Two-year-old Matthew Hughes has his ears checked by nurse Christine Wigger during research into otitis media in Aboriginal children, who have the highest rates of the infection in the world. The Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin, NT, is conducting a clinical trial where Indigenous infants will receive an extra dose of pneumococcal vaccine to try and cut down the rates of incidence. The developmental impact of years of hearing impairment will also be measured for the first time in the trial, which has involved 397 children so far.

Photo: Menzies School of Health Research