



Partnership to increase support for Indigenous GP Registrars

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and the General Practice Registrars Australia (GPRA) will formalise their joint commitment to growing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander general practitioners (GP) through the signing of a Statement of Intent.

'Growing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GPs is fundamental in closing the gap,' said AIDA President Dr Kali Hayward. 'As an Aboriginal GP, I know how important it is for our medical students and doctors to have culturally appropriate support throughout their training and assessment.'

The Statement of Intent will provide greater collaboration between AIDA and GPRA in recruiting and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical graduates to fellowship. The partnership will focus on providing advocacy opportunities, cross-collaboration on Indigenous health initiatives, and professional development, networking and mentoring opportunities.

'Agreements such as this are so important, as we work towards parity of representation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous medical practitioners in Australia', said GPRA CEO Sally Kincaid. 'Once we reach some semblance of that parity – we can genuinely begin to close the gap.'

This Statement of Intent seeks to realise the significant opportunities available to AIDA and GPRA, through joint stewardship and the identification and implementation of strategic priorities of relevance to general practitioners. For our work to be relevant, ambitious and impactful, AIDA and GPRA commit to joint decision making where appropriate, regular collaboration, priority setting and constant learning and reflection.

AIDA is a not-for-profit professional association contributing to equitable health and life outcomes, and the cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. AIDA's ultimate goal is to reach population parity of Indigenous doctors, and to inform and support a culturally safe health care system.

GPRA is the peak national representative body for all general practice registrars, prevocational doctors and medical students interested in general practice in Australia. GPRA administers the Indigenous General Practice Registrars network (IGPRN), funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health to provide a forum for cultural support and professional development for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander GP registrars undertaking the Australian General Practice Training Program (AGPT).

'This new partnership is one of many that AIDA seeks to create with national health bodies as part of our continued efforts to improve health and life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people,' said AIDA President Dr Kali Hayward. 'We hope that promoting general practice as the medical specialty of choice, and by providing appropriate professional development and support, we will see the number of Indigenous GPs continue to grow.'

'The number of Indigenous general practice registrars continues to grow. The mentorship, support and education that we provide through IGPRN has resulted in greatly improved exam outcomes, an increasing number of fellows, and a growing confidence within the community, that yes, Indigenous people can become highly effective and respected GPs. We now have over 200 nationally and we're committed to increasing this number,' said GPRA CEO Sally Kincaid.

The agreement will be signed as part of a celebration at 6:30pm, Friday 8 April 2016, at the Char Restaurant, 70 Esplanade Darwin.

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