

Pioneer Indigenous Health and Education Administrator becomes Menzies CCDE Patron

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The Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) Centre for Child Development and Education (CCDE) is very pleased to announce Dr Marion Scrymgour, CEO of Wurli-Wulinjang Aboriginal health service and chair of AMSANT (Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the Northern Territory), has agreed to serve as co-patron of the Centre.

The Centre was launched in 2011 to conduct research designed to improve the health, wellbeing and education of children, particularly Indigenous children, in the Northern Territory and beyond.

CCDE director, Professor Gary Robinson today described Dr Scrymgour's appointment as "an enormous asset to Menzies and the Centre, because of her integrity, and great credibility in the fields of both education and health."

"I am humbled and proud to follow in the footsteps of (former patron) Dr Yunupingu," said Dr Scrymgour today. "I am honoured to accept the role of CCDE co-patron, and I look forward to making a contribution to the important work of the Centre."

Of Tiwi background, Dr Scrymgour was appointed to the position of CEO of the Katherine-based Wurli-Wulinjang Aboriginal Corporation Health Service in 1993. In the mid-90's she established the Katherine West Health Board and became the organisation's inaugural chair.

Elected to the Northern Territory Parliament in 2001, Dr Scrymgour served in the Northern Territory Government, as Minister for Education, and Minister for Family and Community Services and the Arts. For a period of 15 months she also served as Deputy Chief Minister – the first Aboriginal person to rise to this most senior level in the Northern Territory Government.

"We are honoured that someone of Dr Scrymgour's stature has agreed to lend her name to the work of our organisation" said Professor Robinson.

Media note:

The Centre for Child Development and Education is a trans-disciplinary research institute committed to providing leadership and driving change to improve the lives of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children through better health, education and wellbeing.

The Centre develops, implements and evaluates programs to improve Early Childhood Development, and also aims to influence policy and practice reforms in child health, child care, education, family support and child protection.

View Menzies' CCDE dedicated website at: <http://ccde.menzies.edu.au/about-centre>

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Menzies Background

Menzies School of Health Research is Australia's leading Medical Research Institute dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. We have a 30 year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement. Menzies works at the frontline, joining with partners across the Asia-Pacific as well as Indigenous communities across northern and central Australia. We collaborate to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.