

Researcher improving Indigenous men's health receives Academy Fellowship

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Associate Dean Indigenous Dr Jacob Prehn, a Worimi man living on Palawa Country, from the University of Tasmania, has been named the 2024 recipient of the Australian Academy of the Humanities John Mulvaney Fellowship.

The Fellowship recognises one high achieving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher and provides \$4,000 to support a research project or fieldwork.

Under the Fellowship, Dr Prehn will research how Indigenous men access healthcare services across Australia.

'My project will use data from the Mayi Kuwayu Study of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing to inform to the provision of healthcare services that better align with the preferences of Indigenous men across different states and territories and levels of relative isolation.'

'We want to identify ways health systems can engage with Indigenous men, not label them as "hard to reach". The improvement of health and wellbeing outcomes among Indigenous men is crucial, not only for their own prosperity, but for that of their families and communities.'

Prehn is a Sociologist and Social Work academic and Associate Dean Indigenous for the College of Arts, Law and Education at the University of Tasmania. He also is an executive member of Maiam Nayri Wingara, the Australian Indigenous Data Sovereignty Collective, and a member of the Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA).

Before joining the University of Tasmania, Prehn worked as a qualified Social Worker and Aboriginal Health Worker, where he coordinated the first Tasmanian Aboriginal men's health program. His interest in researching Indigenous men's health began when he noticed the improved health outcomes of men who participated in a men's on-Country program he facilitated.

Australian Academy of the Humanities President Professor Stephen Garton AM FAHA FRAHS FASSA FRSN says, 'it's a great pleasure to see Dr Jacob Prehn recognised for this award. His work across Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous health exemplifies the significant interdisciplinary collaboration within the humanities, health and sciences. We look forward to seeing the outputs of this very important work.'

'Dr Prehn was one of several high calibre applicants for this year's Fellowship, reflecting the great talent of Indigenous researchers working in the humanities.'

Linguist and 2023 recipient of the Academy's John Mulvaney Fellowship Tula Wynyard served on the awards committee.

'Dr Jacob Prehn's research clearly demonstrates the urgency and importance of better healthcare outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men,' says Tula. 'His successful track record in the two fields of men's health and data sovereignty is impressive.'

About the Australian Academy of the Humanities

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is one of Australia's five Learned Academies with a Fellowship of over 700 humanities leaders championing their unique role in understanding the past, explaining the world we live in, and imagining and shaping the future.

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