

Youth Summit for health in Darwin

Wednesday, 18 September 2019

Researchers, policy makers, service providers and young people will come together at a Youth Health Summit to discuss health research priorities for young people on Friday 20 September.

Coordinated by Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies), the Youth Health Summit aims to identify current priorities for youth health and research in the Northern Territory (NT) through consultation with research groups, policy makers and service providers and young people (aged 16-25 years).

The summit is primarily being funded by Menzies' [HOT NORTH](#) collaborative program which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all people living in northern Australia.

Dr Renae Kirkham, a senior research officer at Menzies, says key stakeholders and researchers will showcase their current youth-focused work and successful engagement strategies, while young people will have the opportunity to explore and prioritise what health means to them.

"We are asking our participants to identify the key contributors to living and achieving healthy fulfilling lives," Dr Kirkham said.

"The identification of health research priorities at the Summit will inform programs of work that aim to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for this population.

"Young people have been engaged in the planning of the project to help guide the structure, content and delivery of the Summit.

"Approximately 60 young people from Darwin, as well as regional and remote centres in the NT, have registered to attend the event."

Funding from Northern Territory PHN (NT PHN) is supporting participation and attendance for young people from regional and remote areas. NTPHN chief executive officer Nicki Herriot says youth health and wellbeing is critical to adult life and the next generation.

"It is well documented that intervening at this stage in life can have a triple dividend of success.

"We're pleased to support this important initiative for young people in the NT," Ms Herriot said.

Guest speakers include Magnolia Maymuru (Miss World Australia finalist), Pete Azzopardi (Co-head Adolescent Health, Burnet Institute), and Adam Drake (Founder – Balanced Choice).

What: Youth Health Summit

Who: **Dr Renae Kirkham**, is a social scientist with an interest in the social determinants of health and complex health interventions. She is the Implementation and Social Sciences Research Lead within the Diabetes across the Lifecourse: Northern Australia Partnership. She holds a PhD in Public Health and Rural Health and has extensive experience in community engagement, qualitative research and research translation. Renae is jointly teaching the Qualitative Research Methodology Unit for Menzies' Master of Public Health.

Keynote speakers available on request.

Where: Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre (MLLLC), TIO Stadium, 70 Alba Road, Marrara

When: Friday, 20 September, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Please note this is a summit for researchers, service providers, policy makers and young people. Media are welcome upon prior arrangement to ensure interviews can be arranged.

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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.