



## News briefs

Wednesday 14 November, 2012

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## Indigenous Australians missing out on genetic services

There is a misconception in the medical community that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are not interested in genetic services, according to research to be presented to the Clinical Oncological Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane today (14/11).

Dr Christina Bernardes, researcher at the Menzies School of Health Research, said her study of Indigenous cancer patients in Queensland indicated that if genetic services were offered, Indigenous patients would use them. Genetic services should be offered for patients with personal and/or family history suggestive of an increased cancer risk.

Dr Bernardes' study of 225 Indigenous cancer patients found that 73 per cent reported a family history of cancer, 68 per cent were concerned about relatives being affected by cancer and 55 per cent would like to discuss cancer risk in their family with a specialist.

"The use of genetic information, particularly family history, has the potential to identify people who are at risk and provide them with opportunities for education, prevention, early diagnosis and management of cancer," Dr Bernardes said.

Wednesday, 9-9.15am Room M2, Brisbane Convention Centre

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