PARTNERSHIP SOUGHT: SCALABLE. FOR DISCUSSION

THE NEED

• There are approximately 180 Indigenous medical practitioners currently working in Australia. Of these, only a handful have research training. Similar gaps exist in nursing and across the health professions.

• In Australia only about a third of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children complete secondary school, compared with a national average that’s closer to 80%.

• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students make up approximately 1.4% of all enrolments in university.

The core aim of the Top End Capacity Centre is to build a workforce of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as leaders in health research.

The vision for the Centre is that within five years we will have achieved significant, measurable increases in the numbers of Indigenous health workers and researchers, leading and guiding the advancement of their people.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Centre creates a new capacity among Aboriginal people to augment and authorise the existing workforce attempting to fix the crisis in Aboriginal health – a workforce hampered by chronic labour shortages and and a failure to invest in training, mentorship and career development.

1. Establish pathways for Indigenous high school students into the health research sector as Top End Capacity Centre Pathways Scholars and through Gap Year placements

2. Develop Indigenous research leaders as Top End Capacity Centre Fellows, across the priority areas of chronic disease, cancer, nutrition and child health

3. Place and support Community Fellows within partner health services across the Top End

4. Establish a vibrant visiting Fellows program, bringing internationally-recognised experts to the Top End to participate in research, training and education activities

Menzies is seeking partners in Our Capacity Centre and for discrete initiatives including:

• Designated Indigenous Science Pathways Programs at Menzies $20 000 per year

• Designated Indigenous gap year programs delivering training and employment for a year at the end of year 12 $40 000 per year

• Indigenous Cadetship Support placements, linking students with employers providing paid work between semesters

(in partnership with the federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations) $60 000 per year

• Top End Centre PhD Scholarships to attract early career researchers to Menzies $80 000 per year

• Fellowships to attract and support young researchers to further their research training; includes a formal peer support program $340 000 per year

• Remote research hubs for three communities, designed to facilitate communities taking charge of their own health and health research priorities $240 000 per year

• International Research Fellowships, inviting global experts (in chronic disease, tropical health, nutrition, maternal/child health, Indigenous community health) to learn, teach and collaborate with Menzies researchers $60 000 per year

Menzies can offer naming rights opportunities for the Centre itself and all the programs above.

PARTNERSHIP IMPACT

Indigenous staff are core to the delivery of effective health services to Indigenous Australians. To close the gap, high quality research addressing priority health issues for Indigenous communities is essential. Menzies has worked in partnership with communities across Northern and Central Australia for up to 30 years. These partnerships make a difference. Indigenous research leadership is lacking and research capacity within communities absent. We need to do more to build this workforce and we need to start now.

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