



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

2 December 2016

Committee makes recommendations to eliminate bullying and harassment in the medical profession. Racism must be eliminated too.

Earlier this week The Senate Community Affairs References Committee released its report following the inquiry into the medical complaints process in Australia. The findings reveal that Australia's medical profession still fosters a significant culture of bullying and harassment.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) was invited to give evidence to the inquiry, which occurred in Sydney on Monday 31 October. AIDA also made a written submission to the inquiry outlining the incidence and impacts of racism toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors.

The committee has made six recommendations to address the prevalence and severity of bullying and harassment in the medical profession. The recommendations call on all parties with a responsibility for addressing bullying and harassment to acknowledge the behaviour, recognise and commit to eliminating it.

AIDA CEO Craig Dukes said "AIDA supports the recommendations made by the committee. However in addition to those recommendations we must go one step further to establish a safe, effective and culturally appropriate work environment, free from racism, which attracts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and doctors to a career in medicine."

Mr Dukes went on to say "It is undeniable that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals play an important role in improving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians. Indigenous doctors have the unique ability to align clinical and socio-cultural skills and provide culturally appropriate care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people."

This certainty is the driving force behind AIDA's core business, which is growing the number of Indigenous doctors to reflect the number of Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous doctors practicing medicine is an essential element in closing the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes. To be able to achieve parity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous doctors it is essential that we provide a culturally safe environment free from bullying, harassment and racism in which these doctors can study and practice medicine.

AIDA is available to assist medical schools and colleges to develop, implement and maintain culturally safe environments for their students and doctors. For further information on how we can assist please contact us at aida@aida.org.au or call 1800 190 498.

END MESSAGE

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