

HOUSE CALL DOCTOR HELPING INDIGENOUS DOCTORS GRADUATE

19 June 2017

QUEENSLAND'S largest after-hours provider of house calls is helping young Indigenous doctors of tomorrow graduate as part of a new scholarship program.

House Call Doctor has hundreds of doctors who help take pressure off hospital emergency departments every night and on weekends by treating people in their own home.

House Call Doctor Chief Executive Officer Wayne Ormond said the new Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship was a further commitment to improving and supporting Queensland's healthcare system and recognising the need for diversity.

"Our doctors support regional and metropolitan communities alike, offering home healthcare when regular GP clinics are unavailable," he said.

"The \$10,000 Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship is the first of a number of annual scholarships we have introduced to help more young doctors from diverse backgrounds achieve their dream of working in healthcare."

Research shows Indigenous health professionals account for just 0.3 percent of the national healthcare workforce.

One of Australia's first Indigenous doctors and Founder of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Dr Mark Wenitong said Indigenous Australians have a vital role to play in the National healthcare workforce.

Dr Wenitong from the Kabi Kabi tribal group, said: "The Australian healthcare system works very well for the majority of Australians. However, there is great discrepancy in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this country."

"For Indigenous Australians, there are significant barriers in accessing medical professionals who can communicate effectively and understand cultural approaches to healthcare," Dr Wenitong said.

Mr Ormond said the House Call Doctor team believed healthcare professionals should reflect the diversity of the patients they care for.



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“The Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship will recognise a student who has not only demonstrated exceptional academic performance, but also displayed a commitment to their local community and personal development,” Mr Ormond said.

“House Call Doctor provides excellence in healthcare, and we are proud to support dedicated students as they embark upon this exciting and rewarding career path,” he said.

Dr Wenitong said medicine can offer a highly rewarding career that opens the door to professional success and personal fulfilment for Indigenous students.

“Encouraging more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to pursue a career in medicine, and supporting them to study and succeed, should be a major focus for our Nation’s health workforce.”

“I would encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to apply for the Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship, along with other programs like it, and aim to make a difference in your own life along with that of your community,” Dr Wenitong said.

To be eligible for the House Call Doctor Futures in Health Indigenous Scholarship, applicants must identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, be an Australian citizen or permanent resident, be an undergraduate studying a medical field at an Australian university and be entering at least the second year of study in 2018.

“We are committed to improving overall health and wellbeing of the communities we serve, and part of that commitment involves supporting young people to achieve their dream of a future in healthcare,” Mr Ormond said.

- Applications open **Thursday 19th June** and close **December 15th, 2017**.
- Eligible students should apply online: www.housecalldoctor.com.au/about/indigenous-scholarship/

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