

Indigenous Health Officer

Reema Madike (MBBS IV)


indigenous@insight.org.au



Insight

GLOBAL HEALTH GROUP

Name of position:	Indigenous Health Officer
Elected:	At AGM, by secret ballot
Position description and main roles:	<p>The Insight Indigenous Health Program was founded in 2011 by three final year medical students who accompanied a specialist Ophthalmologist on a trip to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands. The trip broadened their views of Indigenous health and inspired them to make a difference in the area by giving other students the opportunity to gain a similar experience in Indigenous health. We have sent 46 students to remote Indigenous Communities and educated 550 students on Indigenous cultural competency.</p> <p>Main roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <u>Education:</u> Running an annual Indigenous Cultural Communications Workshop (ICCW) which has educated more than 550 medical, dental and allied health students on culturally sensitive clinical practice. We invite Indigenous Elders, Aboriginal Health Workers and other health professionals with experience in Indigenous communities to give presentations on Indigenous cultural competency, and to discuss their experience working with Indigenous patients.● <u>Outreach trips:</u> The outreach trips aim to prepare and inspire students to work in Indigenous Communities by providing them with hands-on experience and education in Indigenous health by allowing students to visit remote Indigenous Communities with visiting Specialists and General Practitioners, with financial support from Insight. Your role is to liaise with visiting specialists and community health centres to arrange student placement positions, select students through applications, and help organise the student's trips who are selected. <p>Secondary roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create educational content for 1-2 posts per semester on the topic of Indigenous health and liaise with Publication Officer to create graphics along with the posts.● Participate in Global Health Short Course, especially in the Indigenous health segment● Work collaboratively with the educational portfolios and events team
Positives of position:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Very rewarding, you can see immediate results of most of your work● There is a recognised lack of Indigenous health teaching in the current curriculum, so students really appreciate the opportunities that you offer them.● 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 and liaising with doctors● You have the opportunity to be autonomous and steer the expansion of the program
Negatives of position:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sometimes, new programs/ideas can be hard to establish because there is a lot of red tape surrounding some areas of Indigenous health.● There is some extra coordination required with visiting clinicians on the Outreach Trips.
Time required:	2-3 hours per week during busy periods (e.g. around outreach trip timelines and ICCW).
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 explicitly required, but a keen interest in the area is essential. Indigenous health / community exposure recommended.
Past office bearers:	2023: Reema Madike (MBBS IV) 2022: Bora Hyung (MBBS IV) 2021: Tammy Keerthipala (MBBS II) 2020: Shaun Gerschwitz (MBBS VI) 2019: Vishak Senthil (MBBS II) 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)