

Improving Indigenous health through Integrated Quality Improvement recognised as a Centre of Research Excellence

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A pioneering research project which aims to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes by accelerating and strengthening large-scale primary health care quality improvement efforts has been recognised as a national Centre of Research Excellence (CRE).

The CRE for Integrated Quality Improvement (CRE-IQI), recently announced as one of a select few national centres of research excellence by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), has secured funding of \$2.5 million over five years.

Menzies senior principal research fellow, Professor Ross Bailie will head the CRE which will draw on international experience through innovation platforms.

“Innovation platforms are recognised as a collaborative mechanism to bring together different stakeholders to identify solutions to common problems,” Prof Bailie said.

“In establishing these platforms we will leverage the efforts of researchers, service providers and policy makers, to address priority areas for development of IQI in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (PHC)”.

The CRE builds on and extends the work of the ABCD National Research Partnership and other groups.

Professor Bailie said the investigator team had a demonstrated proven record of collaboration and brings together representatives from academic, clinical, community controlled and government health service delivery, and state and national policy arenas.

“We will use innovation platforms to expand the partnership model that has been established through the ABCD Partnership. This will foster collaborations for priority-driven research and make available much needed, state-of-the-art quality improvement systems for use in Indigenous PHC across Australia,” Prof Bailie said.

“It will be a dynamic resource for supporting large-scale quality improvement initiatives in PHC. The innovation platform will be rigorously evaluated for processes and outcomes such that it will be continuously refined and enhanced over the course of the CRE.”

The CRE-IQI evaluation is set to make an important contribution both in Australia and internationally to the evidence of effectiveness of IQI, which will also support cutting-edge approaches across levels of the health system.

“This will be of practical benefit to health care providers and users of primary health care services worldwide.”

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Media note:

Professor Ross Bailie is the Scientific Director of the Centre for Primary Health Care Systems and leads the NHRMC funded ABCD National Research Partnership on quality improvement in

Indigenous primary health care. View his researcher profile here:

http://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Our_People/Researchers/Ross_Bailie/

Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous health and wellbeing. We have a 30-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, partnering with over 60 Indigenous communities across Northern and Central Australia. We collaborate to create resources, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.