

AAERS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty Statement

In reflection of our values, the Aboriginal Adolescence Experiences of Racism study (AAERS) team members take great care to ensure that principles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty (IDS) are upheld in this research. We have adopted the definition of IDS from the Maiam Nayri Wingara Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Sovereignty Collective:

“IDS is the right of Indigenous people to exercise ownership over Indigenous Data. Ownership of data can be expressed through the creation, collection, access, analysis, interpretation, management, dissemination and reuse of Indigenous Data” (MaiamNayri Wingara, 2018; <https://www.maiamnayriwingara.org/>)

Put simply, our understanding of obeying IDS principles means that as researchers, we respect the fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants have a right to retain ownership of the data they provide to researchers and have an ongoing say on how this data is used and treated.

A couple of other definitions:

“In Australia, ‘Indigenous Data’ refers to information or knowledge, in any format or medium, which is about and may affect Indigenous peoples both collectively and individually.” (Maiam Nayri Wingara, 2018; <https://www.maiamnayriwingara.org/>)

In AAERS we are collecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents’ experiences and responses to racism and microaggressions, as well as data on what these adolescents think about daily diary(DD) methodology to study microaggressions.

“Indigenous Data Governance’ refers to the right of Indigenous peoples to autonomously decide what, how and why Indigenous Data are collected, accessed and used. It ensures that data on or about Indigenous peoples reflects our priorities, values, cultures, worldviews and diversity.”
(Maiam Nayri Wingara, 2018; <https://www.maiamnayriwingara.org/>)



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In AAERS data governance means that decisions about what happens to the information provided by participants are made in consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Specifically, decisions around:

1. Which groups of people hold the data?

- The data will be held under password protection at the Kurongkurl Katitjin Centre at Edith Cowan University.

2. Which groups of people have the authority to access and use the data?

- All project CIs will have access to the raw data and names of participants who have taken part in the study attached to what they say in the study
- Any other party that has interest in using the deidentified data will have to request access the raw data

3. Which groups of people have the authority on how the data is used?

- The participants have the authority to give and withdraw consent for AAERS research team to use and keep their data.
- Requests from outside parties to access data will be assessed by the Lead study investigator and reviewed and approved by the member of the study Community Advisory Group (please see External Party Requests below)

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4.

How the data will be used?

- To answer the research questions:
 1. What are the types, contexts and frequencies of racism and microaggressions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents experience daily?
 2. Does the concept of microaggressions resonate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents and do similar categories of microaggressions apply to them?
 3. What are the positive ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents are responding to daily racism and microaggressions?
 4. What are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents' thoughts on Daily Diary methodology for studying microaggressions?
 5. What is the short- and long-term impact of daily racial microaggressions on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents' wellbeing and mental health outcomes?
- In answering these research questions, the data will be used by our research team for peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and community reports.
- To develop a short survey of microaggressions for use in future studies with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents
- To educate participants' schools and communities about the impact of racism and microaggressions and advocate for the implementation of anti-racist practices.

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5.

Who owns the data?

- In AAERS, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents who consent to participate in the focus groups and daily diary study own the data they provide. In establishing consent, the research team are seeking permission to use this data in the above ways.

External Party Requests

- Data sharing is becoming increasingly popular in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants.
- Data sharing involves sharing de-identified data collected as part of one study with researchers or organisation who were not part of the original study.
- Participants and their parent/guardian will have to 'opt in' to sharing their deidentified data with researchers outside of the research team (see Participant and Parent/Caregiver Information Forms)

PARTICIPANT TRANSCRIPTS OR NAMES WILL NEVER BE SHARED OUTSIDE THE RESEARCH TEAM. EXTERNAL PARTIES CAN REQUEST THAT THE RESEARCH TEAM REVIEW PARTICIPANT TRANSCRIPTS TO ANSWER SPECIFIC RESEARCH QUESTIONS. SUMMATIVE FINDINGS WILL THEN BE SHARED WITH EXTERNAL PARTIES.

- External parties can request access to survey raw data through submitting a request in writing to the lead project investigator.
- The AAERS research team will provide a copy of a plain English IDS Document for participants and their parents/guardians to help them make an informed decision about data sharing
- The first step of the data governance protocol will consist of members of the AAERS research team assessing the suitability of a data sharing request. If deemed appropriate, the lead investigator will pass the request details onto the study Community Advisory Group to determine if the request should be granted.

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The following factors will be taken into consideration when screening requests from external parties:

- Why: Is it going to be beneficial for the I Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to use this data?
- Why: Is it going to be beneficial for this participant to use their data?
- Why: Are there any potential risks/negative consequences for the participant/s if their data is used?
- Why: Are there any potential risks/negative consequences for the Aboriginal community if this data is used?
- Why: Is the use of the participant/s data necessary to the purpose suggested? Is there a less invasive way to answer the question?
- How: Has each participant/guardian provided informed consent for their data to be used?
- What: Is the data anonymised?
- What: Is the person/s requesting the data using appropriate respect for the lived experience and cultural knowledge of the participant/s?
- Who: Is the person/s requesting access to the data trustworthy?
- Who: Does the person/s requesting the data understand the importance of IDS?

Questions that the data governance mechanism will answer include:

- Requests from community members, or academics external to the project (i.e., potential collaborators) to use the data to answer a research question outside the scope outlined above.
- Requests from community members, or academics external to the project (i.e., potential collaborators) to access the data to answer a research question within the scope outlined above
- Requests from community members for a project finding to be suppressed or have limited dissemination
- Requests from community members for project data to be deleted. DATA WILL NOT BE DELETED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY A PARTICIPANT, THEIR GUARDIAN, OR A REASONABLE REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

This data governance protocol is implemented as of May 2022 and updated as of January 2026. It will be reviewed every five years by project investigators. The data will be stored for an unlimited amount of time unless otherwise decided by the Community Advisory Group.