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The best of both worlds: Priority driven, facilitated research development in Aboriginal health

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As a result of a long process of reflection and evaluation of its research development processes, the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health has transformed its approach to research to ensure that research actually provides the evidence for changes in policy and practice that will lead to improvements in Aboriginal health.

This process draws on the best elements of both a commissioned and investigator driven approach. The CRCAH research agenda is driven by the priorities of the Aboriginal health sector, the people who will use its research. Research proposals are developed through collaborative teams brought together by the CRCAH. A process of facilitated development is used to ensure that the voices of the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector, and other potential users of the research such as governments and NGOs, are able to participate fully in the development and conduct of research. By bringing together these diverse viewpoints, and facilitating their negotiation, CRCAH research is both strengthened and made more likely to bring about real improvements in Aboriginal health.

Having changed its approach to research, the CRCAH is now establishing a monitoring and evaluation system to enable ongoing review of the effectiveness of the new approach with a commitment to modify the approach as required.

The presentation will explore the evaluation process and some of the early results.