

The National Drug Research Institute invites you to

# *Improving Aboriginal Peoples sexual health and bloodborne viral health outcomes through research*

*A free public seminar by James Ward,  
Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program,  
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research*

**Tuesday 22 February, 2011**

**2pm**

National Drug Research Institute Seminar Room  
Curtin University Health Research Campus  
Level 2, 10 Selby Street, Shenton Park, WA

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately affected by sexually transmissible and blood borne viral infections compared to non-Indigenous Australians. The issue of STI prevalence is longstanding, and overwhelmingly rural and remote populations experience this ill health burden. The issue of viral hepatitis is more complex, as is HIV trends in Australia, among Indigenous peoples. Where are we at in Australia today with sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community? This seminar provides a national perspective on this important public health issue with an emphasis on initiatives to rectify the situation.*

*James Ward has worked within Aboriginal health and communities for 15 years. A descendent of the Pitjantjarra and Nurrunga clans of central and south Australia, he is Program Head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research Program at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, based at the University of NSW. This Program hosts Australia's largest randomised community trial among adults ever attempted in Aboriginal health, which aims to reduce long standing STI rates in remote communities across north and central Australia, and a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health. James was lead writer of the third National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STI and BBV Strategy 2010-2013, is a member of the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on STIs and HIV, and has a strong interest in building capabilities in communities to enable self determination and control of Aboriginal peoples' own health.*

*Please RSVP by telephoning NDRI Reception on (08) 9266 1600 or  
emailing [ndri@curtin.edu.au](mailto:ndri@curtin.edu.au) by Monday 21 February, 2011.*