand description of their work and the benefits of the approach for their communities, research projects and to them as individuals. The implications for research funding and improved service delivery to remote communities will be articulated for the benefit of policy advisors and program managers. The approach is scalable and can be implemented across a range of locations and to service a raft of different roles and requirements.