**Indigenous Health Officer**

**Michael Riceman (Honours MBBS VI)**

[**indigenous@insight.org.au**](mailto:indigenous@insight.org.au)

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| **Name of position:** | Indigenous Health Officer |
| **Elected:** | At AGM, by secret ballot |
| **Position description and main roles:** | The Indigenous Health Officer is responsible for coordinating the Insight Indigenous Health Program. The Insight Indigenous Health Program is designed to educate students on Indigenous health and give them hands-on experience in the field. It is divided into three arms: outreach trips, education and Indigenous student mentoring.  The outreach trips are the largest part of the program where we coordinate to send students to remote Indigenous communities with clinicians. Insight has relationships with many clinicians who visit Indigenous communities and this involves coordinating for students to go on these trips with clinicians. Education mainly involves running a cultural communications workshop where we invite guest speakers to educate students on working in Indigenous communities and communicating with Indigenous patients. We are also in the early stages of setting up other Indigenous health programs.  The Indigenous Health Officer’s role is to oversee the running of the Insight Indigenous Health Program, help secure future funding for the program and encourage development of the program. The Indigenous Health Officer is assisted in this role by a subcommittee formed at the beginning of the year.  You will need to be proactive, self-motivated and efficient, and have the passion and persistence to get projects off the ground. The role requires a lot of communication and leadership, as Indigenous Health is a unique field that is largely misunderstood and often poorly engaged with. But there are many excellent resources and wise people around who can help you on your way. |
| **Positives of position:** | * Very rewarding, you can see immediate results of most of your work and the program genuinely contributes to making a difference in Indigenous health * There is a recognised lack of Indigenous health teaching in the current curriculum, so students really appreciate the opportunities that you offer them. There is no difficulty rallying support and involvement in events! * You learn a lot more about Indigenous culture and the issues surrounding Indigenous health * You learn and develop leadership skills through leading the working party * Get to work with a group of incredible, like-minded people * The program has a lot of potential for expansion. You have the opportunity to be autonomous and steer the expansion of the program |
| **Negatives of position:** | * Funding for the program is not 100% stable. We lost our previous source of funding in 2016, and found alternative options for 2017. This will be a large focus of the role, as without funding we cannot run the Outreach Trips. It would be ideal to get a stable long-term sponsor of the program. * Sometimes, new programs/ideas can be hard to establish because there is a lot of red tape surrounding some areas of Indigenous health. However, there are several existing programs and events that we can engage with, if you know who to ask. Don’t be afraid to ask past officers for their advice, and to make contacts throughout the year that will help you make your visions a reality! * If you’re passionate about the role, there are very few negatives! |
| **Time required:** | Between 2-6 hours per week, most weeks. Sometimes quieter. I would recommend forming a subcommittee early in the year; delegating makes life a lot easier! |
| **Ideas for the future:** | There is also scope to engage new doctors/health care professionals in the Outreach Trip program, so that we have new and diverse experiences to offer students. |
| **Experience required:** | None required, but an eagerness to engage and learn is essential |
| **Past office bearers:** | 2018: Michael Riceman (Honours MBBS VI)  2017: Gordon Goh (MBBS VI)  2016: Jessica Mitchell (MBBS II)  2015: Xi (Cicy) Li (MBBS VI)  2014: Hannah Davidson (MBBS VI)  2013: Johanna Warren (MBBS V)  2012: Anna Kennedy (MBBS VI) |