We would like to invite you to take part in the DRUID follow-up study.

You are a valued participant of the Diabetes and Related conditions in Urban Indigenous people in the Darwin Region (DRUID) study. As you may remember the original study was conducted between September 2003 and March 2005 and involved blood tests for diabetes, cholesterol and kidney disease, blood pressure testing, measuring your weight and height, and asking you about your health and medical problems. Important research from this study is helping us to better understand the health of Indigenous people. We are now interested to find out whether you have experienced health problems over the past 7 to 9 years.

Why do we want to do this research?

This information will help us to monitor changes in people’s health and develop a better understanding of the factors that increase or decrease the risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.

What is involved in this research?

To do this we are inviting you to complete a questionnaire on some health problems that you may have experienced. If you have had any of these health problems, we are asking for your permission to check some of your medical records and obtain some of your health information from other organisations, in order to get more details. The type of information we would like to get from other organisations includes diabetes-related test results, the health care you receive, and hospital admissions. We will only look at your medical records or contact other organisations if you give your consent for us to do this.

What are the risks?

The follow-up study doesn’t involve any physical tests or measurements.

What are the benefits?

This follow-up study will help us to develop better prevention and management strategies for diabetes, heart disease and stroke. This will help to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous Australians who are at high risk of these conditions.

What will happen with your results?

Results of this study will be presented in publications, at meetings, and in the media. With your permission, your results will be included with others as a whole group and you will not be named. Information collected from your medical records or from other organisations will be kept strictly confidential. Any data that the researchers obtain for this study for use in reports or published findings will not, under any circumstances, contain names or identifying characteristics. Results for this study will be kept securely at the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin.

Further requests for information or queries regarding the study should be directed to:

Study coordinator Kylie Tune (Toll Free: 1800 761 882; M: 0437843101, druid@menzies.edu.au)

Study investigators: Dr Elizabeth Barr (Toll Free 1800 761 882, fax 08 8927 5187, druid@menzies.edu.au), Dr Louise Maple-Brown (ph: 08 8922 8697, fax: 08 8927 5187, Louise.Maple-Brown@menzies.edu.au) or Professor Joan Cunningham (ph: 03 9819 2245, fax: 08 8927 5187 or Joan.Cunningham@menzies.edu.au).

If you have any concerns or complaints regarding the ethical conduct of the study, you should contact Ethics Administration, Human Research Ethics Committee of NT Department of Health and Menzies School of Health Research on 08 89227922 or email ethics@menzies.edu.au or fax 08 89275187.