

January 19, 2022

Position Statement: “Research and reconciliation with Indigenous People in rural health journals.” Published simultaneously in the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine, the Australian Journal of Rural Health and Rural and Remote Health, January 2022.

Indigenous Peoples' cultural knowledge should be treated with respect, regardless of the diversity of their/our Nations and cultural strengths. However, rural health research publishing is guilty of silencing Indigenous Peoples through discursive practices such as author credentials. Therefore, we - a collaboration of Indigenous and non-Indigenous scholars - declare, 'nothing about Indigenous Peoples, without Indigenous Peoples.

This Position Statement is given practical effect in the Indigenous Cultural Identity of Authors in Rural Health Research Policy (ICIARHR) first mentioned in a Policy Paper which will be published subsequent to this statement, which means that Indigenous Peoples are readily identifiable in the authorship list of publications, such as lead author of the Position Statement, Mark Lock (Ngiyampaa). Articles that concern Indigenous Peoples will be rejected if they do not acknowledge an Indigenous author or provide evidence of a participatory process of Indigenous community engagement.

Indigenous Australian, Dr Mark Lock, (Ngiyampaa) welcomes this culturally strong move: "It signals to the academic community that my cultural identity is central to research and not a token add-in relegated to the acknowledgements section". Furthermore, Dr Lock states, "this is but one point in a journey through complicated publication processes, and our call to action is for all researchers to join us to develop a culturally safe academic publishing process through co-design and genuine engagement with Indigenous Nations worldwide".

Each Journal in this collaboration will develop local responses. Furthermore, the Position Statement, followed by the Policy Paper, will provide details on the range of considerations that, if addressed, would enable a culturally safe academic publishing system. Readers can send comments and suggestions to the Australian Journal of Rural Health (ajr.eo@wiley.com), the Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine (manedcjr@gmail.com) and Rural and Remote Health (ejrh@rrh.org.au).

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