

Anaerobic Chamber to help improve lives of Indigenous Children.

Wednesday 3rd October 2018

The generous staff at Darwin Airport have donated \$13,000 to Menzies School of Health Research to go towards the purchase of Anaerobic Chamber.

The Chamber is a crucial piece of equipment for growing anaerobic bacteria that can be found in children under the age of 5 with middle ear infections and chronic lung disease.

Nine out of ten Northern Territory Indigenous children under the age of 10 suffer from a middle ear infection, which has been linked to long term hearing loss and chronic suppurative lung disease affects 1 in 68.

According to research undertaken by Menzies, untreated middle ear infections can lead to long-term hearing loss and untreated chronic lung disease has been linked to reduced life expectancy.

“Hearing loss from long-term middle ear infections can affect children throughout their lives. Chronic suppurative lung disease can cause irreversible lung damage, and we know that Indigenous adults with this disease can die in their 30s and 40s.” said Menzies researcher, Dr. Robyn Marsh.

This research is part of Menzies commitment to tackle some of the underlying health problems that affect so many Aboriginal children across the Northern Territory.

Staff who participate in the Airport’s Workplace Giving Scheme nominate an amount to be deducted from every pay to go towards a charitable cause. The amount raised is matched dollar for dollar by Darwin Airport CEO, Ian Kew.

“The \$13,000 donation is the first step towards reaching the \$65,000 target we need to purchase the Anaerobic Chamber,” said Dr Marsh.

“We are hoping we can reach our target before the end of the year.”

For anyone interested in making a donation towards the purchase of the Anaerobic Chamber, email Dr.Marsh on robyn.marsh@menzies.edu.au

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Media note:

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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.

