



# AIDA

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

## MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

9 May 2018

### **AIDA funded to continue our work in improving health outcomes for Indigenous Australians**

Last night the Australian Government announced the 2018/2019 Budget to the Australian public. The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) welcomes the news of increased government investment into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak workforce organisations of \$33.4 million over four years from 2018-2019. We take this as a tangible measure of the genuine commitment of the Turnbull Government to work with us to build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce.

As the only professional association for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and medical students, AIDA is committed to improving the health of our people and enriching the health profession by growing the numbers of Indigenous doctors. This renewed funding certainty will allow AIDA, through our strong relationships with key stakeholders, to keep supporting efforts to increase the cultural safety of mainstream medical education and health care systems. This continued financial support from the government means job security for our employees, increased resourcing for emerging issues and the ability to continue to implement our long-term strategic agenda. This includes:

- Development of our 2018 policy priorities
- Further investment in Indigenous-led health research
- The delivery of a cultural safety program for doctors, by Indigenous doctors
- Ongoing support to our student and doctor member base

#### **Doing things with, not to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**

AIDA encourages the Turnbull Government to maintain its stated commitment to work in a consultative and collaborative way with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We remain concerned that there is no commitment in the 2018/19 Budget to adequately resource the *Implementation Plan for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023*. AIDA maintains that this is the roadmap for the government to work with us to genuinely redress health disparity and deliver culturally appropriate and needs-based health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We encourage the government to commit to implementing the social determinants of health framework into future Indigenous health policy development.

AIDA also remains concerned about the lack of targeted funding commitment around Closing the Gap. We maintain that measureable targets, accountability mechanisms and appropriately funded policy design and program delivery are essential to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

With this renewed funding certainty, AIDA will continue working towards our vision for an Australian health care system that is free of racism, and one that affords Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples the health care they have a right to expect and receive.

#### **END MESSAGE**

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