

New Brisbane Centre will lead Aboriginal health success

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Queensland's boast of being the smart state and national efforts to close the Indigenous health gap will get a boost this week with the launch of a new centre to support primary health care centres to deliver high quality care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

One21seventy, the National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care will be launched in Brisbane on Tuesday afternoon.

One21seventy emerges from a highly successful research project, the Audit and Best Practice in Chronic Disease (ABCD) project, which provided support to more than 120 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services around the country to use Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) methods.

According to project leader, Professor Ross Bailie from the CRC for Aboriginal Health and the Menzies School of Health Research, the outcomes clearly demonstrate that Indigenous primary health care services are achieving better health outcomes through the use of quality improvement.

"The model used is a major success story of Indigenous primary health care, influencing funding programs such as Healthy for Life and finally leading to the establishment of this new national Centre which will provide services to primary health care centres that want to use CQI methods," said Professor Bailie. "This new centre will be critical in ensuring that we build on the demonstrated successes of the ABCD project with several State and Territory governments already indicating their strong interest in using the Centre to provide these services within their regions."

Health centres taking part in the project have seen substantial improvement in most key indicators for both diabetes and preventive care with **more than 100% improvement** over baseline performance in some cases.

"Services in Nth Qld which only joined the project last year are already seeing some significant improvements" said Bailie. "These sorts of improvements in the quality of primary health care, lead to improved quality of life, reduced complications, hospitalisations and deaths for people in these communities, while reducing costs to the health system."

*One21seventy reflects the Centre's aspiration to increase life expectancy for Indigenous people beyond **One** in infancy, beyond **21** in children and young adults and beyond **seventy** in the lifespan.*

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Enhancing the quality of primary health care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

One21seventy supports health providers to measure and improve quality of care in a range of illnesses effecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including maternal and child health, diabetes, renal disease, hypertension and coronary heart disease, mental health and rheumatic heart disease.

The new Centre will be launched at the Royal on the Park Hotel in Brisbane on Tuesday August 25 at 530pm, as part of the ABCD project's annual conference.

The event will be attended by more than 140 people from Indigenous health services throughout Australia, and senior health policy people from Federal and State/Territory jurisdictions.

The annual conference will include the reporting of some important new findings on uptake and sustainability in the adoption of new interventions; findings which while specifically about the ABCD model are of much broader application in Indigenous affairs and primary health care.

One21seventy Executive Director, Mr Christopher Cliffe, is a remote area nurse and President of CRANaplus, the national professional body for remote health providers. "Indigenous health services are leading the way in the use of these CQI methods in primary care in Australia, and to some extent, the world. The new Brisbane-based One21seventy will continue this ground-breaking work," said Mr Cliffe.

The CEO of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, Mr Mick Gooda, has welcomed the launch of One21seventy.

"High quality care is critical to improving Aboriginal health. This new Centre provides a mechanism to ensure that not only can health centres steadily improve the delivery of services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but they can access new evidence about best practice as it emerges through the work of organisations like the CRCAH and Menzies," he said.

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