

## **Darwin-based kidney specialist wins prestigious clinical science award**

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 9PM (ACST) 5 September 2017**

Kidney specialist and Director of Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies), Professor Alan Cass, was presented with the prestigious Kidney Health Australia Clinical Science Award tonight at the 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN ASM) conference dinner.

Professor Cass's winning presentation entitled *Difficult Conversations: Australian Indigenous patients' views on kidney transplant*, was based on the Improving Access to Kidney Transplants (IMPAKT) research program.

Indigenous Australians suffer a disproportionate burden of End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD) at an earlier age than non-Indigenous Australians, however, are less likely to receive a transplant.

The IMPAKT study, which investigated barriers to kidney transplantation for Indigenous Australians, collected experience narratives from 146 patients with ESKD in urban, regional and remote sites.

The study found that although Indigenous ESKD patients have an intense interest in transplantation, they felt poorly informed about their options.

"Patients believe transplant is the path most likely to support the re-establishment of their 'normal' family life," Prof Cass said.

"However, most had only a basic knowledge of the notion of transplant and no understanding of the eligibility criteria, the transplant procedure and associated risks.

"Of great concern, was the number of patients who indicated that multiple communication barriers had undermined their engagement in the treatment decision-making."

For more information about the ANZSN ASM (4-6 September) and other presentations as part of the Clinical Science Award, visit <http://www.anzsnasm.com/>

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**Menzies background**

Menzies School of Health Research is one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving Indigenous, global and tropical health. Menzies has a history of over 30 years 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. Menzies collaborates to create new knowledge, grow local skills and find enduring solutions to problems that matter.

**Kidney Health Australia**

Kidney Health Australia, formerly the Australian Kidney Foundation, is a national health care charity with a vision 'to save and improve the lives of Australians affected by kidney disease'. As the national peak body, Kidney Health Australia promotes good kidney health through delivery of programs in education, advocacy, research and support.