

Tuesday 27 September 2011

New unit to research high fatality rates

Studies have found that for cancer patients the case-fatality rates among Indigenous Australians are twice the rates of non-Indigenous cases.

The Cancer Epidemiology research unit headed by Dr Patricia Valery is planning further studies to better understand why this is.

Director of Menzies School of Research Jonathan Carapetis welcomed the addition of the Cancer Epidemiology Research unit to the Menzies' team at the launch of a new office in Brisbane today.

According to Professor Carapetis, bringing everyone together means the Menzies School of Health Research will have a much stronger team of researchers working in Queensland.

"The Brisbane office is a central hub bringing together researchers, government and community representatives to focus on the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care.

"It is the base for the primary health care systems research team and the program *One21seventy*, which has been running successfully in the Territory," Professor Carapetis said.

Deputy Head of the Epidemiology and Health Services Division at the Menzies School of Health Research Gail Garvey said these partnerships have been at the heart of the Brisbane team's work and the secret to their success.

"We work with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Queensland Health and the University of Queensland," she said.

Professor Gail Garvey said the Cancer Epidemiology research unit was originally based at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research.

"The Brisbane office has 25 staff and is supporting health centres to improve their systems for high quality care such as maternal and child health, diabetes services, mental health and rheumatic heart disease," Professor Garvey said.

Dr Valery has conducted several population-based studies in the fields of cancer in Indigenous Australians, asthma, obesity and metabolic syndrome in Indigenous children. Her team is working to improve the cancer outcomes for Indigenous Australians.

New office location:

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Spring Hill, QLD 4000
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For more information please contact Professor Gail Garvey on 0422 678 840.