

## OUR AIMS

Using decolonising research methodologies such as Health Journey Mapping, Dadirri, Ganma and Yarning Circles, we aim to:



Find out how coordinated Patient Navigator programs impact patient care and wellbeing



Determine the best support systems for Patient Navigators



Understand how Patient Navigators can be best integrated into the healthcare system



Investigate the impact of Patient Navigators on the general cultural awareness of staff working in the healthcare system



"My Kidney Journey" by Ihawintji Williamson



Our Project Team



Our Team at Panuku

## Have a yarn with us!



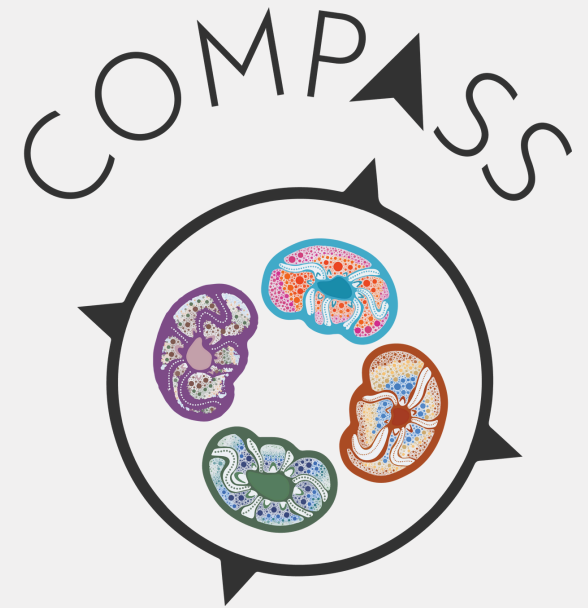
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## Connecting Our Mob: Patient navigators As Sustainable Supports

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## ABOUT COMPASS

COMPASS is a co-designed project that brings together the lived experiences, research expertise, and voices of Community to implement a sustainable, coordinated model of kidney care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Through our research, we aim to understand how coordinating Patient Navigator programs across four settings (Port Augusta, Adelaide, Alice Springs, and Darwin) can help facilitate better care and outcomes for patients.

COMPASS has been funded by a Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

### Where we work



PURPLE HOUSE  
ALICE SPRINGS, NT



PORT AUGUSTA  
HOSPITAL  
PORT AUGUSTA, SA



ROYAL ADELAIDE  
HOSPITAL  
ADELAIDE, SA

## WHO ARE PATIENT NAVIGATORS?



Patient Navigators are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with lived experience of kidney disease and transplantation, with the job of helping other kidney patients understand and navigate the complex kidney health pathway.

## WHY IS THIS WORK IMPORTANT?

Kidney disease disproportionately impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, yet treatment access and outcomes are not optimal due to the complex and culturally unsafe pathways to transplantation.

Patient Navigator programs in South Australia and the Northern Territory are accepted by Community as a culturally safe way to improve access to the transplant waitlist. However, these programs currently operate independently across two jurisdictions that share one transplantation unit (Royal Adelaide Hospital).

Existing Patient Navigators have identified that the coordination of programs is required to ensure sustainability and continuity of care from renal sites through to the transplant unit.



*We need to walk together and strive for better care for our people.*



- Kelli Owen, Chief Investigator



Purple House Patient Navigators Cedrina (left) and Selena (right)