



RUTH GULAMANDA DHURRKAY

SENIOR YOLŪU RESEARCHER & COMMUNITY WORKER

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PROFILE

Ms Ruth Gulamanda Dhurrkay is a Senior YolŪu research leader whose first language is Djambarrpuyngu. She was born in Milingimbi but now lives in Galiwin'ku in North-East Arnhem Land. Following 30 years of working in education, Ms Gulamanda joined the University of Melbourne to lead a 2022-23 NHMRC evaluation. She is currently a chief investigator on two MRFF projects, including the Marrtjin Limurr Rrambanjin Gunga'yun YolŪu'-YulŪuny Mala program. Ms Gulamanda is highly skilled at community engagement, culturally safe research methodologies, maintaining data sovereignty, community co-design, and mentoring and encouraging young YolŪu staff.

EDUCATION BACKGROUND

MILINGIMBI SCHOOL	Primary School	BACHELOR INSTITUTE	2011
DHUPUMA COLLEGE	Year 8 & 9	CERT IV IN INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WORK (70111NT)	
KORMILDA COLLEGE, DARWIN	Year 9 & 10	CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY	In progress
DEPT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING	2011	SENIOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY BASED RESEARCHER, DIGITAL BADGE	
PROTECTING CHILDREN THROUGH EDUCATION			

CAREER HISTORY

YOLŪU TEACHER ASSISTANT 1992 to 2022

SHEPHERDSON COLLEGE GALIWIN'KU

Ms Gulamanda was highly committed to supporting the education of YolŪu children at the local school in Galiwin'ku. She developed a range of experiences teaching from preschool to Year 9. During this time she built her confidence as an educator and public speaker. She also developed a deep knowledge of the families and clans in the community which has contributed to the rich community engagement skills she applies to her research.

SENIOR YOLŪU RESARCHER 2022- present

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Ms Gulamanda is one of the senior research leads on the Marrtjin Limurr Rrambanjin Gunga'yun YolŪu'-YulŪuny Mala (Walking together to support YolŪu people for good health) program. The program is working with adult YolŪu participants to support them to prevent and slow down diabetes and heart disease. Ruth has been involved in all stages of the project including conducting a community co-design, recruitment, training of staff, participant engagement, and quantitative and qualitative data collection. Gulamanda is currently a Chief Investigator on two grants for the project.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Dissanayake, Hasthi UW, et al. "Improving cardiometabolic risk factors in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in northeast Arnhem Land: single arm trial of a co-designed dietary and lifestyle program." Medical Journal of Australia (2025).
- Dissanayake, Hasthi UW, et al. "The utility of point-of-care HbA1c tests in a very remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community: an agreement analysis with routine laboratory testing." Australian Journal of Rural health. 2024 (under review).

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

- Inquiry into diabetes - Invitation to give evidence at public hearing. House Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport Department of the House of Representatives 2024.
- Preventive Health Conference. Table Top Presentation on "Collaborative, transformative and preventive Aboriginal community-led outreach: The health and wellbeing vision". 2024.
- The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity 10 year anniversary celebrations. "Collaborative Research in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health: Bridging Knowledge Systems." 2024.
- Australian Centre for accelerating diabetes innovations (ACADI). 2024.
- Yapas Yarnin' Podcast - with Leila Gurruwiwi, 22 Nov 2024, <https://broadradio.com.au/yapas-yarnin/>

AWARDS

- 2024 Award for Excellence in Indigenous Collaboration. Global, Place and Community Excellence Awards Selection Committee, University of Melbourne. 2024.

CORE SKILLS

- Excellent at teaching and mentoring young people
- Strong community development and engagement skills
- Experienced at designing and implementing culturally safe research methodologies
- Passionate about the wellbeing and health of Yolŋu people
- Excellent bilingual and cross cultural communication skills in both English and Djambarrpuyngu
- Experienced in conducting Yolŋu-centred approaches to co-design

WORK REFERENCES

DR. HASTHI DISSANAYAKE

Project Coordinator

Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity

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YUNGIRRIŃA BUKULATJPI

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