

NT: Skin disease linked to poor sanitation

An expert warns that skin disease will remain widespread in Aboriginal communities .. unless governments tackle overcrowding and poor sanitation.

Associate Professor ROSS ANDREWS .. from the Menzies School of Health Research .. says community-based programs have reduced skin infections in children across Arnhem Land.

But he says the health burden of skin infections .. which are linked to kidney disease .. rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease .. remain unacceptably high.

He says .. in many cases .. the underlying causes are overcrowding .. sanitation problems .. poor educational outcomes and continuing socioeconomic disadvantage.

AAP RTV tr/wz/ibw