

MEDIA RELEASE

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Celebrating our future health leaders!

Chair of the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance [AMSANT], Donna Ah Chee, said it wasn't just the arrival of spring in the deserts of Central Australia to be welcomed today as the Aboriginal community controlled health sector celebrated the graduation of 10 future leaders in receiving Diplomas in Leadership and Management.

"This is of course a wonderful achievement for each of the graduates who have put in a lot of hard work while still holding on to their full-time jobs," said Ms Ah Chee.

"But just as important is what it means for the entire Aboriginal community controlled health sector—these women and men are the future, they are our future leaders in what are difficult, complex roles, they are role models for younger people, they are role models for their families and communities.

"Already organisations are moving graduates into managerial and team leader roles, and we are looking towards future intakes of students across a range of training opportunities in the sector—in management, administration, cultural leadership, community engagement and research."

John Paterson, CEO of AMSANT reflected at the graduation ceremony in Alice Springs that while the work in the sector was very challenging, it was extraordinarily fulfilling.

"It really is the best sector to work in, no two ways about it.

"These new graduates are at the heart of what Aboriginal community control in comprehensive primary health care is about, it's about people with lived experience in their own communities and families and having the strength and tenacity to take on the challenges we face in Aboriginal primary health care here in the Northern Territory."

The graduates were drawn from the Katherine West Health Board, Anyinginyi Health, Miwatj Health and the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress).

Anyinginyi graduate, Nova Pomare, said that it hadn't always been easy to get through the course.

"It was pretty hard working full time, studying and having to leave home away from family to attend the face-to-face course work in Darwin," she said.

"But we were supported by our work places who have shown faith in our abilities and committed to our futures."

Graduates of Diploma in Leadership and Management:

Anita Maynard	Congress	Velda Winunguj	Miwatj Health
Carlissa Broome	Congress	Stan Stokes	Anyinginyi Health
Glenn Clarke	Congress	Mahalia Hippi	Anyinginyi Health
Samarra Schwarz	Congress	Nova Pomare	Anyinginyi Health
John Liddle	Congress	Lorraine Johns	Katherine West Health Board

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