

PRESS RELEASE

## **Xstrata Copper funds vital research to improve health and wellbeing of mining employees**

Brisbane, 28 May 2012

Xstrata Copper today announced \$900,000 in funding over three years for the Wesley Research Institute to commence a medical research program focussed on improving the health and wellbeing of the mining workforce and regional mining communities.

The announcement was made at a special event at the Wesley Research Institute in Brisbane attended by Steve de Kruijff, Chief Operating Officer Xstrata Copper North Queensland, Peter Allen, Deputy Chairman of the Wesley Research Institute, and Professor Julie Campbell AO, Director of the Wesley Research Institute.

Also in attendance were Assistant Minister for Health Dr Chris Davis MP, and Assistant Minister for Technical and Further Education Saxon Rice MP, with Channel Seven Presenter and Wesley Research Institute Ambassador Rod Young as Master of Ceremonies.

Mr de Kruijff said it was hoped that the research program could make a valuable contribution to the overall health of mining workers.

“Our commitment to the program will fund three years of research by the Wesley Research Institute into projects that will contribute to the overall health of mine workers, as well as benefit regional mining communities,” he said.

“The scope of the research is to initially concentrate on two areas of high priority to Xstrata – assisting injured workers through various emotional aspects of their recovery process and improving the ongoing quality of life for mine workers after they retire.

“The health and wellbeing of our workforce is of the utmost importance to us and we hope that these projects can help to improve the capabilities of mine workers to successfully transition through sometimes difficult periods of change.

“We know from our previous partnership with the Wesley Research Institute that they have an enormous range of health, medical and scientific expertise at their disposal, and we are confident this research will develop practical expertise, which will benefit both our people and the communities in which they work and live.”

Mr Allen welcomed the partnership, and said the agreement demonstrated the outstanding corporate social responsibility practised by Xstrata Copper.

“The presence of Dr Chris Davis MP and Saxon Rice MP also highlight the State Government’s recognition of the work conducted by the Wesley Research Institute, which the Government has supported through important capital and operating funds,” Mr Allen said.

Julie Campbell AO, Director of the Wesley Research Institute, said that an experienced researcher would shortly be appointed to manage the program.

“Our partnership with Xstrata Copper enables us to build on a lot of the work we are doing, in collaboration with others, on improving the health of people in regional areas of Queensland, using modern communications technologies, managing diabetes and promoting good nutrition,” she said.

Mr de Kruijff said funding for this partnership is being provided through our Xstrata Community Program North Queensland, which has provided almost \$25 million to communities across North Queensland since it was established in 2005.

"It is hoped that this research program will continue our efforts to make a real difference to the overall health of workers in the mining industry and communities in which we operate," Mr de Kruijff said.

"We look forward to working with The Wesley Research Institute over the next three years and thank them for their ongoing efforts and continued support."

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*Neither the content of the company's website nor the content of any other website accessible from hyperlinks on the company's website is incorporated into, or forms part of, this announcement*

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## Notes to editors

### About Xstrata plc

We are a major producer of a range of vital commodities used in everything from constructing buildings and delivering electricity, to developing jet engines and mobile phones. We are one of the top five global producers of copper, thermal and metallurgical coal, ferrochrome, zinc and nickel and we also produce silver, lead, platinum, gold, cobalt and vanadium.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Switzerland, we operate in over 20 countries and employ over 70,000 people at more than 100 operations and projects around the world. We work in a responsible and sustainable way, with an entrepreneurial spirit and dynamic approach. For more information, visit [www.xstrata.com](http://www.xstrata.com)

### About Xstrata Copper

We are the fourth largest global copper producer and one of the world's largest producers of smelter, refined and recycled copper, including from third party materials.

The copper we produce is essential to our modern society, being used extensively in electronic, consumer and building products, and with its use in green-technologies, anti-microbial applications and ability to be recycled, it is playing a vital role in our sustainable future.

Headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, we have operations and projects in eight countries and employ over 20,000 people. We play an essential role in the communities in which we live and work, by providing jobs,

training, infrastructure, income for suppliers and support for social development. For more information, visit [www.xstratacopper.com](http://www.xstratacopper.com)

### **About Wesley Research Institute**

The Wesley Research Institute is a Brisbane-based independent, not-for-profit medical research organisation that conducts research focussing on improving patient care and quality of life. Its clinical and applied research aims to discover, test and refine new techniques for better diagnosis and treatment of illness and disease that work towards its motto of "*making a difference today*". Wesley Research Institute provides a range of scientific services across three main areas – investigative research, clinical trials and tissue banking. For more information please visit [www.wesleyresearch.org.au](http://www.wesleyresearch.org.au) or email [enquiries@wesleyresearch.com.au](mailto:enquiries@wesleyresearch.com.au)