

## Central Australia health leader announced as Menzies Medallion recipient

**25 October 2024**

Dr Donna Ah Chee, Chief Executive Officer of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress) has been named as the recipient of the 2024 Menzies Medallion, the highest award offered by Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies).

Awarded by the Menzies Board, this honour recognises Dr. Ah Chee's outstanding health advocacy, leadership and unwavering commitment to working to create real and lasting improvements to the lives of all Territorians.

The Medallion, which will be presented to Dr Ah Chee at next week's Menzies Oration on Friday 1 November, also highlights her significant contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of Central Australian Aboriginal communities.

Dr. Ah Chee, a proud Bundjalung woman who has called Central Australia home for over 30 years, serves as the CEO of one of Australia's largest Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. She has played a pivotal role in shaping a comprehensive, culturally responsive model of primary healthcare across the region.

Her passion, dedication and deep understanding of the needs of the community continue to drive her health advocacy of closing the gap. She is a leader in health services planning and delivery, education and public health, and champions community-led health research.

Some of her key career milestones in research include being a founding board member of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal and Tropical Health in 1997, serving on the Boards of both the Lowitja Institute and Menzies, and playing a pivotal role in establishing the Central Australian Academic Health Science Network.

Through Dr Ah Chee's leadership, Menzies and Congress have a long-standing partnership, working together to address the issues that matter to the community and to gather and promote the evidence of what works to address them.

In addition to Dr Ah Chee's recognition, the prestigious Companion of Menzies Award will also be presented at the Oration, honouring individuals or groups who have made exceptional contributions to Menzies' growth and success.

Menzies is pleased to celebrate Mr Amin Islam OAM, Dr Bilawara Lee OAM and Mr Peter Plummer AM as the 2024 recipients of this award.

Starting at 4pm, this event will see Senator the Honourable Malarndirri McCarthy, Minister for Indigenous Australians deliver the 2024 Oration. Minister McCarthy will talk about her key role in driving national policy for and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Join us at the Oration and to celebrate these award recipients – register here:  
[https://www.stickytickets.com.au/opkfm/menzies\\_2024\\_oration.aspx](https://www.stickytickets.com.au/opkfm/menzies_2024_oration.aspx)

**Quotes attributed to Menzies Director, [Professor Alan Cass AO](#):**

“We are proud to recognise and celebrate Dr Donna Ah Chee for her significant contribution to health in the Territory.

“Her decades of work in advancing health services, research and education across Central Australia has been instrumental in improving health and wellbeing outcomes for Territorians.

“Congratulations Donna on receiving the 2024 Menzies Medallion.”

**Quotes attributed to 2024 Menzies Medallion recipient and CEO of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Dr Donna Ah Chee:**

“I am humbled to have been presented with the Menzies Medallion, especially in light of previous distinguished recipients of this award, especially those Aboriginal people whose leadership has been recognised.

“I accept the Medallion on behalf of the Board and staff of Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, because one thing I have learnt over my career is that Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services like Congress really make a difference to the health of our communities.

“I look forward to continuing to lead the delivery of culturally responsive comprehensive primary health care at Congress and speaking out on the issues that affect our health, such as poverty, housing, education and the availability of alcohol.”

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**Menzies School of Health Research**

Menzies is one of Australia’s leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and a leader in global and tropical health research. Menzies continues to translate research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

**About Menzies Oration:**

The Menzies Oration is the organisation’s annual public address designed to stimulate robust and challenging discussion about the future of health in the Northern Territory, Australia and internationally.

In 2024 it will be held at Menzies School of Health Research John Mathews Building (JMB), Building 58 of the Royal Darwin Hospital Campus on Friday 1 November, starting at 4pm.

This event will hear from Orator, Senator the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy, as well as recognise the recipients of the Menzies Medallion and Companion of Menzies awards.

All are welcome, with registration essential:

[https://www.stickytickets.com.au/opkfm/menzies\\_2024\\_oration.aspx](https://www.stickytickets.com.au/opkfm/menzies_2024_oration.aspx)