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MEDIA RELEASE

AIDA celebrates 25 years of supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors

This year, the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) will be celebrating its 25th anniversary, '*Celebrating the past, Challenging the future*'.

"We are reflecting on 25 tremendous years of advocating for the cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people," said Dr Tanya Schramm, President of AIDA.

"As our membership goes from strength to strength, we're looking forward to challenging the next 25 years to improve the wellbeing of our mob."

"Since our beginnings in Salamander Bay in 1997, our membership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and medical students have grown steadily. We now have a strong network of nearly 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors who we are proud to support and who support one another," said Monica Barolits-McCabe, CEO of AIDA.

"Our members bring a unique medico-cultural perspective to the health workforce in Australia, and are always willing to mentor and support the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors. We want to shine a light on as many of these members as we can in 2022."

"We have come a long way in the past 25 years. From being a signatory to the Close the Gap Statement of Intent, to our representation at the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges, to the launch of our cultural safety program, we have consistently and determinedly worked towards the self-determination and equitable health and life outcomes of our peoples. Our input in policies that affect our cohort has earned us the reputation of being a peak organisation in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health space," Dr Schramm said.

AIDA is also strengthening its vision of a culturally safe health system by expanding its renowned *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Clinical Practice (ATSIHiCP)* Cultural Safety Training program, and continuing its advocacy efforts in alignment with the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

"Cultural safety is a fundamental component in healthcare. AIDA will continue to advocate for comprehensive cultural safety training and resources to further strengthen the medical workforce and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people receive culturally appropriate care," said Ms Barolits-McCabe.

AIDA will be celebrating this major milestone throughout 2022, with an International Women's Day event showcasing female thought leaders and how they might challenge the future, a 25th Anniversary Gala in Sydney in June, and the annual conference where AIDA will showcase its 25 years through the release of the AIDA history project. Details of these events will be available on the [AIDA website](#) over the coming months.

"With our members forging the way, and with support from our partners and friends, AIDA has achieved beyond our means in the past 25 years. We look forward to growing and strengthening our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and students, and continuing to serve and work with our community to make meaningful contributions to the medical workforce in Australia," said Ms Barolits-McCabe.

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Contact: Wendy Wakwella | P: 0426 169 109 | E: communications@aida.org.au
please complete the interview request e-form available **here**, prior to contacting the communications team.