



Philanthropic gift of \$50 million boost to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research and practice

Launch of Poche Indigenous Health Network - Turning research into outcomes

26 May 2015: Due to the generosity of a combined \$50 million donation by philanthropists Greg Poche AO and his wife Kay Van Norton Poche, a network of six independent centres of research and study focused on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health has been created.

The Poches, along with their friend and co-founder Reg Richardson AM, saw an opportunity for the skills, expertise and resources of universities to be harnessed to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. They also saw the opportunity to inform health care policy and practice through the information gained from each centre's experience and research.

Due to their vision, a network of Poche Centres now exists across the country, focussing some of the nation's most astute minds to address some of our most complex health problems.

The Poche Indigenous Health Network, to be launched this week in Canberra, has been established to amplify the strengths and successes of individual centres at The University of Sydney, Flinders University, The University of Western Australia, The University of Melbourne and the University of Queensland.

Patron and Chair of the Poche Network, Professor Tom Calma AO said, "The Poche Network is an important initiative to advance Indigenous health in Australia. With a focus on turning research into outcomes, we will be harnessing some of the best minds around the country to focus on wicked problems and creative solutions that will deliver lasting benefits to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples."

Activities will include:

- Translating research and evidence so it can be used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities in the field
- Influencing government and public policy
- Promoting the research findings of each Poche Centre
- Identifying and supporting projects of national significance
- Profiling the work of the Poche Centres and their collective impact

The Poche Network's activities will be linked by a website, www.pochehealth.edu.au, providing a convenient, central point of contact for all Poche Centres and a storehouse of knowledge for anyone interested in Indigenous health.

The Minister for Health, The Hon. Sussan Ley, MP will launch the Poche Indigenous Health Network on Wednesday May 27 at 4pm in Mural Hall, Parliament House, Canberra

For further information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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About Poche Indigenous Health Network

Established and funded by philanthropists Greg Poche AO and Kay Van Norton Poche, the Poche Indigenous Health Network aims to help close the gap in life expectancy and achieve health equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We recognise that respecting local communities and supporting collaboration and self-determination will be the only way to achieve this goal.