

THEME: Health and Medical Research Management

TITLE: Coordinating Ambitious Research that Supports Interdisciplinarity and Embraces Innovation

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HOW DOES THE ABSTRACT ALIGN WITH THE THEME?

Provides an interesting and unique case-study for challenging the way things are usually done; employing innovative governance frameworks; and cultivating community-driven research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Discover how challenging the way things are usually done can lead to innovative and effective grant management and research impact.

ABSTRACT:

Twenty interdisciplinary Investigators, an ambitious research proposal and an unbudgeted funding scheme: sounds like an opportunity for innovation!

Using the case study of an NHMRC Synergy grant-funded project, the presenter will demonstrate how an innovative approach to governance and grant management can lead to impactful, culturally secure research.

STARFISH is investigating the most effective environmental health initiatives to reduce Strep A infections and prevent Acute Rheumatic Fever among Aboriginal Australians. The STARFISH project integrates a complementary and diverse team with skills in research with Indigenous communities, infectious diseases, microbiology, public and environmental health, housing, architecture, primary health care, modelling, spatial demography and data linkage.

Synergy grants do not require pre-award budget breakdowns. Therefore, we had to establish robust cultural and scientific governance processes to support effective grant management. The project is governed by the STARFISH Indigenous Governance Council (IGC), who work closely with STARFISH Investigators in the Science Forum. Investigators are given the opportunity to present and workshop their research proposals for input and support from the Science Forum, before seeking final endorsement from the IGC. The IGC review proposals against the Cultural Governance Framework, which was developed to ensure all STARFISH research meets the Aboriginal Research Standards; aligns with the overarching scientific strategy; cultivates community-driven research; prioritises opportunities for Aboriginal employment and capacity-building; and employs culturally safe communication protocols.

From the perspective of the Senior Project Coordinator, you will discover how challenging the way things are usually done can lead to innovative and effective grant management and research impact.