



Cooperative Research Centre for  
Aboriginal Health

# Media Release

## Media Alert

### Taking Aboriginal Health Research Directly to Parliament

March 7 2008

Australia's leading Aboriginal research organisation will present a series of research projects straight to federal politicians, their advisers and senior bureaucrats in Canberra next week.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health will host the first ever Parliamentary Showcase of Aboriginal Health Research in the Main Committee Room of Federal Parliament at 10.00 am on March 13.

CRAH executive Mick Gooda said his organisation was determined to assist the Rudd Government's pledge to close the gap on Aboriginal health disparity within a generation.

"In one of his first speeches as Prime Minister-elect Kevin Rudd pledged that his government believed 'in evidence-based policy not just...grand statements' and this showcase is about taking the evidence of what works in Aboriginal health directly to the policy makers," said Mick Gooda.

"Researchers have amassed a large body of work on what is wrong with Aboriginal health but the CRC for Aboriginal Health is committed to bringing some solutions to Parliament House next week."

"Too often we have suffered from 'policy by anecdote' which invariably leads to duplication or gaps in services and misspending of limited funds.

"We've got to promote the use of evidence but that means it's incumbent on the Aboriginal research sector to lead the way in producing the evidence that will lead to change and finally end the national scandal that is the health disparity gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous in Australia," he said.

Mick Gooda said research to be presented to policy makers in Canberra next week will include new strategies on supporting Aboriginal families and children in the Northern Territory; a project which has improved prevention and management of chronic diseases across Australia; and a call for implementation of evidence-based tobacco-control strategies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Showcase will be opened by Minister for Health & Ageing, the Hon. Nicola Roxon.

#### For more information:

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#### To read the Showcase program:

[http://www.craah.org.au/publications/downloads/CRAH\\_ShowcaseFinalLowRes.pdf](http://www.craah.org.au/publications/downloads/CRAH_ShowcaseFinalLowRes.pdf)

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