

## Substance misuse researcher honoured with Menzies Medallion

**Embargoed 6pm, 31 October 2019**

Long-term health researcher, Professor Peter d'Abbs, has been awarded the prestigious Menzies Medallion.

Presented with the award at the Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) Oration tonight, Professor d'Abbs was recognised for his significant contribution to research into substance misuse, alcohol and other drug policy issues and program evaluations.

The breadth and depth of Prof d'Abbs' work over the years is far reaching and includes his role as a Director of the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education, and positions with Menzies, University of Melbourne and University of Queensland.

Menzies Director Professor Alan Cass said he was delighted the award was presented to someone who has made such a contribution to harm minimisation in the Northern Territory (NT).

"I am very pleased to see Prof d'Abbs receive this year's medallion. Peter has worked at Menzies for over twenty years, and during that time, his research has been instrumental in informing policies in the substance misuse space, both in the NT and nationally," Prof Cass said.

"Peter has worked tirelessly to reduce problems associated with substance abuse in the NT across the spectrum, including the use of drugs, alcohol and petrol-sniffing in regional and remote settings.

"Peter is a strong advocate for evidence-based practice. Some of his most valued work has been his evaluations of alcohol management plans as well as the national evaluation of the rollout of low aromatic fuel in communities affected by petrol sniffing."

The Menzies Medallion is the highest award offered by the Menzies School of Health Research.

For more information about Prof Peter d'Abbs, visit the [Menzies website](#).

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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.