

## Close the Gap for Vision by 2020 Conference

### The Gap and Beyond

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**Title:** Recruiting, Engaging and Retaining Participants for Health Research Studies within Aboriginal Communities: Learnings from a Population-Based Study on Type 2 Diabetes and its Eye Complications

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#### **Abstract:**

Engagement and relationship building for recruitment and retention of study participants from hard-to-reach populations require tailored approaches that consider the contextual factors of local communities. This presentation outlines the multi-targeted approach applied to support participation, community engagement, clinical integration of eye health outcomes and knowledge translation for a population-based cohort study.

The **Predicting Renal, Ophthalmic and Heart Events** in the Aboriginal Community (PROPHECY) study seeks to gain an understanding of the social, clinical and biological predictors of type 2 diabetes and its complications, including vision loss. The cohort recruits Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living within South Australia (SA) and is known to the community as the *Aboriginal Diabetes Study*. A multi-targeted approach to participant recruitment and engagement is co-designed with the research team, partners and community leaders across diverse SA Aboriginal communities. Clinical integration is achieved through the detection and triaging of eye diseases, and delivery of vision correction and aggregated study findings are translated to service and community partners.

Insights into the importance of relationships, reciprocity and partnerships built around trust for mutually successful research and community outcomes are highlighted, with relevant findings on the eye health needs of the SA Aboriginal community to be explored.