



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
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MEDIA RELEASE

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AIDA and specialist medical colleges collaborate on standards to recruit and retain more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specialist trainees.

Funded by the Australian Department of Health the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) has worked closely with specialist medical colleges to devise practical and achievable ways to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors into specialties.

In an important step towards that goal, specialist medical colleges have agreed to implement a total of fifteen standards that were developed in collaboration with AIDA. Colleges agreed to publish a biennial report of their self-assessment against those standards and the ['Growing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialists'](#) report released today is the first of these.

The report is available on the [AIDA](#) website, and also on the websites of the [Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee](#) and the [Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges](#).

AIDA is confident that implementing the standards will:

- build the capacity of colleges and their members to provide culturally safe care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients
- foster a more culturally safe work and learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors
- provide improved support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors throughout their training and into successful fellowship
- embed the standards into college policies and structures, thereby enhancing longevity and mitigating the risks of a decrease in prioritisation or dismantling already achieved successes.

As the national peak body representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors, AIDA will continue to work tirelessly and constructively with all specialist medical colleges and their membership to foster the understanding, practice and promotion of cultural safety as the most successful avenue towards improving not just the recruitment and training, but also the retention of a growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specialists.

END MESSAGE

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