

Project Profile presented by

**The Hopkins Centre**

Research for Rehabilitation and Resilience

# Innovative Accommodation for individuals with ABI

**SYNAPSE**  
AUSTRALIA'S BRAIN INJURY ORGANISATION



## Project aims

In 2011, a not for profit organisation dedicated to helping individuals with brain injury - together with a multidisciplinary team of professionals - were successfully awarded a federal grant to build Australia's first purpose-built housing complex for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people with acquired brain injury. As a first of its kind development in Australia, there was a distinct lack of examples to help guide the design of both the environment and care model.

The design brief stipulated that the development be non-institutional in nature, a place of safety, welcoming and healing, responsive to both the physical and cultural contexts, and promote connection to community. Alongside this, the unique model of care strove to be person-centred, culturally safe, trauma-informed and inclusive - placing culture at the centre of the design, model of care, governance and operations. Because no such model of care previously existed, an iterative, responsive approach was used to develop, revise and implement the model of care in response to the needs of the residents, staff and stakeholders.

The site welcomed its first residents in 2017, with THC undertaking longitudinal post-occupancy research to document and analyse the ongoing performance of the development (including both the built environment and care model). This research brings together qualitative data from residents and staff with quantitative data - to capture both the challenges and successes of the project. There have been a range of positive outcomes documented through the research, which the team is currently working on publishing.

### Status:

The research team is currently writing up the completed project findings for publication with the aim for this project to be a useful exemplar for future similar endeavours.

## Project investigators

Prof. Heidi Zeeman - Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University; Dr Grace Bitner, Dr Courtney Wright and Prof. Elizabeth Kendall - The Hopkins Centre, Griffith University.

## Funders

The Hopkins Centre, Synapse and Griffith University.

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\* This is just one of a suite of projects focused on architectural design, home modifications and the availability of housing for people with disability. If this area interests you, please contact us.

A joint initiative of



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