

## **NAIDOC WEEK**

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is pleased to support National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week, which is from 8 to 15 July 2018.

Last year, the ACD released its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) which outlines the steps that the College will make to work towards reconciliation and improved outcomes in skin health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Dr Ian McCrossin, dermatologist with the ACD, has worked throughout his career to improve health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. He works with the NSW Royal Flying Doctor Service, seeing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients in Menindee and Wilcannia; and has helped to establish dermatology services at Coonamble and Walgett in NSW and at Nhulunbuy in the Northern Territory.

Dr McCrossin says, "My travels have given me an appreciation of the unique challenges facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people growing up in local rural communities. I have had the absolute privilege of visiting remote communities in Arnhem Land with Aboriginal Health Workers and learning part of the Yolgnu culture."

This year's NAIDOC Week theme celebrates the essential role that women have played - and continue to play - as active and significant role models at the community, local, state and national levels.

Dr Dana Slape, ACD dermatology trainee and of the Larrakia people, says: "As a woman and one of only a few Aboriginal dermatology trainees in Australia, I am well aware of the importance of inspiring others and setting a good example for future generations. I am fortunate enough to be a part of a specialisation where the majority of up and coming doctors are female."

Dr McCrossin says, "Working on the RAP has been a great project to promote training and education on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander skin health. We have also successfully obtained Commonwealth Government funding for a dedicated training position for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors to specialise in dermatology through the Committee of Presidents of Medical Colleges Indigenous Affairs Committee."

### **Links to further information**

[ACD Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

[A-Z of Skin](#)

[Find a local dermatologist](#)

For further information on the ACD, visit [www.dermcoll.edu.au](http://www.dermcoll.edu.au), or see our updates on [Facebook](#) or Twitter at [@Dermatology ACD](#) #dermcoll or [LinkedIn](#)

**ENDS**



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

### **About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):**

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

### **Media enquiries:**

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with a dermatologist, please contact:

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