

## Territorian recognised for research excellence

**11 March 2020**

The National Health and Medical Research Council has presented a research excellence award to Associate Professor Jaquelyne Hughes for her work to address the high rates of chronic kidney disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults.

Menzies School of Health Research Associate Prof Hughes received the 2019 NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort Studies Award for the top-ranked application in the 2019 funding round at NHMRC's annual awards in Canberra.

Associate Prof Hughes is the chief investigator of the *Progression of chronic kidney disease in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults: the eGFR3 Cohort Study*.

The award recognises the 12 years of partnership between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members, clinical health services partners and the research team to advance knowledge of kidney health, Associate Professor Hughes said.

"Our work explains mechanisms of lost kidney function amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in Australian regions known to have highest prevalence of potentially preventable chronic kidney failure," Associate Professor Hughes said.

"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people undertake vital roles in the eGFR3 study community, clinical and research governance groups, which we recognise as best research practice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kidney health research. We are thrilled for further recognition of our approach with this prestigious NHMRC award."

Between 2020 and 2024 the eGFR3 Study will undertake the third direct clinical and biomedical follow-up of 650 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults assessed at baseline (2007-2011) and first follow-up (2012-2014) and include linkage to administrative and health data sets.

It will build on strong community and health service relationships across the five eGFR study regions in the Northern Territory, North Queensland and Western Australia to:

- assess the long-term clinical course of adults who had early stage chronic kidney disease (CKD) and established CKD;
- identify modifiable contributing factors of progressive CKD; and,
- identify thorough co-design, regionally specific and culturally acceptable interventions for enhanced kidney health.

The NHMRC Research Excellence Awards are announced annually to top-ranked researchers and teams following peer review of applications to NHMRC's highly competitive grant schemes.

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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 30 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.