

1 July 2017

Rural doctors help build Indigenous Doctor workforce

NAIDOC Week 2017

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) celebrates the achievements of Indigenous Doctors and medical students and recognises their important contribution to providing culturally sensitive health care to Indigenous communities.

RDAA, in partnership with the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and with generous sponsorship from MDA National, offers a Bursary for Indigenous medical students to assist them to complete a rural or remote placement, or to carry out research to benefit Indigenous health care.

Ms Peta Rutherford, CEO of RDAA, said that RDAA works collaboratively with AIDA to support their efforts to encourage the development of the Indigenous doctor workforce, and also to improve services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

"It has been very rewarding working with AIDA to identify and assist these dedicated Indigenous medical students and we are excited to be able to offer the Bursary again in 2017.

"Over the previous two years that we have awarded the MDA National Bursary, the applicants have been outstanding and we are confident they will go on to make a big impact on the provision of health care to Indigenous Australians.

"The Bursary provides up to \$7000 to an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander medical student to assist them in supporting their study while undertaking a rural or remote clinical placement, to develop skills in a particular area of medicine in order to assist a rural or remote community, or another activity that would benefit rural or remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients.

"The Bursary also supports their attendance at Rural Medicine Australia, Australia's premiere rural medical conference, to be held in Melbourne in October.

"Applications close at the end of NAIDOC week (Friday 7 July 2017) and we encourage all Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander medical student to apply.

"We thank AIDA for their involvement in the project, and look forward to again working with an outstanding recipient and further supporting the development of the Indigenous health workforce in Australia."

Further information on the Bursary can be found at www.rdaa.com.au.

Available for interview:

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