



Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods

Reconciliation Policy

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Acknowledgment of Country

The Australian Research Council Industrial Transformation Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods ('UAF Training Centre') acknowledges the Traditional Owners - the Jagera People - and their custodianship of the land on which it operates.

We pay our respects to their ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country.

We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.

Policy statement

The UAF Training Centre is committed to a reconciled Australia and to the social and economic advancement of First Nations Australians. In collaborative partnership with First Nations businesses, entities and research partners, as well as broader industry, we perform impact-driven research in the native botanicals sector in a way which significantly and continuously advances our progress towards these commitments.

Purpose of this document

This document details 5 Key Policy Principles, each of which aligns with, expands on, and contributes to our policy commitments. These Principles are:

1. Deep collaboration and partnerships
2. Strong, successful First Nations enterprises, leading the native botanicals industry
3. Increased First Nations participation in the native botanicals industry
4. Traditional knowledge respected, protected, valued and celebrated
5. Food justice and well-being

These 5 Principles serve as a guideline for decision making, development of projects and activities, and behaviour in relation to the Centre's research and engagement with First Nations Australians, partners and communities.

Policy scope

This Policy applies to all students, staff and other associated persons who engage with First Nations Australians and/or communities as part of their duties and/or research activities in the UAF Centre.

Policy currency and review

This is a living Policy and will be updated as needed in keeping with the gaining of new knowledge, understanding, learnings and feedback, with a formal review conducted annually by the UAF Training Centre's Management Committee and First Nations Advisory Group.

Relevant legislation, standards, protocol and strategies

This Policy is aligned to relevant international, national and university standards, regulations, protocols and strategies. These are listed in Appendix 1, Operating standards.

Principles

1. Deep Collaboration and Partnerships

Description

Through deep collaboration and strong partnerships, all research and associated translation and development activities enables two-way learning, creates value for the Indigenous Enterprises in line with their goals and aspirations, and builds future industry leaders.

Objectives

- Build and strengthen relationships and networks which ensure high impact outcomes of research
- Build and maintain best practice research collaboration partnerships
- Create conditions for UAF researchers and First Nations research partners which promote strong relationships and continuous two-way learning

2. Strong, Successful Indigenous Enterprises Leading the Native Botanicals Industry

Description

First Nations entrepreneurs have access to the expertise, development opportunities, resources and support they require to build and lead strong successful enterprises. This will help to increase economic activity, opportunity and development, and increase the ability of First Nations enterprises to influence and lead the native botanicals industry.

Objectives

- Support First Nations research partners to create new, unique products with a strong value proposition *and strong market*
- Build First Nations research partner capability in industry-related enabling disciplines (eg. science, law, quality assurance, supply chain management, business leadership & development, environmental management, tourism) to support enterprise development, growth and diversification
- Secure support to enable business diversity and growth, by building and strengthening partnerships with relevant stakeholders

3. Increased First Nations participation in the native botanicals industry

Description

A connected and meaningful Career pathways program comprising native botanicals experiences, training, education and potential job opportunities will support the increase of First Nations participation at all levels of the industry.

Objectives

- Develop a supported career pathway in the native botanicals industry for First Nations Australians from initial exposure through to study and employment
- Create opportunities for First Nations Australians to experience and learn about native botanical industry opportunities
- Provide First Nations Australians with access to services which will support them to secure and retain work in the native botanicals industry

4. Traditional Knowledge is Respected, Protected, Valued and Celebrated

Description

Traditional Knowledge is recognised, valued, protected and celebrated in contemporary ways in the creation of new food products.

Objectives

- Build capability and capacity of First Nations partners, ARC Centre staff and students of the ARC to ensure they are able to operate in adherence with international, national and state protocol laws relating to the protection and rights of First Nations Australians and their Traditional Knowledge and Culture, within an agribusiness context.
- Develop innovative products and applications for native botanicals based on a fusion of Traditional Knowledge and Western Science
- Increase native botanical consumer awareness and understanding of First Nations Australians and the value of their traditional knowledge

5. Food justice and well-being

Description

First Nations peoples have increased opportunity to own, control, benefit from and have access to healthy, culturally aligned foods; and are able to make healthier choices around food consumption to improve their well-being.

Objectives

- Increase food justice in the communities of First Nations research partners
- Research, support & enable environmental and food sustainability
- Improve community and individual well-being through increased harvest and consumption of native botanical products.

Appendix 1: Operating Standards

This policy aligns with the following international, national, state and university legislation, protocol, regulations and strategy

International standards

- **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), especially article 31.** <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/un-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples-1>
- **International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) ,in particular Chapter 9: Farmers Rights of the ITPGRFA.** <https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en/treaties/international-treaty-plant-genetic-resources-food-and-agriculture>
- **UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), *The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (Nagoya Protocol) and in particular Article 12. Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources.** <https://www.cbd.int/abs/>
- **United Nations Global Sustainable Development goals 2030** <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), in particular the International Government Committee on Genetic Resources Intellectual Property and Folklore.** [WIPO - International Government Committee on Genetic Resources Intellectual Property and Folklore.](https://www.wipo.int/ipk/en/)

National, State and local standards

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030

- Objective 4 - Respect and maintain traditional ecological knowledge and stewardship of nature;
- Objective 8 - Use and develop natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way

State and Local standards:

- This Strategic Priorities and Action Plan, and all associated research projects, adheres to relevant State and local standards, where these exist in addition to national standards.

UAF Training Centre policy standards

- Uniquely Australian Foods policies and procedures <https://uniquelyaustralianfoods.org/resources/policies-procedures/>
- Uniquely Australian Foods legal guidelines <https://uniquelyaustralianfoods.org/resources/legal-guidelines/>

University of Queensland Strategic Alignment

1. **UQ Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Plan 2018-21** <https://about.uq.edu.au/strategic-plan>

2. **QAAFI Strategic Plan 2022-2026** <https://qaafi.uq.edu.au/>
3. **UQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research and Innovation Strategy 2021-25**
<https://research.uq.edu.au/files/39599/UQ%20Aboriginal%20and%20Torres%20Strait%20Islander%20Research%20and%20Innovation%20Strategy%202021-2025.pdf>

Ethical guidelines

- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) **Ethical Guidelines for research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, 2018**
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-conduct-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-and-communities>
- **The Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018**
<https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>
- Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) **Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research.** <https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research>