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APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR 2018 AMA INDIGENOUS MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are now open for the 2018 AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship, a program that has supported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study medicine since 1994.

The successful applicant will receive \$10,000 each year for the duration of their course.

AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today that there are fewer than 300 doctors working in Australia who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander – representing 0.3 per cent of the workforce – and only 286 Indigenous medical students enrolled across the nation.

“The significant gap in life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians is a national disgrace that must be tackled by all levels of Government, the private and corporate sectors, and all segments of our community,” Dr Gannon said.

“It’s evident that Indigenous people have a greater chance of improved health outcomes when they are treated by Indigenous doctors and health professionals.

“Indigenous people are more likely to make and keep medical appointments when they are confident that they will be treated by someone who understands their culture, their language, and their unique circumstances.

“Previous Scholarship recipients have gone on to become prominent leaders in health and medicine, including Associate Professor Kelvin Kong, Australia’s first Aboriginal surgeon.

“The AMA strongly encourages Indigenous students to apply for the Scholarship, which, along with the AMA’s annual *Report Card on Indigenous Health* and the work of the AMA Taskforce on Indigenous Health, is part of the AMA’s commitment to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.”

Applications open today, 1 November 2017, and close on 31 January 2018. Applicants must be currently enrolled at an Australian medical school, be in at least their first year of medicine, and be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background.

Further information, including the application form, can be found at <https://www.ama.com.au/indigenous-medical-scholarship-2018>.

The AMA Indigenous Medical Scholarship was established in 1994 with a contribution from the Commonwealth Government. The AMA is seeking further donations and sponsorships from individuals and corporations to continue this important contribution to Indigenous health.

If you are interested in making a contribution, you can do so by downloading the donation form at: <https://ama.com.au/donate-indigenous-medical-scholarship>. For enquiries, please contact the AMA via email at indigenousscholarship@ama.com.au or phone (02) 6270 5400.

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