



AIDA

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association
ABN: 84 131 668 936

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

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Access to student retention data essential to better understand of the needs of Indigenous medical students

Today the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) released a policy statement entitled, [*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical student retention*](#).

Our statement advocates for further research to be undertaken on the retention rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students.

AIDA is pleased to note that since 2007, university commencement figures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students has significantly improved. Even so, graduation rates still remain considerably below those of non-Indigenous medical students.

It is essential to understand the factors contributing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students leaving their studies. With a greater understanding organisations and policy makers who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students will be better informed to support and develop evidence-based strategies to see Indigenous medical students through to graduation.

These strategies should complement existing support such as, well-resourced Indigenous support units, financial assistance, culturally safe learning environments and academic support through tutoring.

Increasing Indigenous medical student retention through to graduation is a significant step toward achieving adequate workforce representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. We know this is an important step in improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

END MESSAGE

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