

AIDA Board Communique – March 2024

Dear Members,

We hope your year is going well. Following on from a couple years of not providing a Board Communique to update the membership, the Board has decided to trial this again, so welcome to the first one of 2024.

The first Board meeting of the year was held in person on Gadigal land in Sydney on 23-24 March. Due to all the changes going on within the organisation, we did not hold a Member engagement event so that the Board and Secretariat could dedicate time to updating and approving all the internal policies of the organisation. The Secretariat staff have done such a wonderful job of getting us up to date and we are well on the way to having this done.

A range of topics were discussed at the meeting, including the creation of a mental health Policy Statement as a priority. Given the increase in incidents of racism since last year's Referendum, the Board feels that this needs to be a priority, along with speaking out against racism and providing [Cultural Awareness](#) and [Cultural Safety training](#), to provide safer spaces for patients and staff.

The AIDA Constitution review is also underway currently with an independent law and governance firm, and all Members will be engaged in the full review in due course. Please ensure you monitor your emails and the AIDA socials for your chance to participate in this important piece of work. We are hoping to have the changes in place prior to the AGM and passed at a Special General Meeting so that whatever changes are decided can be implemented at the AGM.

We are also planning to hold the AGM at the end of September, which brings to a close the terms of six Board Members (including one independently appointed position and the student director). A [social media campaign](#) has already begun telling Members what [being on the Board](#) is about and asking Members to consider nominating for a position.

We are aiming to have both a new Constitution and new Board in place ahead of hosting the [Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress](#) (PRIDoC) on Kurna Country in December. The planning for PRIDoC is going well and if you haven't already put an abstract in, [please do so ASAP](#) as the abstracts will be closing soon.

AIDA is also leading another significant event, the Igilyawa program, which is a medico-cultural program to bring 22 Torres Strait Islander AIDA Members back to Waibene, and beyond. This follows on from a program which was last hosted over 20 years ago. Hopefully it will not be as long before the next one can be held. We would also like to say a big thank



you to the other organisations helping fund the program, so that this important event can be carried out.

The other significant event to keep an eye out for this year is the setting up of a new “temporary” AIDA office. With moving out of Old Parliament House, as it was no longer fulfilling the needs of the Secretariat and Members, we have been very busy trying to source and secure somewhere, on a “temporary” basis, that will fulfil the changing needs of the organisation as we mature and grow.

Lastly, AIDA’s current strategic plan is for 2021-2024. With the many significant events and changes happening this year, and the last couple of years, the Board has decided that strategic planning will commence in early 2025, with fresh perspective and vision from the newly appointed Board. This busy time has been paving the way for AIDA’s strategic evolution.

Warm Regards,

Dr Simone Raye
MBBS, FRACGP
AIDA President