

## **Translation and Cultural Adaptation of the World Health Organization's Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) into Pitjantjatjara.**

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### **Introduction and Aims:**

Indigenous Australians are at an increased risk of substance-related harm as a result of additional social, cultural, and economic factors they experience. But limited culturally appropriate preventive screening options are available to healthcare workers that are suitable for use in Indigenous populations. The aim of this study was to translate and culturally adapt the World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed, Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) into Pitjantjatjara. The journey of community-led translation and adaptation is described and discussed.

### **Method / Approach:**

This study was conducted into two phases. Phase 1 involved translation of the instrument into Pitjantjatjara, and subsequent back-translation into English, following guidelines set out by WHO. In Phase 2, a series of targeted focus-groups involving Pitjantjatjara-speaking Indigenous community members were used to evaluate the translated instrument for cultural appropriateness and accuracy. Focus-groups were also used to gauge various substance use characteristics and patterns among the community, and to inform the future development of a culturally appropriate brief intervention.

### **Key Findings:**

Phase 1 required several modifications to the framing and language of the instrument. However the scoring of the instrument did not change. Most commonly identified substances during focus-groups were alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, methamphetamine and inhalants. Substance-specific features, and general patterns of use by members of the Pitjantjatjara-speaking community were also identified.

### **Discussions and Conclusions:**

The key outcomes from this paper will be directly applied in the development of a tablet-based app version of the instrument, and will serve as the foundation for future pilot-testing for feasibility, and validation of the instrument.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

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