

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE



Media Release

Three year health research funding welcomed for Central Australia

The Chairperson of the Central Australia Academic Health Science Centre [CA AHSC] John Paterson today welcomed the commitment over three years of significant research funding to the Centre by Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt.

"As the only Academic Health Science Centre in Australia with a primary focus on Aboriginal and remote health, we are pleased that Minister Hunt is leading on the front foot with an announcement such as this.

"It's especially pleasing that this is happening just as we are about to engage with a wide consultation between our members over health research priorities in central Australia in the coming years—this three year commitment allows us to do this with confidence.

"The Centre is already working in key areas such as endemic HTLV-1 infection, exploring the complex interplay between communicable and chronic disease as well as exploring the capacity of the primary health care sector to reduce avoidable hospitalisations," said Mr Paterson.

"Research projects that will be supported will emphasise those based on community need and initiative especially as expressed by the Aboriginal partner organisations, though this will not necessarily preclude externally identified needs.

"In any case, we will focus on comprehensive approaches to consultation and participation in the ethical design of research projects, the carriage of the research, and the rapid implementation of positive research results.

"A key activity will be that of building future leaders in the Aboriginal research workforce. We have already started this critical work with the first meeting of a network of more than 15 Aboriginal researchers in Central Australia."

The Federal Government formally recognised the CA AHSC in July 2017 and it is the only Aboriginal-led Academic Health Science Centre in the country.

Media inquiries

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