



Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated

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Registration No: A3874 ABN 44 429 269 156

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To Whomever It May Concern,

RE: The *Malpa Young Doctors* program

On behalf of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI), I am writing to give our support for the *Malpa Young Doctors* Project.

The *Malpa Young Doctors* project brings together doctors, medical students, health workers and Elders to pass on skills to primarily young Aboriginal people so that they can take responsibility for the health of their younger peers and their community. The young doctors learn about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Independent research has shown that simple techniques will significantly improve primary health outcomes and will likely reduce longer term chronic health problems.

David Peake, from the *Malpa Young Doctors Program* has been in dialogue with VAEAI for some time regarding the implementation of this Program in interested schools, and we also have met with members of the project team and key staff at Thornbury Primary School in the Melbourne Metropolitan region, who are keen to implement the program.

As the the peak advisory body to the Victorian State Government on all issues relating to Indigenous education and training, it is VAEAI's position that this project supports key learning outcomes in the curriculum, with a special focus on health education, and therefore occupies an important and highly relevant space within the education sector, especially for young Koorie people who can become 'health ambassadors' in their local communities. We further hope that participation in this health-focused program, will encourage students consider a future in the health profession.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Bamblett'.

Lionel Bamblett

General Manager

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