



**Joint Media Release  
Friday, 24 March 2017**

**AIDA and AMSA united in their support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Students**

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) today signed a memorandum of understanding in Canberra formalising their joint commitment to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students.

AIDA is a not-for-profit professional association representing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors in Australia. Representation of Indigenous medical students occurs through the AIDA Student Representative Committee (SRC), which comprises medical students from each medical school.

AMSA is the peak representative body of Australia's 17,000 medical students and aims to increase engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students through its membership, council meetings and major annual events.

The MoU will see both organisations work in partnership to share events, policy and joint membership opportunities for Indigenous students. One of its key priorities is to promote a dynamic working relationship between AMSA and AIDA that will allow for greater informed discussion and action on issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students.

AIDA CEO, Craig Dukes, said, "Signing this memorandum of understanding today signifies the commitment AIDA and AMSA have made to jointly support the enrolment, retention and graduation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students. AIDA is pleased to be working so closely with AMSA to ensure Indigenous medical student support remains a priority."

AMSA President, Rob Thomas, said, "the health of Australia's Indigenous people and Indigenous student recruitment and retention remains one of AMSA's top advocacy priorities for 2017. The signing of the memorandum of understanding signals the continuation of our close working relationship, and we're excited to work towards our joint goals for the coming year."

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