



AIDA and CPMC joint statement:

Indigenous Doctors and the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges welcome college efforts towards increasing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialists.

The Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC) commend specialist medical colleges for their efforts to grow and retain the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialists, and their open evaluation of their progress.

Funded by the Australian Department of Health, the *Growing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialists 2021* (NMTAN) report is the second iteration of the specialist medical colleges' self-assessments against 15 minimum and best practice standards. The NMTAN report was collaboratively developed by AIDA and specialist medical colleges in 2019 to identify practical ways to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors into specialties.

Their 2021 self-assessments showed most colleges progressed the implementation of at least one-third of 15 standards, with some colleges progressing eight or nine.

There are some common areas that require more focused work, including dedicated training positions, mentoring and cultural safety training, and mandatory and assessable curriculum content on cultural safety and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

"We commend the work of the colleges in showing distance travelled to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialist workforce. Their self-assessments are a road map of next steps, and we look forward to working with colleges to help them achieve better outcomes next year, the year after, and every year after that," said Dr Tanya Schramm, President of AIDA.

The NMTAN report is the only public evaluation of agreed standards to grow and retain the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical specialist workforce. The partnership between AIDA and the CPMC supports collaboration and accountability on meeting these standards.

"Specialist medical colleges have made great progress on achieving these standards during a very tough year. Continued efforts by each college will have a positive impact not only on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees and specialists, but the health system, and community; the people we care for, as a whole," said Dr Vijay Roach, CPMC Chair.

"We know that our doctors bring a unique and holistic view to health care and are passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of our people. Strengthening the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical workforce and removing barriers for successful completion of their training is important for this very reason," Dr Schramm said.

The 2021 NMTAN report is available on the AIDA website, [here](#).