

New Centre for Research Excellence to uncover One Health solutions in Timor-Leste

1 September 2025

Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) has received National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding to lead a new, collaborative Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Timor-Leste.

The [recently announced Centre](#) will be known as [RESPOSTA](#) - **R**esearch **E**xcellence and **S**urveillance to **P**romote **O**ne health **S**olutions for **T**imor-Leste **A**nd the region, receiving \$3 million over the next 5 years.

Taking an integrated approach to human, animal and environmental health, the Centre will address regional priorities such as antibiotic resistance, zoonotic infections like rabies and bird flu, and innovative strategies to improve food production and safety.

The RESPOSTA team, made up of researchers and public health professionals from Timor-Leste, Australia, and Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Indonesia will work to promote excellence in One Health research, surveillance and responses. Their goal is to deliver sustainable improvements to health outcomes and health systems, and to generate knowledge to inform evidence-based decision-making in One Health responses across the region.

Strengthening cross-border collaborations between Australian, Timorese and Indonesian institutions, this work will build on Menzies' existing partnerships in health system capacity strengthening, and a proven track record of translating research into policy and practice in Timor-Leste.

Quotes attributable to RESPOSTA Chief Investigator and Menzies Timor-Leste Program Lead, [Professor Joshua Francis](#):

"Through the RESPOSTA CRE, we will work closely with partners in Timor-Leste and Nusa Tenggara Timur to mentor and support local health leaders and health researchers and strengthen local and regional responses to One Health challenges.

"This will build on the concept of *akompana* (side-by-side mentoring and accompaniment) that underpins the work of Menzies in Timor-Leste.

"Timor-Leste and Nusa Tenggara Timur face significant, shared challenges that affect human health, animal health and the environment. A One Health approach to health research will see health leaders and researchers from different sectors working together to identify locally relevant solutions to some of the most pressing health challenges in the region."

Quotes attributable to Dr Joanita Jong, RESPOSTA Chief Investigator and Head of the National Veterinary Directorate, Timor-Leste:

"Research on One Health challenges like brucellosis, avian influenza and antimicrobial resistance can help to improve animal health, and to improve human health by reducing transmission of infections and by increasing food safety and food production.

"Pursuing excellence in One Health research is an important priority for Timor-Leste and aligns with Timor-Leste's increasing participation in regional and global organisations including ASEAN and the World Trade Organisation.

"The RESPOSTA CRE includes researchers and health leaders from Timor-Leste and NTT, and we will work together with the team to make sure that the research responds to community priorities."

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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.

Sentru Foun ba Exelénsia Peskiza nian atu deskobre solusaun One Health iha Timor-Leste

1 Setembru 2025

Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) simu ona fundus husi [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\)](#) hodi lidera Sentru Kolaborativu ba Exelénsia Peskiza (CRE) foun iha Timor-Leste.

Anúnsia Sentru ne'ebé foin lalais ne'e anunsia ona sei koñesidu hanesan, [RESPOSTA - Research Excellence and Surveillance to Promote One health Solutions for Timor-Leste And the region](#), iha ne'ebé sei simu millaun \$3 iha tinan 5 oin mai.

Ho aprosimasaun integradu ida ba saúde umanu, animál no ambientál, Sentru ne'e sei aborda kona-ba prioridade rejionál sira hanesan rezisténsia ba antibiótiku, infesaun zoonótika sira hanesan rabies no influenza nian no estratéjia inovativu sira hodi hadi'a produsaun no seguransa ai-han nian.

Ekipa RESPOSTA, kompostu husi peskizadór no profisionál saúde públika sira husi Timor-Leste, Austrália, no Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Indonézia sei serbisu hodi promove exelénsia iha peskiza, vijilánsia no resposta ba One Health. Sira nia objetivu maka atu fornese melloramentu sustentável ba rezultadu no sistema saúde sira no atu hamosu koñesimentu hodi informa foti desizaun bazeia ba evidénsia iha resposta sira One Health nian iha rejiaun tomak.

Haforsa kolaborasaun trilateral entre instituisaun Austrália, Timoroan no Indonézia, servisu ida-ne'e sei hari'i iha Menzies nia parseria ezistente atu haforsa kapasidade sistema saúde nian, no evidensia komprovadu kona-ba tradús peskiza ba polítika no prátika iha Timor-Leste.

Sitasaun atribui husi Xefe Investigador RESPOSTA no Menzies Timor-Leste Program Lead, [Professor Joshua Francis](#):

"Lihusi RESPOSTA CRE, ami sei servisu besik ho parseiru sira iha Timor-Leste no Nusa Tenggara Timur hodi mentoría no fó apoiu ba líder saúde lokál sira no peskizadór saúde sira no haforsa resposta lokál no rejionál sira ba dezafiu One Health nian.

"Ida-ne'e sei hari'i ho konseitu akompaña (mentorizasaun no akompañamentu ba malu) ne'ebé sai baze ba Menzies nia servisu iha Timor-Leste.

"Timor-Leste no Nusa Tenggara Timur hasoru dezafiu sira ne'ebé signifikativu hanesan afeta ba saúde ema, animál no ambiente. Aprosimasaun One Health ba peskiza saúde sei hare'e líder saúde no peskizadór sira husi setór oioin atu serbisu hamutuk hodi identifika solusaun sira ne'ebé relevante ho dezafiu saúde ne'ebé urjente tebes iha rejiaun."

Sitasaun atribui husi Dr Joanita Jong, Xefe Investigadór RESPOSTA no Xefe Diresaun Nasionál Veterinária, Timor-Leste:

“Pesquisa kona-ba dezafiu One Health hanesan brucellosis, influenza no rezisténsia antimikrobiál bele ajuda hadi'a saúde animál no hadi'a saúde ema nian liuhusi hamenus transmisaun husi moras infesaun sira no liuhusi hasa'e seguransa ai-han no produsaun ai-han.

“Atinji exelénsia iha pesquisa One Health nu'udar prioridade importante ida ba Timor-Leste no aliña ho Timor-Leste nia partisipasaun ne'ebé aumenta iha organizasaun rejionál no globál sira inklui ASEAN no Organizasaun Mundiál Komérsiu nian.

“RESPOSTA CRE ne'e inklina pesquizadór no líder saúde sira husi Timor-Leste no NTT, no ami sei servisu hamutuk ho ekipa atu aseguara katak pesquisa ne'e responde ba prioridade comunidade sira nian.”

REMATA

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Kona-ba Menzies School of Health Research

Menzies nu'udar liña frente ba pesquisa saúde no médiku nian ne'ebé dedikadu atu hadi'a prospriedade husi ema sira iha Territóriu Norte, Ázia Pasífiku no seluk tan. Liu husi tau hamutuk koñesimentu sientífiku ho matenek comunidade nian, Menzies haka'as-an atu taka lakuna no forma futuru ida ne'ebé saudavel no ekuitativu liutan iha ne'ebé comunidade sira bele buras.