



Australian Government

HLTARES003 Research community health

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to plan and conduct Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community health research projects which incorporate both primary and secondary research. It requires the ability to use established research methodologies and includes the creation of information gathering tools, consultation, analysis and development of a research report. Activities are underpinned by established guidelines for research in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.

This unit applies to senior roles in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations that provide primary health care and other support services to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities. It is specific to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people working as health workers or health practitioners.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

No regulatory requirement for certification, occupational or business licensing is linked to this unit at the time of publication. For information about practitioner registration and accredited courses of study, contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (ATSIHPBA).

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Community Health Research

Unit Sector

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Determine context for

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1. Establish research objectives and scope through consultation

- research.
- with key organisational and community stakeholders.
- 1.2. Review current guidelines for conducting ethical research with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities, and identify requirements.
 - 1.3. Obtain permission from the community to undertake the research.
 - 1.4. Review and determine funding body's policy on ownership rights for outcomes of research.
 - 1.5. Negotiate ownership of research data and reports based on requirements.
2. Establish research methodology.
- 2.1. Identify and discuss requirements for research process with community representatives according to established guidelines.
 - 2.2. Identify key people and processes for effective community consultation according to participatory action research principles.
 - 2.3. Identify and develop required information gathering tools.
 - 2.4. Incorporate evaluation across all stages of research process.
 - 2.5. Ensure methodology meets organisational policy requirements for obtaining informed consent and maintaining community and individual confidentiality.
 - 2.6. Develop action plans that follow methodology and provide clear information about roles, responsibilities and timelines.
3. Gather information.
- 3.1. Obtain informed consent and follow agreed research methodology to gather information.
 - 3.2. Communicate with community in culturally appropriate and safe ways to gather relevant information.
 - 3.3. Identify and access information from primary and secondary sources to meet research objectives.
 - 3.4. Record and collate information according to community and ethical guidelines, funding body requirements and organisational policies and procedures.
4. Analyse information.
- 4.1. Sort and prioritise information according to scope and purpose of research.
 - 4.2. Compare and assess different sources of information for relevance to research objectives.
 - 4.3. Develop conclusions based on findings.
5. Prepare research documentation.
- 5.1. Draft research report in a clear, logical format.
 - 5.2. Incorporate reasoned analysis and substantiated findings.
 - 5.3. Develop action recommendations from findings.
 - 5.4. Seek feedback on report findings from community representatives and make required adjustments.
 - 5.5. Acknowledge ownership of documents according to funding

body and organisational policy and procedures.

6. Finalise research process.
 - 6.1. Refer report to agencies and stakeholders impacted by recommendations.
 - 6.2. Liaise with agencies to facilitate understanding and action in relation to report findings.
 - 6.3. Evaluate research based on agreed methodology in consultation with key people.
 - 6.4. Identify and document potential for future improvements.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	• interpret familiar detailed organisational policies and procedures • interpret varied, unfamiliar and potentially complex information and detailed research data about community health.
Writing skills to:	• structure and draft formal reports • integrate and link information from diverse sources to create cohesive analysis and argument • use drafting and proofreading strategies.
Oral communication skills to:	• facilitate community consultations and discussions using open probe questions and active listening.
Planning and organising skills to:	• plan and coordinate all stages of a research project.
Technology skills to:	• create, structure and format a digital research report • integrate objects from other documentation into research report.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTAHW061 Engage in community health research.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>

Assessment Requirements for HLTARES003 Research community health

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- plan and conduct all aspects of one research project to inform the provision of health services for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities:
 - develop and use two information gathering tools
 - use both primary and secondary research
 - use both qualitative and quantitative data
 - conduct one community group consultation
 - prepare one complete and clearly structured research report that includes all of the following information:
 - introduction
 - methodology
 - results and analysis
 - recommendations and conclusion.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- funding body and organisational policies and procedures for:
 - maintaining confidentiality of individual and community information gathered
 - document presentation
 - information management
- community protocols for approval and conduct of health research
- the importance of collaboratively negotiated research agreements, including the role of inclusions that recognise the cultural and intellectual property rights of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities
- values and principles outlined in current authoritative government and non-government guidelines for ethical conduct of research with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- the principles of participatory action research
- importance of and methods to obtain and record initial and ongoing informed consent from research participants

- stages of a research project and required actions at each stage
- types of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, their key features and relevance to different objectives:
 - interviews
 - surveys
 - focus groups
 - primary data analysis
 - secondary data analysis
- techniques for analysing information:
 - comparing
 - contrasting
 - challenging
 - distinguishing relevant from irrelevant
 - reflecting
 - finding connections
- established formats for research reports and required inclusions:
 - introduction
 - methodology
 - results and analysis
 - recommendations and conclusion
- role of external agencies in supporting and using research.

Assessment Conditions

Skills can be demonstrated through:

- work activities completed within an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health service, or
- project activities and case studies completed within a training organisation, based on comprehensive information about the community and the operation of an actual or simulated health service.

Assessment must ensure the use of:

- interaction with organisational stakeholders and with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community stakeholders either through actual work activities or simulations
- computer and software programs used to collate information and produce text documents
- sources of secondary research
- current authoritative government and non-government guidelines for ethical conduct of research with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and communities
- funding body requirements and organisational policies and procedures for:
 - maintaining confidentiality of individual and community information gathered
 - document presentation
 - information management.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who has applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency through experience working as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health worker or practitioner, or

be a registered health practitioner or a community health researcher with experience relevant to this unit of competency and be accompanied by, or have assessments validated by, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

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