

JUNE 2020

BRIDGING THE GAP

FOUNDATION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND EDUCATION
NEWSLETTER

Dear Supporters,

On behalf of the board and team, I would like to thank you for your generosity these past few weeks. We have been overwhelmed with donations and are pleased to announce that together we have raised more than \$100,000.

Bridging the Gap Foundation will use these funds to employ an Indigenous trainee for Menzies HealthLab, which includes a paid full time role including training and study at Menzies for 12 months.

Our trainees have played an important role in delivering key health education programs in remote communities during the pandemic, and they will continue to play this role as they develop their skills and forge new pathways to further education and career development.

The June 2020 newsletter will highlight the Foundation's latest initiatives as well as profiling some of our ambassadors and leaders who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank you again for your support and donations.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Ryan AO, Chairman
Bridging the Gap Foundation

MEET DEAN RIOLI, BOARD MEMBER

The team at Bridging the Gap Foundation spoke to Dean Rioli, ambassador and board member of the foundation.

Dean, who is from the Munupi clan on the Tiwi Islands, has worked tirelessly to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people into sustainable employment and is passionate about providing traineeships and mentoring.

Dean started his career in AFL and fell into the role of a mentor from a young age. From visiting schools to promoting healthy living and positive community messaging, he said, "As an AFL Player, you become a role model whether you're ready for it or not." After Dean's career with the AFL came to an end, he was employed as a mentor for the Electrical Trades Union. "The boss of the ETU didn't know one Indigenous electrician," added Dean, who has since worked to create opportunities for Aboriginal kids to take on apprenticeships and started his own business 'Dean Rioli Aboriginal Employment Services', which supported over 100 people into full time work.

According to Dean, Indigenous traineeships and apprenticeships are extremely important as everyone he acknowledges it is a great entry point into employment.

"Gaining a certificate means you become a valuable asset to an organisation. It's not about just doing the work, it's about training and gaining skills," said Dean. "Those who leave their community to further their education or training, learn skills they can implement when they return home."

Dean started the Rioli Fund for Aboriginal Health in 2007 focusing on raising money and awareness for both Aboriginal child health and mental health. He has been working with major infrastructure projects and tier 1 contractors for over 14 years to help achieve Indigenous employment outcomes.



Dean Rioli

SUPPORT ZOE'S PROJECT

Meet Zoe Fitzpatrick, a trainee with Menzies HealthLab's Headstart program. Zoe is from Borroloola and is currently based in Adelaide studying nursing. As well as working with Menzies HealthLab to deliver health education programs to remote communities, Zoe is also passionate about raising awareness of Aboriginal health traditions and the westernised way of healthcare, and how they both are important.

She is currently developing an educational video in multiple languages for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to provide a better and more in-depth understanding of Indigenous health traditions which are not very well known outside of Aboriginal communities. Bridging the Gap Foundation is helping to raise funds to support Zoe's important project.

If you'd like to donate, visit <https://btgfoundation.com.au/donate.php>



Zoe Fitzpatrick

INTERVIEW WITH COLIN BAILLIE, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT, MENZIES SCHOOL OF HEALTH RESEARCH

We talked to Colin Baillie about how COVID-19 has impacted philanthropy in Australia and some of the key challenges facing organisations.

How has Covid-19 impacted philanthropy in Australia?

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on big philanthropic organisations, but to what degree depends on the size of the fund. Many organisations which had funds set aside for spending made some fast contributions to front-line type causes and responded quickly in practical ways within the first month. Since then, things have slowed considerably, not just because of what funds are left, but because everyone is waiting to see what the next phase will be and how it can be strategically funded. Overall, philanthropy has responded remarkably fast but the real impact will be seen next year or the following - the new landscape. Competitive philanthropy will be that much more competitive.



Colin Baillie

Do you think health charities are seeing a rise in support due to people being extra aware of their health?

Absolutely. It's been given a leg up and it's relatable. Originally health research and health initiatives were having to push hard to make it relatable to people, but now the impact is much clearer.

How will COVID-19 change future approaches to fundraising?

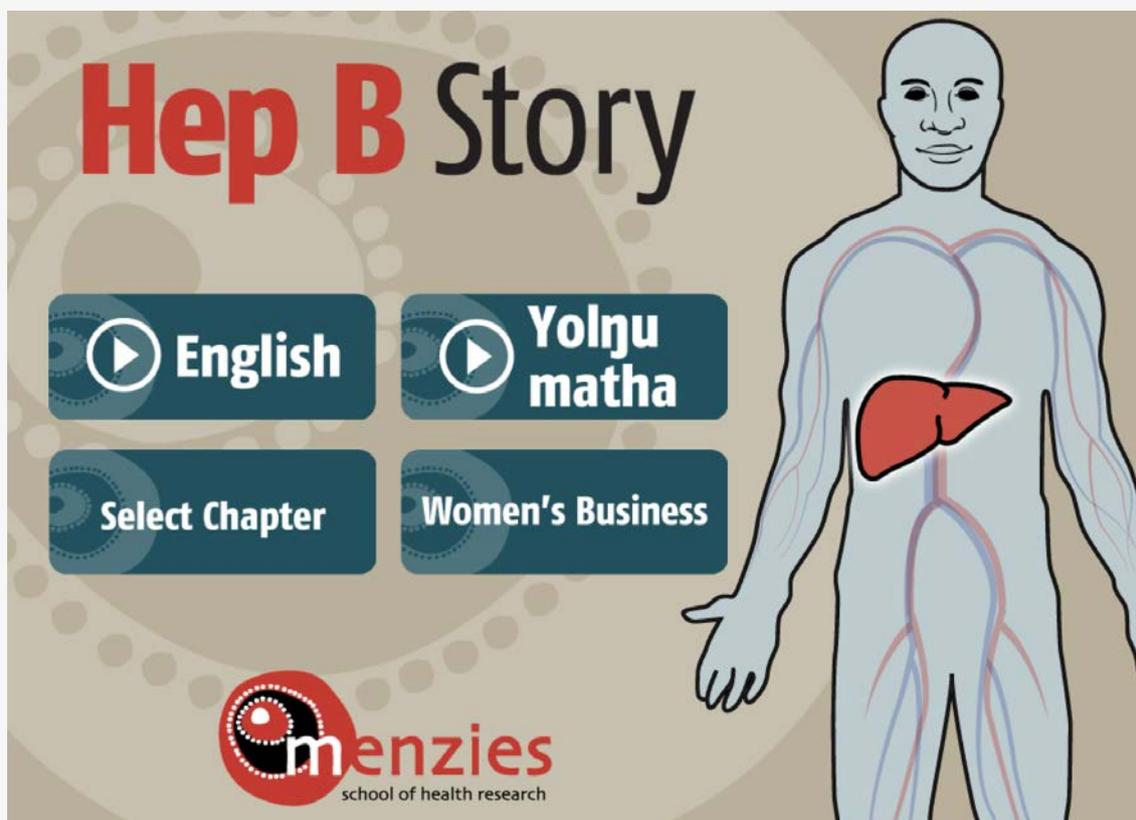
Philanthropy will be a lot more strategic and more collaborative. Fundraising will be more complex and will need a sophisticated approach.

\$400 MILLION FUNDING BOOST FOR HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Australian Government will invest almost \$400 million in world-leading health and medical research projects to improve the lives of all Australians. Of the grants funded, a total of \$84.7 million will go towards 61 new research projects in infectious diseases – a significant strength of Australia’s research sector.

Specifically, there is \$5.6 million in research funding for five projects in the Northern Territory, including Menzies School of Health Research's work towards the elimination of chronic Hepatitis B in the Northern Territory.

[Read more about the announcement here](#) and for more details on [Menzies Hep B story](#), [click here](#).



The graphic features the title "Hep B Story" in large red and black font. Below the title are four dark blue buttons with white text and play icons: "English", "Yolngu matha", "Select Chapter", and "Women's Business". To the right is a stylized human figure with a red liver highlighted. At the bottom left is the Menzies School of Health Research logo, which includes a red circular icon with a white spiral and the text "menzies school of health research".

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Thank you to all of our donors and sponsors for your support. In the past few weeks we have raised more than \$100,000, a huge milestone for Bridging the Gap Foundation. We encourage everyone to continue donating and share the projects and initiatives of the foundation with your community and network.

To see the entire list of donors and sponsors visit
<https://btgfoundation.com.au/sponsors.php>

The most important return to you as a donor is to know that you are helping to bridge the gap in health and education disparities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. There may be no greater reward than knowing that you are part of the solution to one of Australia's most urgent issues.

To donate before the end of financial year, visit <https://btgfoundation.com.au/donate.php>

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