

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Leadership Award

About Lowitja Institute Awards

Lowitja Institute celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership and excellence throughout our work. As Australia's national community controlled health and wellbeing research institute, the biennial conference awards recognise outstanding contributions to the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing research. These awards showcase research that is culturally, ethically, and intellectually rigorous and for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

About the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Leadership Award

This award recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research leadership and excellence by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher who has made a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples.

In 2025, the award was given to Associate Professor Lisa Whop.

The success awardee will receive:

- \$5,000 towards professional development
- One full registration to Lowitja Institute's 5th International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference from 8 - 10 June 2027 in Garramilla (Darwin), including travel and accommodation. Please note, applicants should be available to attend the Awards Ceremony at the Conference Gala Dinner

Eligibility criteria

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher.
- Has undertaken nationally and/or internationally recognised research for the health and wellbeing benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Significantly enhanced and promoted ethical leadership and excellence within the Indigenous community, nationally and/or internationally.

Submitting your application

- The application must be completed in full with all required supporting documentation collated and attached at submission.
- Applicants are to provide at least one letter of support, with the referee also including brief comments against the selection criteria.
- The referee must identify as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person or community member.

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Form Preview

- An applicant biography (approximately 200 words) must be included, noting this will be used on promotional materials and at the award ceremony if selected.
- Applicants must upload a headshot, noting this is the image that will be used on promotional materials and at the award ceremony if selected.
- Applications to be submitted via Smartygrants **by Friday 16 October 2026, 11:59pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)**

- **Please note:**

- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their full application has been submitted correctly via SmartyGrants. Applicants will receive notification from SmartyGrants acknowledging submission of their application.
- Lowitja Institute does not accept any liability if an application is not received (in full) by the due date.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Application form

* indicates a required field

Is this application a self-nomination? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Nomination by other person

Name of person completing this form *

Title	First Name	Last Name

Position *

Name of organisation *

Organisation Name

Relationship to nominee *

Nominee contact details

Name *

Title	First Name	Last Name

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Form Preview

Nominee preferred pronouns

Address *

Address

Remote status

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.

Email *

Must be an email address.

Organisation *

Organisation Name

Position *

Does the nominee identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander? *

- ☐ Aboriginal
- ☐ Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ Neither

No more than 1 choice may be selected.

Confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is required if your application is successful.

Is the nominee an individual member of Lowitja Institute?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Please note membership category below.

- ☐ A: Full Member - Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Organisation
- ☐ B: Associate Member Organisation
- ☐ C: Lowitja Institute Alumni
- ☐ D: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Individual Member

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Form Preview

Selection criteria

* indicates a required field

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated leadership in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing research. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated research benefit and impact for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated community strengthening, such as building skills and abilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated capacity development, such as support and/or mentoring for other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Describe how the nominee has demonstrated Indigenous research development, such as contribution to Indigenous knowledges and research methodologies. *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Letter of Support *

Attach a file:

Letter of support should include brief comments against the selection criteria.

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Form Preview

Image and biography

* indicates a required field

If you are the successful awardee, a clear headshot and short biography is required for use on conference promotional materials and at the award ceremony.

Applicant biography *

Word count:

Must be no more than 200 words.

Upload a clear, high resolution headshot. *

Attach a file:

End of application

Thank you

Please ensure your application has been completed and submitted in full. Incomplete applications are unable to be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact the team via conference@lowitja.org.au