



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Bittern trainee physician awarded Indigenous Health Scholarship

Media Release

8 March 2016

Bittern resident Dr William Naughton is the recipient of a 2016 Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Indigenous Health Scholarship, valued at up to \$10,000 for each year of study. The scholarship is designed to remove financial barriers for Indigenous medical students wanting to complete further study and become a physician.

William is 25 years old and identifies as being from the Big River Tribe in Tasmania. He completed his medical degree at Monash University in Melbourne and is in his second year of Basic Training with the RACP.

He said that the scholarship has put him in a position where he can encourage other Indigenous students to study medicine, or continue their medical education.

“Unfortunately the Indigenous community historically has had less access to tertiary education. This can be seen in the medical industry; however there are more Indigenous students enrolling in university and this will hopefully lead to greater representation in the medical field.

“I think there are still significant areas in Indigenous Health where having more Indigenous doctors could make a big difference, particularly in local and rural communities,” he said.

RACP President Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley said that the RACP recognises the important role indigenous health professionals play in closing the gap.

“Indigenous physicians are grossly underrepresented in the medical community,” he said.

“The RACP is committed to actively supporting the continuing training and education of Indigenous medical students in Australia and New Zealand to grow and support this vital workforce,” he said.

In 2015 the RACP gave out \$3 million in scholarships, grants and prizes to support the education of future physicians and the research of current physicians in Australia and New Zealand.

Ends

Media contact: Sophie Treneman, ph: (+61) 2 8076 6337, Sophie.treneman@racp.edu.au

Follow the RACP on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheRACP>

About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP): The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.