

## Opportunities for the next generation of local scientists

**9 February 2021**

A new training centre aimed at developing a sustainable, local biomedical and health sciences workforce has been launched at Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) today.

There is currently a shortage of biomedical and health sciences staff in the Northern Territory (NT) and many of those in the workforce are from outside of the NT.

The Ramaciotti Regional and Remote Health Sciences Training Centre (the Centre) will provide a new pathway into laboratory and health sector careers for young Territorians, with a focus on career development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth.

Mark Mayo, associate deputy director of Indigenous Engagement and Leadership at Menzies and co-lead of the Centre says that the opportunities provided are in high demand.

“The Centre has partnered with internal and external stakeholders to engage more than 30 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Northern Territory youth in biomedical and health sciences training,” Mark said.

“There is no shortage of youth approaching the Centre for training opportunities and we are looking ahead both internally and externally to increase our supervisory capacity, develop our training programs and create more opportunities for Northern Territory youth.”

The Centre focuses on delivering high-quality training in order to develop a local biomedical workforce for rural and remote northern Australia. Students benefit from training in the latest technology, industry partnerships, dedicated trainers, mentoring programs, internships across institutions, and access to Menzies researchers and networks.

Students can undertake a range of educational and workplace training experiences, including laboratory techniques, data analysis, computer literacy, literature reviews, coding and bioinformatics, health promotion and allied health.

Brandon Hoschke is a trainee at the Centre while he completes his final year of a Bachelor of Biomedical Science. Brandon says that the Centre complements his university studies well by providing him hands-on experience.

“Due to location, much of my education has taken place online and I therefore lacked many essential practical skills. The opportunity to study at the Centre has been a great learning experience. It allowed me to further develop my skills to the point where I am now much more confident.

“The advice, connections and learning provided by Menzies will no doubt aid me in both my remaining studies and future career and I am grateful for the opportunity to have had this experience,” Brandon said.

Examples of laboratory-based training available through the Centre include programs in microbiology, immunology, molecular biology, genomics, microbiomics, bioinformatics and data science. Students also have an opportunity to undertake training in Good Clinical Laboratory Practice which is important to clinical trials.

To find out more about the Centre or study and training opportunities visit <http://www.menzies.edu.au/ramaciotti>

The Ramaciotti Regional and Remote Health Science Training Centre has been established with funding provided by The Clive & Vera Ramaciotti Foundation, managed by Perpetual. The Clive & Vera Ramaciotti Foundation is one of the largest private contributors to biomedical research in Australia. It has funded a wide range of projects, including many that might not have received support from other sources, enabling projects to leverage their existence to secure further funding.

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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 35 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.