

Expression of Interest: Host Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Medical Students in Cancer Services

Empower Future Indigenous Health Leaders in Cancer Care

Cancer Australia and The Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) invite cancer services across Australia to participate in a vital initiative aimed at supporting and inspiring the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical professionals.

We are seeking services interested in hosting medical students for a structured 2–4-week placement over the next two years (25-26 fiscal year and 26-27 fiscal year). This program is designed to provide practical experience to grow awareness and interest in careers in cancer care and build capacity within the healthcare system to better serve the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical workforce and communities.

Benefits for Your Service

Hosting an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical student offers numerous advantages for your service:

- **Affordable:** Students will receive \$7500 to take place in the placement and offset the costs of flights, accommodation and living costs to participate in the placement
- **Community Engagement:** Strengthen your service's ties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by demonstrating a commitment to supporting Indigenous education and professional development.
- **Future Workforce Development:** Contribute directly to the development of a diverse and culturally capable medical workforce by partnering with Australia's peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical workforce organisation, increasing the number of Indigenous doctors who can address health disparities, particularly in cancer outcomes.
- **Cultural Support provided by AIDA:** Including participation in AIDA's nation-leading Cultural Safety Workshop which includes a half day online module and a full day in-person workshop, designed and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors.
- **Partnership:** By partnering with Australia's peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical workforce organisation, AIDA you are demonstrating your service's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes.
- **Recruitment Pipeline:** Build relationships with emerging medical talent, potentially leading to future recruitment opportunities for culturally competent clinicians.
- **Fresh Perspectives:** Students bring innovative ideas, enthusiasm, and a different lens through which to view patient care pathways and service delivery, potentially identifying areas for improvement in culturally responsive care.

Potential Student Activities and Learning Opportunities

During their 2–4-week placement, students would be exposed to various aspects of cancer care, tailored to the service's capabilities and the student's learning objectives. Activities could include:

- **Clinical Observation:** Shadowing oncologists, radiation therapists, nurses, and allied health professionals.
- **Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings:** Attending and observing MDT discussions to understand comprehensive patient management, patient journey mapping and collaborative decision-making.
- **Research & Audit Support:** Assisting with small audit projects related to Indigenous patient experience or outcomes or contributing to literature reviews on culturally appropriate cancer care.
- **Community Outreach (if applicable):** Opportunities to understand how cancer services engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Expression of Interest Process

Cancer services interested in hosting an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical student(s) are invited to submit their EOI by **COB 20 September 2025**.

Please provide the following information in your submission:

1. **Service Name & Location**
2. **Primary Contact Person**
3. **Brief Description of Your Service including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander workforce and employment plan (if available)**
4. **Commitment to undertake AIDA's Cultural Safety training:** one full day face to face training and approx. 3-4 hours pre-activities. Cancer services would be required to participate in a Cultural Safety Workshop to ensure suitability for medical students. Please provide information on previous participation in cultural safety training (if applicable) or willingness to participate in AIDA's Cultural Safety Workshop.
5. **Details of any available student accommodation**
6. **Proposed Local Mentors** (this might include professional, peer and cultural mentors)
7. **Proposed Placement Period(s):** (e.g., Flexible, 2-4 weeks in October-November 2025, or specific dates if preferred).
8. **Outline of Potential Activities:** (Briefly describe what a student might experience at your service).
9. Do you have any questions? What support might you need to offer an opportunity?

Strategic Priorities

Developing a diverse, culturally safe, responsive and well-supported cancer care workforce is a strategic priority of the Australian Cancer Plan (strategic priority 6.2.2) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan (NACCHO). Both plans highlight the critical need to recruit, train and retain the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce to improve both access to and engagement with the cancer care system.

AIDA's strategic priorities support increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in cancer care, supporting culturally safe clinical training, and strengthening pathways into specialty medicine. The program directly contributes to the following Strategic Priorities from the 2021-2024 AIDA Strategic Plan:

- Priority 1: Grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Doctors
- Priority 2: Shape Health Outcomes
- Priority 3: Best Practice Care and Cultural Perspective

We look forward to partnering with your service to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in cancer care, supporting culturally safe clinical training, and strengthening pathways into specialty medicine.

Contact Us

For further information or to submit your Expression of Interest, please contact:

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