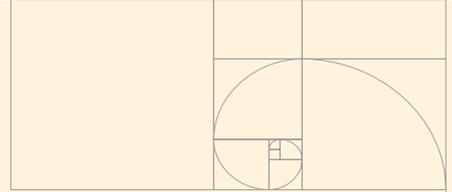


Health Heritage Innovations

Category: Policy

Stage: Concept

Country (region): Australia (Western Pacific)



Indigenous medicine R&D framework

An Indigenous-led best-practice framework for research and development (R&D) with Australian native plants

We are developing an Indigenous-led best-practice R&D framework for Australian native plants – a practical roadmap that supports researchers, companies and governments in how to work with Indigenous Peoples and knowledges in ways that are ethical and sustainable. Our project is unique in placing Mother Nature at the centre, surrounded by Indigenous governance and genuine partnerships. We aim to map each stage of R&D – from discovery and toxicology to clinical research, regulation and product development – to inform best-practice around consent, data and knowledge protection, safety and benefit-sharing.

Our framework will be grounded in Two-Eyed Seeing, where knowledges of the oldest continuing culture in the world are combined with modern science to benefit all human and planetary health. Drawing together mechanistic, preclinical and clinical studies, examples from native plant enterprises, and testimony from Indigenous knowledge holders – to identify where current practice succeeds, where it does harm and which safeguards are effective.

By investing in the development of our framework, we enable policy-makers, regulators, funders and industry to redesign programmes so that Indigenous leadership, and Mother Earth and Indigenous knowledge, are embedded from the start. This is expected to improve health equity, strengthen ecological and supply-chain sustainability, reduce legal and reputational risk, and enable Indigenous communities to participate in – and share in the benefits of – plant-based health innovation on their own terms.



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profile



Research
story



Disclaimer: WHO played no role in the development of this innovation.