



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

OUR
DOCTORS

*Ngalla
Siwi*

OUR
PATHWAY

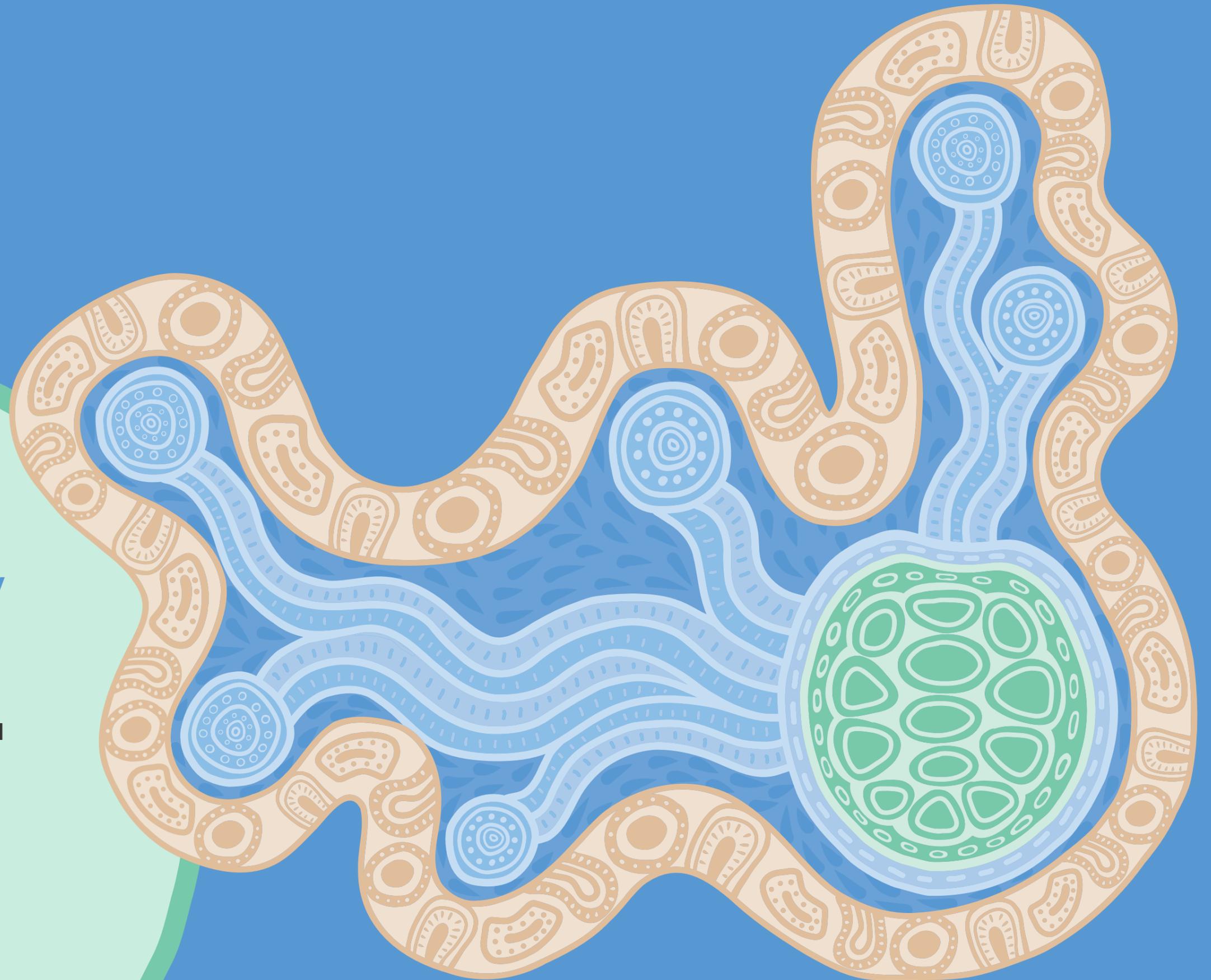
**HOW YOU
CAN HELP**

Western Australian
Indigenous medical
students on their
journey towards
becoming doctors.

Acknowledgment of People and Country

**We acknowledge
the Whadjuk people
of the Noongar Nation
as the custodians of the land
that AHCWA is located on
and we pay our respects
to all Elders, past, present,
and future.**

Disclaimer: The word Aboriginal has been used throughout this document. When referring to Aboriginal we are referring to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Chairperson's Message

OUR
DOCTORS
*Ngalla
Bidi* OUR
PATHWAY



Ngalla Bidi means 'our pathway' in the Noongar language of the South West of Western Australia.

Our Doctors 'Ngalla Bidi' Our Pathway is about Aboriginal doctors working together along a shared pathway that emphasises working in Indigenous ways. Sharing the work and knowledge allows us to be a stronger voice collectively to advance our work together.

Our focus on engaging and supporting Aboriginal medical students and junior doctors by facilitating access to knowledge-sharing networks aims to cultivate strong and capable Aboriginal doctors dedicated to improving the cultural responsiveness of health service delivery to our Aboriginal community. Providing mentorship opportunities by other Indigenous doctors enhances this mission.

Statistics reveal a scarcity of Aboriginal doctors, with fewer than 600 practising nationwide but needing 4000 Aboriginal doctors to reach population parity. Addressing a completion gap compared to non-Indigenous peers is crucial.

We aim to increase the number of Aboriginal doctors delivering health care to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. To achieve this, we aspire to send Aboriginal medical students and junior doctors to the biennial Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress (PRIDoC).

This Indigenous-led space for First Nations doctors, medical students, health researchers, health professionals, and allies provides a supportive space for the Indigenous faculty to unite, foster community, and develop skills to navigate an academic career successfully.

We hope this will improve care and outcomes when students and junior doctors are taught aspects of medicine in Indigenous ways that are not done through universities. This will increase culturally safe health care for Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

Supporting the Ngalla Bidi Bursary Fund aligns with our vision for culturally safe healthcare. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Vicki O'Donnell OAM
AHCWA Chairperson



What is PRIDoC

The Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress provides a forum for Indigenous doctors and students from across the Pacific to gather and discuss issues of mutual interest, particularly those about physical, mental, spiritual, social, and cultural wellbeing.

PRIDoC was started in 2002 to provide a vehicle for Indigenous doctors and medical students from throughout the Pacific Rim to network, discuss issues of mutual interest, and share scientific advances and best practices, as well as ancient wisdom and traditional knowledge, to further the health and well-being of our communities. In addition, support and mentorship of medical students have always been an important PRIDoC function. PRIDoC comprises delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Hawaii, the USA, and Canada.

At AHCWA, we're working to increase the number of Aboriginal doctors delivering healthcare to Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

In its inaugural year in December 2024, a total of \$28,360 was raised via donations. This support for Ngalla Bidi Bursary helped send nine Aboriginal medical students and junior doctors to the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress in Adelaide via eight full bursaries and one partial bursary.



"Hearing the journeys of other doctors, particularly those who didn't have the opportunities and support that are available today, was truly inspiring and motivating. It reminded me of the privilege and responsibility we have to carry their legacy forward, break down barriers, and create even more opportunities for the next generation of Indigenous doctors"

*Brianna Ozies,
Medical Student*



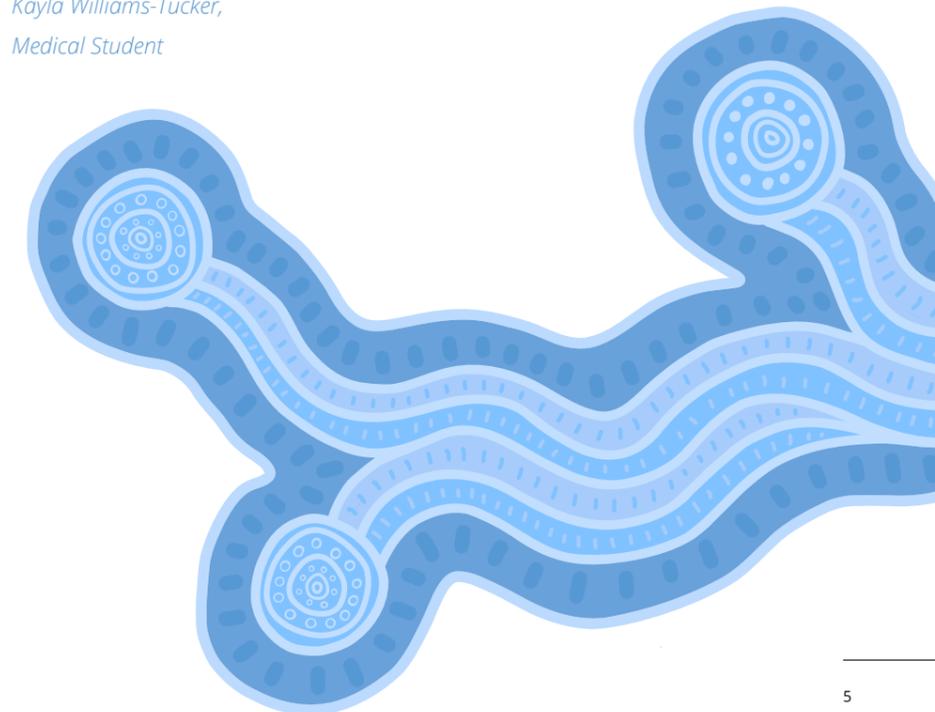
"Being able to bring my son with me was inspiring—watching him meet other doctors and students, and being able to see me achieve my dreams of becoming a doctor. To hear him say 'Mummy, I think I want to be a doctor' was inspiring for me"

*Kayla Williams-Tucker,
Medical Student*



"It was inspiring to listen and was a privilege to yarn with these mentors. It makes me feel empowered that even though the pathway to surgery training is daunting, it can be done"

*Ella Imber-Ireland,
Medical Student*



The 'Ngalla Bidi' Promise

The Ngalla Bidi Bursary will support students and junior doctors with the opportunity to attend PRIDoC events every two years.

This Bursary offers recipients the life-changing opportunity to attend PRIDoC to embrace Indigenous cultures, the spirit of connection, lifelong connections, and empowering each other through shared learning and experiences of Indigenous medicine.

- connecting and building relationships with Indigenous doctors and mentors globally
- discovering how medicine can be practised in decolonised ways that will benefit Aboriginal people
- reminder of why they chose to study medicine and motivation to prevail
- sharing learnings, experiences, and advances
- growing skills and capabilities in communications and forming networks
- increasing understanding of the value of traditional culture
- building strong and capable Aboriginal doctors to service the community who other Indigenous doctors have mentored
- getting better care and outcomes when students and junior doctors are taught aspects of medicine in Indigenous ways that are not done through universities

The Bursary awards each recipient with \$5,000 domestically or up to \$8,000 internationally. The Bursary funds will be applied to flights, accommodation, and registration.

The support

- pre-application support and encouragement for recipients who may require assistance in applying
- cultural care to make the recipients feel welcome, safe and connected. It is essential that the recipients feel supported
- open and informed communication—recipients must feel informed throughout the conference on optimising their time
- opportunities for recipients to meet with and interact with key stakeholders
- guidance and support from “Auntie and Uncle Patrons”



The Request

AHCWA asks you to consider supporting the Ngalla Bidi Bursary Fund. Individual bursaries are valued between \$5,000 and \$8,000 dependent on location, and donations go towards the costs of sending the successful applicants to PRIDoC.

There are many options for those looking to financially support this valuable initiative, from supporting one or more full bursaries, to partial support where a full bursary is out of reach right now.

AHCWA is deeply grateful for all contributions to the Ngalla Bidi Bursary Fund.

Donations are being accepted at any time.

For details on how to make a contribution, please contact ngalla.bidi@ahcwa.org

The Benefits

- supporting the development of the Aboriginal medical workforce
- supporting the development of leadership skills for future Aboriginal doctors
- tax deductible donation (AHCWA has DGR status)
- opportunity to be acknowledged and thanked in the AHCWA e-bulletin
- opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to, and vision for, Reconciliation and Closing the Gap
- certificate of appreciation
- opportunity to be recognised at a relevant Sector wide event
- opportunity to share relevant social media content
- substantial donations (of \$25,000 or more) will be acknowledged on the official partnerships page of the AHCWA website

For further information please contact:

e: ngalla.bidi@ahcwa.org
t: (08) 9227 1631

Donations:

Alternatively please make a direct contribution here: ahcwa.org.au/donate-to-pridoc



Donors may remain anonymous if they wish.

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BSB: 066-110
Account Number: 10128430

I believe in supporting the growth of resilient Aboriginal doctors through engagement, mentorship, and access to knowledge-sharing networks. Addressing the scarcity of Indigenous doctors is a vital step towards health parity for Aboriginal peoples. Enhancing cultural responsiveness in Aboriginal health service delivery is a key step, contributing to culturally safe healthcare for Aboriginal people in Western Australia and the generations to come.

The students we sponsored to attend PRIDoC in 2022 returned re-energised, spiritually connected, and enthusiastic about their medical careers within a supportive network of global Indigenous health professionals.

This Indigenous-led gathering provides strength, fostering community through shared lessons, valuable knowledge, and spiritual renewal.

Let's unite in uplifting our emerging Aboriginal physicians, viewing it as a significant investment in the spirit of connection.

warm wishes
PROFESSOR
FIONA STANLEY AC

Message from our Aboriginal Doctor Patrons



Auntie and Uncle Patrons help guide and mentor the recipient group of the Ngalla Bidi Bursary Fund.

This fund will allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and junior doctors from WA to attend PRIDoC. We aim to create a culturally safe, rewarding and transformative experience for each individual.

There is much to learn from our international Indigenous medical students and medical colleagues and friends. We all have very similar stories, no matter where we are from and at what stage we are in our careers. Many of us have had to overcome personal adversities, but our shared narratives strengthen our experiences and provide a united voice.

We hope our students and junior doctors will find joy and replenishment through the many connections and relationships that will be

formed and having the opportunity to share our cultures and our student and clinical experiences throughout the gathering.

Most importantly, we hope the experience will bolster everyone's expertise in practicing western and our cultural medicine and to allow our mob to go on their medical career journey confidently.

This experience is not just about the present; it's about building a positive legacy and providing personal and professional growth. As we stand together, support one another, and work harmoniously, we anticipate looking back on this journey with pride. We also would like to say a huge thankyou to our sponsors.

Best wishes

Aunty Kim Isaacs
(Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service),

Uncle Daniel Hunt
(Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service),

and **Uncle Corey Dalton**
(Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service)

Past Patrons of Ngalla Bidi

Dr Kim Isaacs

Dr Kim Isaacs is a Yawuru, Karajarri, and Noongar woman from the Kimberley and South-West region of Western Australia. Dr Isaacs is a General Practitioner with a background in rural and remote medicine and Aboriginal primary health care. She has worked in remote communities and enjoys lecturing medical students and being a Medical Educator. Dr Isaacs is passionate about Aboriginal child development, has clinically mentored and supervised many medical students and GP registrars over the years, and continues to nurture the next generation of the workforce.

Dr Daniel Hunt

Jaru and Yindjibarndi man Dr Daniel Hunt is a general practitioner and dentist, and the 2025 NAIDOC Person of the Year. The former Deputy Medical Director and Clinical Lead for Sexual Health at Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, he has worked across clinical leadership and governance committees. His roles have included Co-Chairing the WA Metropolitan Syphilis Outbreak Response Team, membership of the NACCHO HTLV-1 advisory group, and Deputy Chairing of the WA Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Advisory Group. In 2022, Dr Hunt was awarded General Practitioner in Training of the Year for WA and in 2024, Indigenous Doctor of the Year.

Dr Corey Dalton

Dr Corey Dalton is an Arrernte man from the Northern Territory where he descends from his Great Grandmother and the Walpiri, Pitjantjatjara mob. Dr Dalton has worked across various industries in leadership including the mining and resource industry, State Government, and WA Police. While employed as a GP registrar at the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Dr Dalton was the Clinical Lead for the Ear, Nose, and Throat Program, providing leading clinical support to community for both adults and children. During this time he was also awarded the RACGP General Practitioner In Training for WA and Nationally in 2023. Dr Dalton sits on several boards, providing expertise spanning sport, health promotion, and education.



Keisha's Journey

Keisha is a Ballardong Noongar woman who won the 2022 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship to study her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery at Curtin University. In July 2022 she visited PRIDoC in Vancouver on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish—the Museum, Squamish, and Tsleil Waututh peoples.

"When I attended PRIDoC, I got a whole new understanding of how connected and powerful we as Indigenous people are. It showed me ways to be the best doctor possible so I can help create positive changes for our people. PRIDoC reaffirmed to me what makes Indigenous doctors different.

It can get hard throughout the year at uni, especially being only one of a handful of Indigenous students. PRIDoC completely recharged my spirit and reassured me I would get through medical school. PRIDoC was one of the most decolonised spaces I have been in and was a safe space for me to express myself. It didn't feel like the typical conference but more like a family and community gathering.

Being in medical school, it is very easy to only think about the Western medicine that we are being taught. It's not holistic like the Aboriginal health sector is, and it does not take Indigenous culture and practices into consideration. Speakers at PRIDoC shared proof with me that it is possible to integrate Indigenous practices to complement Western medicine. These are invaluable lessons that I will never learn in a classroom at university and can only be taught by other Indigenous doctors.

At PRIDoC, I got a whole new understanding of how powerful Indigenous people really are. I got spiritual renewal and strength and felt connection and love from the community. I've built networks and relationships with Indigenous doctors and future doctors from all over the world. I also met a lot of mob from all over Australia and these bonds have continued to strengthen since PRIDoC.

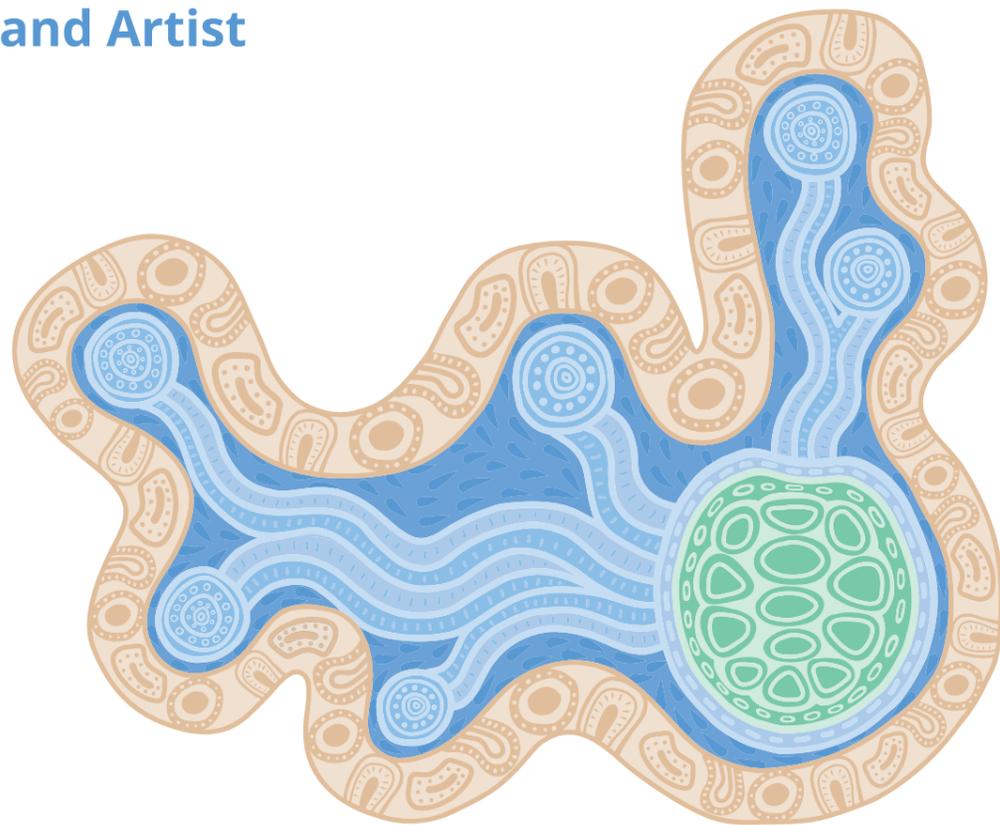
For the people with the money, I hope you understand how attending PRIDoC has impacted me as a medical student. I hope you see its benefits for all Aboriginal medical students and how it can ripple into benefits for our patients and communities.

Please consider funding Western Australian Aboriginal medical students.

Boordawan, thank you."

Keisha Calyun
Medical Student Curtin University

About the Art and Artist



Artist: Keisha Calyun, Ballardong Noongar

In this artwork, the connection between the Indigenous people of the six countries that make up PRIDoC is represented through the green sea turtle. Each of the six countries are home to green sea turtles. Just like when we come together

for PRIDoC, the green sea turtle travels vast distances and moves across the land and the sea.

The blue circles represent each nation and are shown in the artwork where each country is located on the world map (from bottom clockwise to top: Aotearoa – New Zealand, Australia, Taiwan, Hawaii, Canada, and USA). The blue lines that run from each country represent our connection as Indigenous people; even though we are across the ocean, these connections come together at the green sea turtle shell.

The brown outside border represents the tracks left in the sand by the green sea turtles and *Ngalla Bidi*—our pathway. The green sea turtle has a connection to the land and its ancestors, where it comes

back to the same beach it was born to lay its eggs. They then go back to the ocean and leave behind a pathway from the eggs to the ocean. Even though the ocean washes away these tracks, the young turtles unknowingly walk along the same paths as their mothers and grandmothers before them, a path forged by their Elders and ancestors for many years.

We as Indigenous doctors from around the Pacific are forging our own pathway, for our people and coming together with our ancient wisdom and deep connection to each other, to continue laying our pathway for future generations of strong Indigenous doctors, to create a better future for all our peoples together.



Further information and contributions

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please contact:

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**AHCWA values your
contribution and
partnership, and
the opportunity to
work with you on
this exciting and
transformational
project to grow our
Aboriginal workforce.**

Thank you

Supported by



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**Aboriginal
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