



Media Release

Research Evidence Essential to Successful Aboriginal Intervention

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Evidence provided by high quality research must be used to underpin efforts to improve Aboriginal health, a national conference of Australian research management has been told.

Mick Gooda, the CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health (CRCAH), was speaking at the Australasian Research Management Society conference in Adelaide today.

Mr Gooda told the research conference about the CRC for Aboriginal Health's work in transforming the ways that research is done in Aboriginal health. He said the CRCAH has put the users of research – such as health services, governments, and communities – in charge of driving the research agenda.

“We know that it is only through that involvement that we can ensure the best results from research,” he said.

He said the CRCAH's approach could be applied in other research contexts, particularly other research involving Indigenous people, but also in other contexts.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister Mal Brough had spoken at a child care conference next door earlier in the morning, and Mr Gooda was questioned after his speech about the Commonwealth Government's intervention in the Northern Territory.

“I can only say that we know that interventions should be based on evidence, and I do not see a lot of evidence underpinning what is being done with the intervention,” Mr Gooda said. “And the one thing that is absolutely essential is proper, respectful engagement with the community.”

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