



MEDIA RELEASE: Global health champions in Melbourne accept global challenges

Thursday 23 March

In 28 populations around the world, it's been demonstrated that Indigenous people have poorer health and social outcomes in comparison with non-Indigenous peoples.

A new organisation in Melbourne aims to address this: the Global Health Alliance Melbourne (GLHAM), a new platform that aims to capture Victoria's health strengths and capabilities, will launch an initiative called Local to Global, this Thursday.

Launched by former Victorian Premier, the Hon John Brumby AO and Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, GLHAM is the first such centre in the Southern Hemisphere and is based on the highly successful Washington Global Health Alliance, recognising Melbourne as the hub of global health expertise in the Asia-Pacific.

Member organisations in the Alliance will span nine sectors: client groups; research, education, entrepreneurship, service delivery, advocacy, policy, corporations and philanthropy.

Mr John Brumby AO said that the first 10 foundation organisations share a commitment to create partnerships across sectors and silos.

"Melbourne is a global health leader in clinical care, research and advocacy. Together GLHAM partners will discover, maintain and be responsible for a major shift in healthcare, and help close the gap in inequality of healthcare provision in the countries in which our members work, including Indigenous Australia", Mr Brumby said.

Established by global health experts including Helen Evans AO, Professor Ian Anderson and Professor Brendan Crabb AC, Lord Mayor Doyle said the Alliance has great strength and expertise in developing strategies to treat health challenges in the region.

"GLHAM can already proudly point to positive runs on the board, with several partnerships already under formation thanks to the platform provided by the Global Health Alliance. These include innovations in neglected tropical diseases such as River Blindness, efforts to improved adolescent health, and a very exciting initiative in Indigenous and tribal people's health," the Lord Mayor said.

At the launch, Professor Ian Anderson, the new Deputy Secretary for Indigenous Affairs in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, will announce the establishment of a new Platform for entities working in Indigenous and First People's Health, called Local to Global, and he will call for expressions of interest in a public-private partnership model to take this forward".

A priority piece of work for 2017, Local to Global will focus on Indigenous health both here in Victoria and in those developing countries where members work.

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A more detailed paper describing Local to Global is available at www.glham.org

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Foundation Global Health Alliance Members are:

Australian Red Cross, Bio Melbourne Network, Burnet Institute, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Global Ideas, Medicines Development for Global Health, Monash University, Nossal Institute for Global Health, Save the Children, and the University of Melbourne.

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