The burden and determinants of diabetes in Indigenous Australians

**Professor Alex Brown**

*Deputy Director and Program Leader, Aboriginal Research*  
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**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

Professor Alex Brown is the Program Leader, Aboriginal Research, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), based in Adelaide. Professor Brown is an Aboriginal medical doctor and researcher with extensive experience in Aboriginal health research in rural and remote communities.

Professor Brown completed his PhD on depression and heart disease in Aboriginal men in 2010, and in addition to his medical training at the University of Newcastle, he is a Master of Public Health, a Fellow of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand, and an honorary fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians.

Professor Brown has established an extensive and unique research program focused on chronic disease in vulnerable communities, particularly on outlining and overcoming health disparities. He leads projects encompassing epidemiology, psychosocial determinants of chronic disease, mixed methods health services research in Aboriginal primary care and hospital settings, and randomised controlled trials of pharmacological and non-pharmacological chronic disease interventions.

Professor Brown has been involved in policy since he commenced as a doctor. He has been heavily involved in engaging government and lead agencies in setting the agenda in Aboriginal cardiovascular disease management and control and chronic disease policy more broadly. He sits on a range of national committees, including the Heart Foundation, chairs the Cardiac Society Indigenous Cardiovascular Council and was a member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Equality Council (2009-2012).

In November 2012, Professor Brown was awarded the prestigious Viertel Senior Medical Research Fellowship to further his research into the impacts of psychosocial determinants of cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal communities.

Over the past five years he has been principal investigator on over $5 million of research grants and has extensive research collaborations with university, academic, primary care, Aboriginal community control services, international partners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community partners.

Professor Brown is co-chair of the $160 million Indigenous Health Research Fund, a national research initiative to improve the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The 10-year research program is funded from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and is the first national research fund led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Professor Brown is an Honorary Senior Principle Research Fellow at the Charles Perkins Centre.