menzies SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

MEDIA RELEASE

National Science Week event planting 'seeds of science' in remote Australia

5 August 2026

Residents of Mparntwe (Alice Springs) are invited to explore how climate, the environment and human health are connected, thanks to an upcoming event hosted by Menzies School of Health Research's Remote Health Systems and Climate Change Centre (Menzies RHC3).

Held on Wednesday 19 August 2026 as part of National Science Week, this interactive STEM Open Day will give school students and community members an opportunity to take part in a range of hands-on activities, like:

- Water and soil testing
- UV germ identification
- Heat and air monitoring
- Waste management
- Exploring blood in diabetes
- Agricultural tree planting activity
- Antimicrobial resistance talks by a climate scientist
- Science Week Quiz

Menzies RHC3 team will welcome attendees to Building 15 of the Charles Darwin University Alice Springs Campus, with a session for primary school students running from 9:15 am to 11:30 am, and a high school student session from 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm. The day will then open to the public from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm.

This event is delivered in partnership with Charles Darwin University, Alice Springs Town Council, Children's University, CSIRO and Desert Knowledge Australia.

Members of the public can register to attend the afternoon session via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/science-for-health-climate-and-health-awareness-in-remote-australia-tickets-1990613515611

Called the Science for Health: Climate and Health Awareness in Remote Australia initiative, this program of work aims to increase awareness and understanding of the impacts of a changing climate in remote regions.

Extreme and prolonged heat, bushfires and flooding can affect health, housing, food security, caring for Country and overall wellbeing. As the impacts of climate change are being felt in remote regions, there is a real need to build community resilience, raise awareness and the develop locally led solutions.

Tailoring STEM opportunities to local contexts and community priorities helps to support students to consider the real-world impact they can have in a career in science. This event aims to inspire Central Australian students and the community to see the possibilities for their future through STEM pathways.

This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the Australian Government through the Inspiring Australia program for events for National Science Week 2026.

Quotes attributable to Menzies RHC3 Senior Research Officer, Dr Rishu Thakur:
"Remote Australia is a living lab and our goal is to spark interest in science, enhance climate health awareness, and inspire the next generation of researchers from remote Australia."

Quote attributable to Children's University representative, Mariann Reu:
"NT Science Week is a powerful opportunity to spark curiosity and inspire the next generation of thinkers and problem-solvers. At Children's University, we see firsthand how hands-on learning ignites a lifelong love of discovery. Partnering with Menzies allows us to connect young people directly with real-world research, making science tangible and exciting. Together, we are helping to build confidence, curiosity, and pathways into future STEM careers across the Northern Territory."

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Media Contact
Phone: (08) 8946 8680 | Email: media@menzies.edu.au

About Menzies School of Health Research
Menzies is at the forefront of health and medical research dedicated to improving the lives of peoples across the Northern Territory, Asia Pacific and beyond. By joining scientific knowledge with community wisdom, Menzies strives to Close the Gap, and shape a healthier, more equitable future where communities can thrive.

About National Science Week:
National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology, held from 15 - 23 August 2026. This year the school theme for the week is 'Seeds of Science: Nurturing knowledge for all'. It invites students from across the country to explore the power of curiosity, inquiry and shared learning in growing scientific understanding. It is designed to inspire students to plant ideas, ask questions and grow innovative and creative solutions. Learn more about National Science Week: www.scienceweek.net.au/