



## **Macquarie group foundation awards \$10 million dollars to Murdoch children's research institute for global scabies research and action**

Scabies is one of the commonest dermatological conditions, accounting for a substantial proportion of skin disease in developing countries. Globally, it is estimated to affect more than 200 million people at any time. In 2017 scabies and ectoparasites were added to the list of WHO Neglected Tropical Diseases, and a WHO call for global action was made.

Our expanded team of Australian Scabies researchers have worked in collaboration with The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) since 2007, led by Professor Andrew Steer to conduct research into the problem of endemic scabies and its complications, primarily in Fiji and The Solomon Islands.

The team has conducted research into different scabies treatments using strategies including Mass Drug treatment. These have been funded through multiple small grants including ACD Scientific Research Fund grants and subsequently through the Kirby Institute, MCRI, three NHMRC grants, and with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Global Eradication of Lymphatic Filariasis.

In 2019 the Macquarie Group Foundation provided \$50 million dollars to support 7ve projects of Global significance that seek to initiate or build on a bold idea that addresses an area of social need.

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute through its Tropical Diseases Research Group was one of two Australian winners, with a goal to form the World Scabies elimination program. This program will support two countries (Fiji and the Solomon Islands) roll-out national control programs to eliminate scabies from affected communities and develop global partnerships.

