

## Tuberculosis elimination course for Indonesian health workers

**14 March, 2018**

Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) is collaborating with the Burnet Institute to deliver training in the prevention and eradication of tuberculosis (TB) to 25 visiting Indonesian health professionals this week.

The training in Darwin and Melbourne is supported by the Australia Awards in Indonesia (AAI) which give Indonesian professionals and future leaders the opportunity to access high quality professional development opportunities in Australia with high quality education providers and funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Northern Territory Health Minister Natasha Fyles told the Indonesian delegation at a reception in Parliament House last night that Australia is leading the way internationally in controlling TB.

“The Department of Health’s Centre for Disease control has been providing high-quality TB control and prevention activities for decades. They have achieved important successes in local TB control, with a fall in case numbers in the local Indigenous population during the last decade,” Minister Fyles said.

Associate Professor Anna Ralph, Head of Menzies’ Global Health Division and Course Co-Leader, says Menzies is proud to be contributing to the global effort to control TB.

“Menzies with the Burnet Institute leads a large DFAT-funded initiative, the Tropical Disease Research Regional Collaboration, working in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea to control TB and malaria.

“Training courses like this for our Indonesian neighbours illustrates that Australia has a key role and capacity to respond to the regional and global TB epidemic.

“Our local TB situation is heavily influenced by the TB epidemic in neighbouring countries and there is a major burden of TB in our region,” said Assoc Prof Ralph.

The World Health Organization has announced that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will hold the first-ever high-level meeting on the fight against TB this year, following reports that TB was one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide in 2015, being responsible for more deaths than HIV or malaria.

World TB day is on March 24, 2018.

For more information about the Tropical Disease Research Regional Collaboration visit the [Menzies website](#).

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## **Menzies School of Health Research**

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.