



the  
**Lowitja**  
INSTITUTE

Australia's National Institute  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Health Research

*Incorporating the Cooperative Research Centre  
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health*

## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 23 March 2011

### The Lowitja Institute opens its doors in Victoria

The Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community will come together this **Thursday 24 March 2011** for a laneway party event at the Lowitja Institute's head offices in Melbourne. The event will celebrate successful Victorian partnerships, signal the presence of the Institute's operations in Victoria and outline the vision for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research nationally.

Leading the celebrations will be Patron of the Institute, **Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue AC CBE DSG**, Chairperson, **Ms Pat Anderson** and Chief Executive, **Dr Kerry Arabena**. Keynote speakers include Yorta Yorta man and community development advocate **Mr Paul Briggs OAM** and **The Hon Michael Wooldridge**, a former Federal Health Minister from 1996 to 2001. Local musicians **Archie Roach**, **Lou Bennett** and **Lisa Maza** will perform and well respected Wurundjeri Elder, **Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin** will conduct a welcome to country followed by a cultural dance performance by the **Koori Youth Will Shake Spears**.

The Institute's Chairperson, Ms Pat Anderson, is excited about the opportunity to talk about the successes, outline the future challenges and showcase the Institute in the southern part of the country. "We're holding this event to celebrate our Victorian connections and let the mob here know we're 'open for business' and want their input and support to develop our research agenda," Ms Anderson said.

The newly formed Lowitja Institute is a national health research body that brings together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, academic institutions and government agencies to facilitate collaborative, evidence-based research into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. It is the culmination of more than fourteen years of research activity by the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aboriginal and Tropical Health and the CRC for Aboriginal Health. The Lowitja Institute also hosts the CRC for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

The celebration will commence at **3.30pm this Thursday 24 March 2011** in the laneway behind the Lowitja Institute's head offices at 179 Grattan Street, Carlton. For more information go to [www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au) or phone: 03 8341 5555.

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[www.lowitja.org.au](http://www.lowitja.org.au)

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