



## Australian Medical Council endorses 'Uluru Statement from the Heart'

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) has endorsed the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, (the Uluru statement), the result of a constitutional convention held in 2017 at the foot of Uluru that brought together over 250 leaders from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

In endorsing the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*, which calls for the *establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution* and seeks a *Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history* the AMC is affirming its commitment to strive for health equity and equality for all Australians, including Australia's First Nations peoples.

The Council acknowledges that health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is inextricably linked to self-determination and that there is strong evidence to support improvement in health outcomes when Indigenous peoples take greater control over their health.

Since 2006 the AMC has been working to embed the delivery of culturally responsive education and clinical care and services into the work of the AMC. The Council also works to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are treated respectfully at all points of interaction with the AMC. The 2017 Indigenous Health statement at <http://www.amc.org.au/about/indigenous-health-statement> sets out the AMC's purpose, values, commitment and principles as:

- Including Indigenous perspectives across the assessment and accreditation processes of the AMC;
- Maintaining accreditation standards and procedures across the medical education continuum that ensure education programs have learning outcomes for Indigenous health and settings and resources to achieve stated outcomes;
- Supporting a health model that promotes the emotional, social, spiritual and political aspects of health in a holistic way;
- Supporting targeted, evidence-based action that will contribute to decreasing the burden of disease, increase the life expectancy and enhance the development of a health workforce that is cognisant of and responsive to the needs of Indigenous peoples; and
- Supporting education and training that ensures doctors are aware of the impact of their own culture and cultural values on the delivery of services, historically and at present, and have knowledge of, respect for and sensitivity towards the cultural needs of Indigenous people.

Associate Professor Jill Sewell AM, President of the AMC, said 'support for the statement is consistent with the AMC's commitment to close the gap in health inequality, and reflects our ongoing support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership.'

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