



Working with us – Indigenous organisations and researchers

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are the first people of Australia. We are committed to respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's enduring connection to the lands, skies, waters, plants and animals. We're working with Indigenous communities and organisations to create Indigenous-driven science solutions that support sustainable futures for Indigenous peoples, cultures and Country.

We view our work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as a two-way learning experience. By working together and blending Western and Indigenous science we are driving innovation and creating an immense knowledge system that can be used to directly benefit Indigenous Australians.

This can be through:

- Indigenous job creation, income and training
- protection of Indigenous culture
- opportunities to heal country
- growing connections and driving reconciliation.

CSIRO's Indigenous Science and Engagement Program

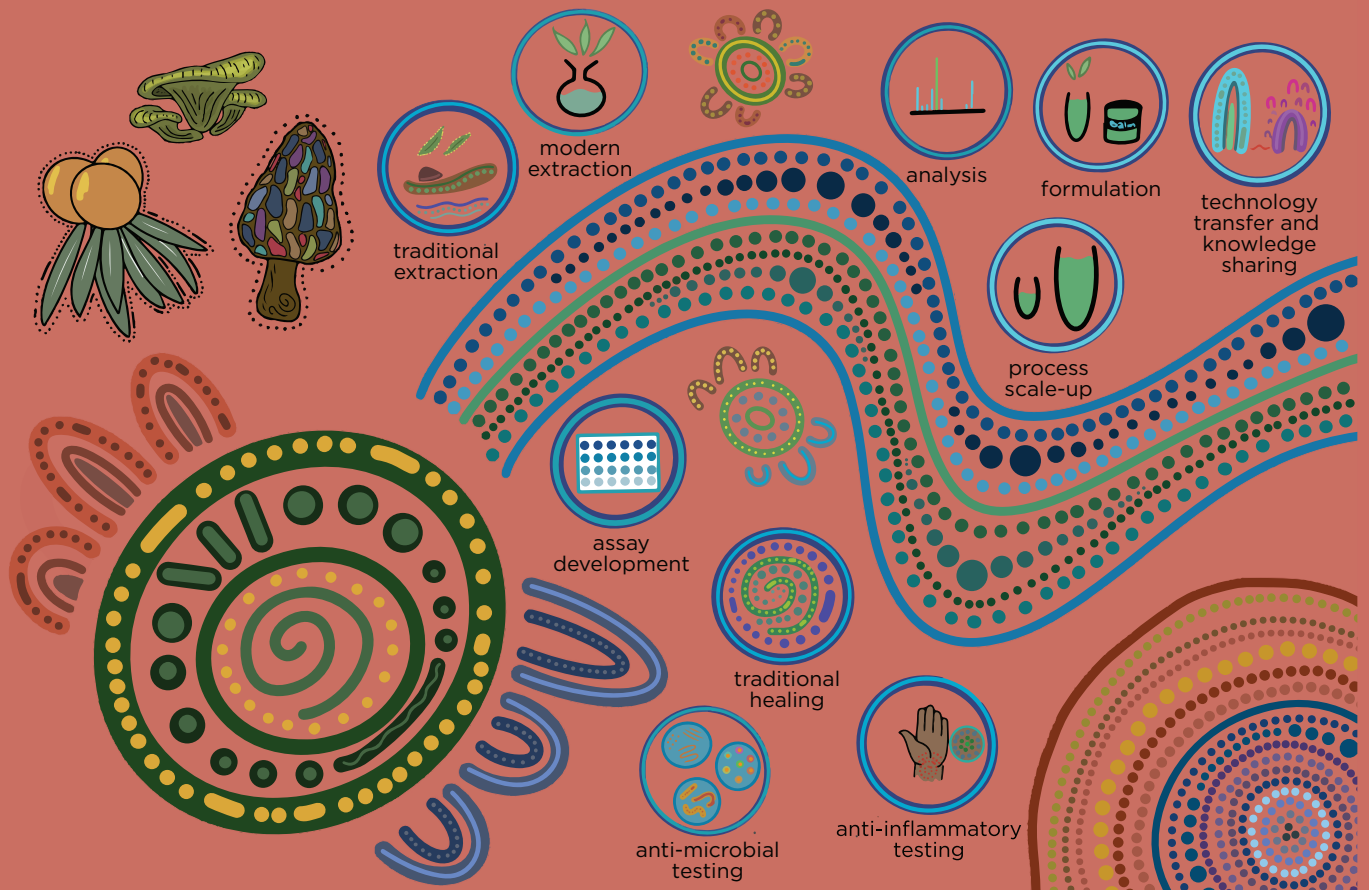
We are working to create a science landscape in respectful partnership with Indigenous Australia delivering innovative, sustainable, holistic solutions to meet our greatest national challenges.

To achieve this vision, we are enabling:

- respectful partnerships
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lead CSIRO research
 - Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property is protected
 - CSIRO research includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their perspectives
- innovative solutions
 - international Indigenous research partnerships with CSIRO
- sustainable solutions
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scientists
 - CSIRO capability enabled with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff
- holistic solutions
 - procurement with Indigenous enterprises
- national challenges to be addressed
 - support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to benefit from the Indigenous Estate
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities initiate and co-design projects.



(L-R) Wiradjuri Elder Uncle Peter Peckham,
CSIRO scientist Dr Katherine Locock,
and Native Secrets founder Phil Thompson.



By Djaara and Bunorong woman and CSIRO researcher Maddie Fulton. Maddie describes her work as subjective and is happy that viewers make their own interpretation of it. Though, when she was creating this work, she was thinking about the circles/spirals showing healing and meeting together, and the river showing the journey we're all taking with scientific discovery.

Protecting Indigenous knowledge

Protecting Indigenous intellectual property is a vital part of working with Indigenous businesses. We understand that IP is usually based on written records as 'proof' but that Indigenous knowledge may not be recorded and instead passed down through generations verbally or through song and dance.

We recognise the value of their knowledge and their right to control what it's used for, where normal patent systems don't do this. We build specific clauses into contracts to ensure the Indigenous knowledge that comes to us is protected, and remains under control of the people who shared it with us.

Indigenous-led commercialisation of traditional medicines

Indigenous organisations are approaching CSIRO scientists to help support the commercialisation of traditional medicine plants. We can help develop processes to take raw plant material through to refined extracts/oils, measure their medicinal properties and then formulate them into products.

By walking this journey together, and respectfully blending our approaches to developing medicines, we can create innovative new products. Our Indigenous partners retain control over this process, and can use the knowledge that is created to derive benefit for their communities.

As Australia's national science agency, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. CSIRO. Unlocking a better future for everyone.

Case study Secret Harvest

Indigenous business Secret Harvest was supported by our CSIRO Kick-Start program to investigate a native plant known for its healing properties.

Our team of scientists worked on a variety of projects to develop extraction techniques and test for both anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties in the plant extract.

"There's one particular native plant that we've used for generations...Our best-case scenario is that CSIRO will say they've found the perfect extraction methodology for this plant, and it could be transferrable. Then that will be the technology that we'll invest in and we'll do that locally here in regional New South Wales. This could lead to the creation of as many as 30 new jobs for the region within three years."

Bidjara Kurra Kurra man Phil Thompson, Native Secrets

We welcome the opportunity to start a conversation with you on how we might be able to help.

Contact us
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csiro.au/contact
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