COMMUNITY RESEARCHERS

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Unit

- What is it?
- Why we created it?

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What is the process and who with?

Engage, liaise, promote	Train on data collection skills, create backbone committee	Collect data	Whole of community feedback, Client reporting
Client, Stakeholders, Elders, Community Members	Community Researchers, Elders	Stakeholders, Services, Community Members	Client & Community

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What did we all learn?

"It taught me not to judge people and to empathise with each individual."
- Community Researcher

Training can be Easy – Training can be very difficult:
Each community and each individual are unique.
All have different barriers, skill levels and abilities. All have different experiences and understandings of research in/for their communities, how technology works and how/who they can speak to.

Extensive high density data feedback is not always the best way to give information back to Community. All communities deserve tailored feedback.

I could see some minor changes and people in community are happy. A small change always make a difference in the life of a community member."

I have become more confident with approaching people in the community

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Community Researcher Feedback:

I like this work because concerns of our peoples have not been told to the government before e.g. it gave people who don't normally have a voice the ability to tell their story. In our peoples world individuals who don't speak loudly get a chance to say what is happening in their world through the survey. In Balanda world people talk and talk until change happens but in our peoples world we are quiet. I think this is good research as the survey allows our people to share their story from the heart."

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What has changed in the community since the project was completed as a result of the research

More jobs were offered to a lot of people that I know in the community and it was good to see and hear from the people's in our community.”

people are realising they can have say about what is happening in their community.”

It opened my eyes and thoughts on how we should all come together as a Community.”

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Summary

Every community throughout Australia Indigenous or not is unique and all face different, real, day to day issues.

Research in communities is becoming more successful using local peoples

Giving skills and sharing knowledge with these communities and peoples gives them further opportunities to evolve themselves.
We have employed 40+ Local Community Researchers around Australia since the ATSIRU started in 2016. Some of these people have now found permanent work, others are still working on current and upcoming projects with us.

I have started permanent work."

I can add this to my resume."

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QUESTIONS?
FEEDBACK?
COMMENTS?

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