

# B

## Appendix B – PFAS Health Study

### PFAS FOCUS GROUP STUDY

#### Poster for Aboriginal communities in Katherine

**PFAS Focus Groups Study**

**Key concerns were:**

- Contamination of river foods and bush tucker
- Overall impacts on country
- Worried about children's health and their future
- Worried about health in the future
- Worried about cancer and worried about people who are already sick

**29 KATHERINE**

Focus groups were held in three Aboriginal communities in Katherine, 69 community members met with the researchers.

Community members may have been exposed to PFAS.

Aboriginal people were not going to move from their country because of PFAS instead they wanted to look after it.

You might be exposed to contaminated water, locally grown food and bush tucker, or by working with PFAS chemicals.

**36 OAKEY**

Aboriginal people asked for more information about the effect of PFAS on river fish and animals and on bush tucker.

It is expensive for Aboriginal families to buy supplies from the supermarket rather than hunting from the river.

**46 WILLIAMTOWN**

People talked about how PFAS exposure could be bad for their health

**PFAS HEALTH STUDY**

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS FOR PFAS SURVEY

- 1. What are the main potential sources of exposure to PFAS through occupation, food, waters, or other factors in Williamtown (NSW), Oakey (Qld) and Katherine (NT)?**
- 2. What are the main concerns regarding health problems associated with living or working in the PFAS Investigation and Management Areas in Williamtown, Oakey and Katherine?**
- 3. What are the main self-reported health outcomes associated with living in or working in the PFAS Investigation and Management Areas in Williamtown, Oakey and Katherine?**
- 4. What are the current levels of psychological distress and how do these relate to PFAS blood results and location of residence or work?**
- 5. What are the main risk factors for higher than background level serum PFAS concentration regarding sociodemographic and other factors?**
- 6. Does the geographic distribution of blood PFAS levels correlate with known zones of contamination of groundwater and soil?**
- 7. What are the mean serum concentrations of PFAS in Williamtown, Oakey and Katherine residents and how do these levels compare to those of people residing in non-contaminated areas?**
- 8. How do serum concentrations vary by location and demographic factors, such as age, sex and length of residence, in the townships of Williamtown, Oakey and Katherine.**

Source M Kirk, K Todd, B Armstrong et al, *The PFAS Health Study Cross-sectional Survey and Blood Serum Study Research Protocol*, ANU, Report Prepared for the Department of Health, 20 March 2019, p. 15. [rsph.anu.edu.au/files/ANU-per-and-poly-fluoroalkyl-substances-health-study-cross-sectional-survey-blood-serum-study-protocol.pdf](https://rsph.anu.edu.au/files/ANU-per-and-poly-fluoroalkyl-substances-health-study-cross-sectional-survey-blood-serum-study-protocol.pdf)

**Survey Help** – ANU PFAS Health Study, Instructions for participating in the survey at [rsph.anu.edu.au/research/projects/pfas-health-study#acton-tabs-link--tabs-0-footer-5](https://rsph.anu.edu.au/research/projects/pfas-health-study#acton-tabs-link--tabs-0-footer-5)