

## TOP END ACADEMIC HEALTH PARTNERS

### **Translating medical research into improved care and health outcomes in the Top End**

Northern Australia's expertise in translating health and medical research into improved care and health outcomes has been recognised with a newly accredited Research Translation Centre, the newest of 11 centres nationally.

Top End Academic Health Partners (Top End Partners) has been accredited as a Research Translation Centre by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), recognising the partnership as a leader in research translation.

There are now 11 accredited Centres in Australia, four of which have a regional, rural, or remote focus and seven have a metropolitan or state-wide focus.

NHMRC-accredited Research Translation Centres are collaborations between health care organisations, research and education institutions and are a key mechanism driving the translation of health and medical research into clinical practice, policy and health systems.

Top End Partners consists of seven organisations from across the Top End of the Northern Territory. These are the Northern Territory Government's Department of Health, Danila Dilba Health Service, Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation Health Service, National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, Northern Territory Primary Health Network, Charles Darwin University and Menzies School of Health Research.

Accreditation recognises Top End Partners' track record in building the capacity and capability of health services partners to undertake research of direct relevance and benefit to its population, in regional, rural and remote Australia. It also recognises how the partners work together effectively to translate research findings into evidence-based healthcare for the benefit of its patients and communities.

Top End Partners has a strong history built over decades in clinical and health services research, addressing the most pressing health issues in Northern Australia in partnership with patients, health services and communities.

Top End Partners Board Chair and Department of Health Chief Executive A/Prof Jo Norton, said the partnership has worked to improve the lives of people across the Top End.

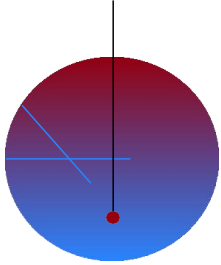
"We have world-class expertise in undertaking translational health research that is underpinned by strong partnerships. This allows us to improve the health and wellbeing of all Territorians," she said.

A/Prof Norton reported that Top End Partners have facilitated numerous successful research translation projects, including a project to ensure more Aboriginal patients receive culturally safe healthcare in their first language.

"We are already seeing great results from some of our projects. The Communicate Project, which aims to improve Aboriginal patients' experiences and outcomes of healthcare by addressing communication and safety issues, is a leading example. It has shown that the effective use of Aboriginal interpreters can reduce self-discharge, improve dialysis attendance, empowers patients and improves healthcare provider satisfaction" she said.

A/Prof Norton also noted that Top End Partners is at the forefront of addressing the unique geographical and demographic characteristics of the Top End that present major challenges for the delivery of health services.

"The partnership is also a world leader in infectious diseases which are of critical importance to Northern Australia, disaster and trauma care, and supporting Australia's response to priority transboundary disease threats of multidrug resistant diseases."



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Top End Partners Board member and Danila Dilba Health Services CEO, Mr Rob McPhee, said that the partnership is essential to helping elevate the voices of patients and community members.

“At the centre of the Top End Academic Health Partners are health services, including Aboriginal community-controlled health services, that can inform translational research priorities for research and put outcomes into practice,” he said.

NHMRC CEO Professor Anne Kelso said collaboration is at the centre of research translation.

“Translating research outcomes into patient care is critical to improving the health of Australians,” she said.

“These Research Translation Centres bring together the partnerships that make that possible. NHMRC accreditation recognises the strength of these collaborations.”

More information about Top End Health Partners is available online: [Top End Partners](#)

Further information on the NHMRC Research Translation Centre Initiative is available on [NHMRC's website](#).