



Aboriginal Health Painting by Jillie Nakamarra

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AMA

Indigenous
Medical Scholarship

Prospectus



The significant gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians is of great concern to the AMA.

Closing this gap and achieving health equality should be a national priority.

The AMA believes that Australian governments, the private and corporate sectors and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people all have a part to play in ending the cycle of disadvantage.

You can contribute to the solution.

What is the solution?

The AMA recognises that there are no easy fixes. Success will only come from maintaining long-term commitment, proper resourcing and strengthened capacity among Indigenous people to identify and resolve these health challenges.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not access health and medical services at a level appropriate to their needs. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are far more likely to attend health and medical services that reflect their own values and perspectives. The health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people fares better when they are involved in the planning and delivery of their own health and medical care.

Having an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander doctor at a clinic can often make the difference between a community member turning up to the clinic for their scheduled appointment and never visiting the clinic at all.

About the AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship Scheme

The AMA recognises the critical importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors through the AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship scheme. Each year since 1994, the AMA has offered at least one Scholarship to eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who have entered an Australian university to study medicine.

“The health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people fares better when they are involved in the planning and delivery of their own health and medical care”

A range of skills and qualities contribute to someone becoming successful as a doctor. Academic ability is one of them. However, as the AMA realises from working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, cultural understanding and commitment to one's community are also very significant factors in providing best practice health and medical care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Who is eligible?

The AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship targets Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students who demonstrate a commitment to their community and to medicine, and who may not have the financial means to realise their dream.

The AMA relies on its Taskforce on Indigenous Health to assess candidates for the Scholarship and select the winners. The Taskforce is chaired by the AMA President and comprises doctors working in Indigenous health contexts and with peak Indigenous health organisations across Australia. The combined experience on the AMA Taskforce ensures that only candidates of sound quality and commitment are chosen.

Past scholarship recipients

A number of past winners have gone on to become prominent leaders in health and medicine after completing their medical degrees, including Associate Professor Kelvin Kong, Australia's first Aboriginal surgeon, and Professor Alex Brown, Theme Leader Aboriginal Health at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. Others have taken up worthwhile careers in medical practice.



2017 – James Chapman

“...I take comfort in knowing that I can contribute and make a difference to my fellow Indigenous people's lives; prolonging and preserving a culture that holds a very important place, both to myself and to many others.”



2016 – Darren Hartnett

“Seeing ... how I could make an impact on someone's life, in a less fortunate situation to mine, was a very powerful experience.”

Increasing demand for the AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship

In recent years there has been an increased effort to encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students to consider health and medicine as viable careers. As a result, there is a rising number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying medicine, the latest figures indicate 286 (as at 2016). This number will continue to rise, and the number of potential candidates for the AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship will increase.

Your contribution

“Your support for the training of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical practitioner to provide culturally appropriate care is invaluable.”

By supporting an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical student throughout their medical training, you are positively contributing to closing the gap in life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and other Australians.

The Scholarship is advertised in November each year, and applications close in January the following year. The winner is chosen and the Scholarship is usually presented at the AMA's National Conference in May.

It costs around \$10,500 to attend one year of university studying medicine and students typically undertake four to six years of study to complete their degree and become a registered medical practitioner.

Your support for the training of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical practitioner to provide culturally appropriate care is invaluable.



Sponsorship Packages



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DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT TAX STATUS NOW AVAILABLE

Premier Scholarship Partner - \$20,000

Inclusions:

- Acknowledgement in the AMA National Conference website, program and conference handbook, displaying the sponsoring organisation's logo.
- Feature editorial, image and logo in an issue of *Australian Medicine* online reaching a readership of almost 24,500 medical professionals, nationally.
- One full page advertisement in *Australian Medicine* (print).
- Short feature article about sponsorship of the scheme and logo featured on the homepage of the AMA's website reaching an audience of more than 80,000 unique visitors per month, nationally. Links to the dedicated Scholarship web page.
- Acknowledgement and logo on the AMA web page dedicated to the Scholarship.
- Feature article in *General Practitioners' Network News*, logo and artwork, reaching a readership of almost 9,000 General Practitioners, nationally.
- Social media promotion of the sponsoring organisation's involvement through AMA channels.
- Article in *Australian Medicine* (print) reaching around 31,000 AMA members around Australia.
- Materials provided to the sponsoring organisation to promote the Scholarship and their partnership through their own communication channels, includes photographs from Scholarship presentation, links to feature articles (as above) and a message from the AMA President.
- Acknowledgement in future AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship prospectuses.



Sponsorship Packages



DEDUCTIBLE GIFT RECIPIENT TAX STATUS NOW AVAILABLE

Scholarship Partner - \$10,000

Inclusions:

- Verbal acknowledgement at the AMA National Conference.
- Written acknowledgement in the conference handbook with logo.
- Acknowledgement on the dedicated Scholarship web page on the AMA's website with logo.
- Two, half page advertising placements in *Australian Medicine* (print), reaching a readership of more than 31,000 doctors, nationally.
- Two week web-tile advertising placement in *Australian Medicine* online reaching an audience of 24,500.
- Web-tile and web-banner advertising placement in *General Practitioners' Network News*, including 200 word editorial and logo, reaching a readership of almost 9,000 General Practitioners, nationally.
- Social media promotion of the sponsoring organisation's involvement through AMA channels.
- Acknowledgement in future AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship prospectuses.

Scholarship Sponsor - \$1,000 - \$3,000

Inclusions:

- Verbal acknowledgement at the AMA National Conference.
- Written acknowledgement in the conference handbook.
- Acknowledgement on the dedicated Scholarship web page on the AMA's website with logo.
- Quarter page advertising placement in an issue of *Australian Medicine* (print) reaching a readership of almost 31,000 medical professionals, nationally.
- Two week web-tile advertising placement in *Australian Medicine* online reaching an audience of 24,500.
- Acknowledgement in future AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship prospectuses.

Scholarship Donations

The AMA seeks your support of the Scholarship. Please contact the AMA should you wish to discuss a package tailored to your organisation's needs or to simply make a donation to the scheme.

For sponsorship enquiries and payment details please contact the AMA via email at

indigenousscholarship@ama.com.au or phone (02) 6270 5400.

Information regarding the Indigenous Medical Scholarship can be found at <https://ama.com.au/advocacy/indigenous-peoples-medical-scholarship>. To donate go to: <https://ama.com.au/donate-indigenous-medical-scholarship>.

The AMA would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following donors: Reuben Pelerman Benevolent Foundation; the late Beryl Jamieson's wishes for donations towards the Indigenous Medical Scholarship; and The Anna Wearne Fund.

