

Indigenous political pioneer to deliver 2013 Oration

Thursday, 17 October 2013

An opportunity to hear from Australia's first Indigenous member of the House of Representatives about his vision for Indigenous health is set to attract hundreds of people to an upcoming public address.

The Federal Member for Hasluck, Western Australia, Ken Wyatt AM MP will deliver the 2013 Menzies Oration entitled, *Shifting the bell curve: Prioritising the need and transparency in Indigenous affairs*, on Saturday, 26 October.

Menzies Director, Professor Alan Cass said he was thrilled to have Mr Wyatt deliver this year's Oration.

"Ken Wyatt was elected in 2010 as the Federal Member for Hasluck, making history as the first Indigenous Member of the House of Representatives. Since then Ken has worked tirelessly to be a strong advocate for improving the quality of life for Indigenous people and mainstream Australian society in education and health," Prof Cass said.

"In September this year Ken Wyatt made history again, as the first Member for Hasluck to be re-elected for a second term. We look forward to this year's Oration and generating some robust discussion within the Darwin community about the future of Indigenous health."

My Wyatt said it was critical for marked health disparities, such as high Indigenous infant mortality rates, incidence of otitis media and other preventable health problems, to remain a key and continued issue for Indigenous people and communities.

"We need to ask ourselves what we can do better and how can we shift the bell curve to create efficiencies and effectiveness in our service delivery models for urban, rural and remote Indigenous communities," he said.

My Wyatt also pointed to the need to move toward a higher standard of accountability and transparency for Indigenous organisations and service delivery facilities.

"The individuals leading Indigenous organisations should not just be accountable to the grant funding body and government of the time, but should also be accountable to the Indigenous people and wider Australian population for which they are utilised to provide real change, on the ground," he said.

"These leaders can enact the lasting change for Indigenous people and enact the efficiencies and effectiveness of the governments priorities that we all, regardless of political persuasion, strive to achieve."

The 2013 Menzies Oration will be held on Saturday, 26 October 2013 from 5pm at the Darwin Convention Centre.

Attendance to the 2013 Oration is free, however all attendees need to register prior to the event. Registrations can be made through the [Eventbrite ticketing site](#).

For more information visit the [event homepage](#).

Media note: Pre-interviews with Mr Ken Wyatt AM MP are available upon request.

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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.