



# Media Release

## New Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research advocacy group

May 26 2009

Some of Australia's most prominent scientists have joined forces with the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health in a new effort to advocate for improved health research.

The group, the Eminent Australians Advocacy Group, met in Canberra today to discuss the establishment of a permanent National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research.

Chief Executive for the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, Mick Gooda, who hosted the meeting, said the proposed new National Institute would ensure that the groundbreaking research work conducted by the CRCAH would continue beyond the end of the CRC program funding cycle.

"The CRCAH has developed innovative processes to ensure our research into ways of closing the health gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples and other Australians is high quality, has high impact on policy and clinical practices and is based on priorities set by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector and government health agencies," said Mick Gooda.

"The CRCAH has a limited life under its current funding and we are determined that the role of research in closing the gap not be reduced at the end of the CRC funding," he said.

"I am pleased to say that we are being joined in our efforts by an exceptional group of Australians who want to see our work continued and are prepared to advocate for the proposed National Institute.

"The group includes four former Australians or Young Australians of the Year and a recipient of the Prime Minister's Science Prize so we are in eminent company indeed," said Mick Gooda.

The group met at the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies before attending a reception hosted by Her Excellency, the Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce AC at Government House.

For further information:

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**Please note attached list of EAAG members.**

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**Members of the Eminent Australians Advocacy Group**

**Aden Ridgeway**

Former NSW Senator 1998-2005  
Chair of Indigenous Tourism Australia  
Adjunct Professor and Visiting Scholar, UTS

**Professor Hugh Taylor, AC**

Harold Mitchell Chair of Indigenous Eye Health, Melbourne School of Population Health

**Russell Taylor**

Principal, Australians Institute of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

**Lieutenant General John Sanderson (Rtd) AC**

Member of Advisory Board for the Bullara/Poch Centre for Indigenous Health, University of Sydney  
Former Governor of Western Australia  
Former Chief of Army

**Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC  
Australian of the Year 1984**

Former Chair of ATSIC  
Patron of the CRC for Aboriginal Health

**Dr Carmen Lawrence**

Former Premier of WA, former Federal Health Minister, Professorial Fellow at the University of Western Australia

**Professor Michael Good**

Director of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia

**Professor Ian Frazer**

Director of the Diamantina Institute  
**Australian of Year 2006**  
PM Science Prize winner 2008

**Professor Fiona Stanley, AC**

Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research  
Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth  
**Australian of the Year 2003**

**Tania Major**

Board Member, Cape York Institute for Policy & Leadership  
**Young Australian of the Year 2007**

**Fred Chaney, AO**

Former Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister 78-80  
Former Deputy Chair Native Title Tribunal  
Co-Chair Reconciliation Australia

**Dr Mick Adams**

Chairperson, National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation