



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

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Providing culturally safe health care to Indigenous Australians is vital in closing the Indigenous health gap

The Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) released their research paper entitled [*Providing aeromedical care to remote Indigenous communities*](#) on Thursday 24 November. The research paper is a first for the RFDS and was compiled using three years of patient data during which time 17,606 Indigenous Australians benefited from aeromedical retrieval. The report highlights more concerning statistics for Australia's remote Indigenous population.

One in three of all RFDS aeromedical retrievals are for Indigenous Australians. Of these retrievals 14% were children under the age of five, 17.9% of retrievals were the result of injury or poisoning, 14.4% were the result of stroke, heart attack or disease of the circulatory system and 12.8% from pneumonia.

The RFDS recommend more resources for health services in remote communities and the development of cultural credentials for mainstream health services. AIDA is completely supportive of the RFDS's view and has developed a Cultural Safety Toolkit for use by the medical community to assist health care providers implement a culturally safe environment for Indigenous Australians.

The use of the AIDA Cultural Safety Toolkit is complementary and available to download off our website via this link - <https://www.aida.org.au/our-work/cultural-safety/>. Resources range from comprehensive eLearning modules, to policy documents, national campaigns and broader contextual information.

AIDA expects the toolkit will assist health care professionals in providing high quality health care that reflects the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and incorporates their cultural values.

In addition to the Cultural Safety Toolkit AIDA is developing a Cultural Safety Training Package, which is scheduled for release in mid-2017.

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