

Indigenous health advocate receives Honorary Doctorate

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Long-serving Indigenous researcher and educator, Lawurra Maypilama has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate during Charles Darwin University's recent end-of-year graduation ceremony.

A Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, was conferred in recognition of Dr Maypilama's outstanding contribution and leadership in Aboriginal health research with the Menzies School of Health Research.

Lawurra has been an integral part of several Menzies nutrition projects focusing on integrating traditional Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing to build strong nutrition, health and spirit.

Menzies senior research fellow and nutrition theme leader, Dr Julie Brimblecombe said it was fantastic to see this level of recognition for Lawurra's continued efforts around Indigenous health, education and community development.

"Lawurra has made a significant contribution to improving the health of Indigenous people over a considerable period of time through our nutrition projects and has been instrumental in developing Menzies partnerships with communities in Galiwinku," she said.

Lawurra has also been foundational in establishing the Yalu' Marnggithinyaraw Centre at Galiwin'ku, a centre using traditional Yolngu clan structures of governance and management to promote physical, spiritual and emotional health of Yolngu people.

She currently lives in Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island, and has connection to the land through her father's father. She also has a strong connection to Yirrkala lands through her Mother's side.

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Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research are Australia's only Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. We have a 28-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies work at the frontline and collaborate broadly, partnering with over 60 Indigenous communities across Northern Australia to create resources, grow local skills, and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.