



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Doctors and Students September 2009

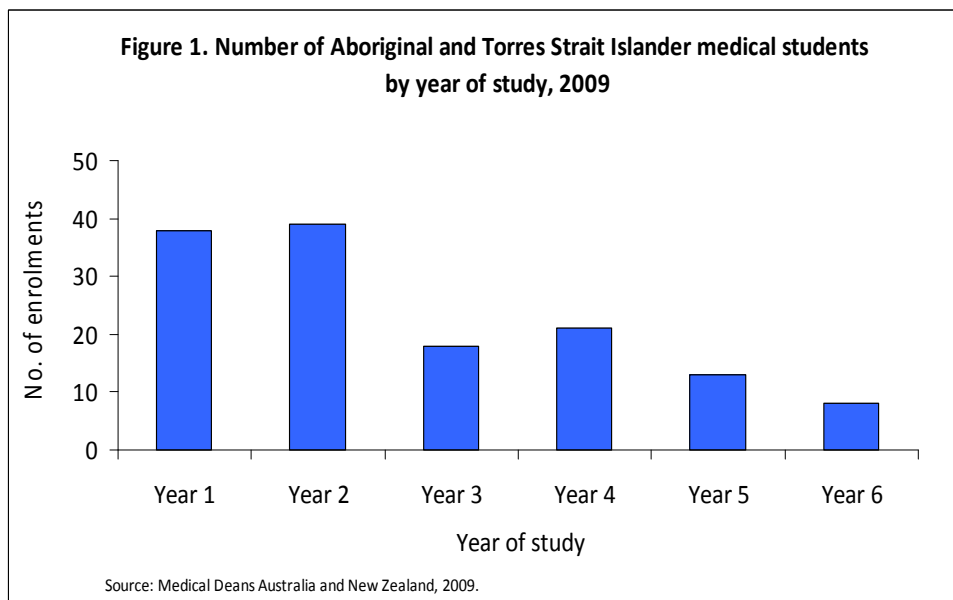
Data on the number of Indigenous doctors and medical students come from a number of sources. The main data sources are self-identification through the census, health professional registration boards, and medical schools.

There are currently around 140 Indigenous doctors and around 137 Indigenous medical students (Table 1).

Table 1. The Indigenous Medical Workforce, 2009	
Indigenous doctors ¹	140
Indigenous medical students	137

¹ This data is valid as at September 2009.
Source: Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand, 2009.

The numbers of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Doctors' and Students have been consistently increasing in recent years and current enrolments show an upward trend (Figure 1.).



At 30 June 2006, the estimated Indigenous population made up 2.5 per cent of the total Australian population². Yet, at this time, **Indigenous medical practitioners comprised of 0.2 per of all medical practitioners** (Table 2).

² Australian Bureau of Statistics and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2008) *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples*. Cat. No. 4704.0. Canberra: ABS

Table 2. Medical Practitioners by Indigenous status and per cent, 2006

	Number	Per cent of total medical practitioners
Indigenous	106	0.2
Non-Indigenous	54793	99.4
Not Stated	244	0.4
Total	55143	100.0

Source: Unpublished 2006 Census data.

For more information view: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health labour force statistics and data quality assessment. Cat. no. IHW 27. Canberra: AIHW.](#)

The representation of Indigenous doctors is likely to increase and this is demonstrated in the medical enrolments. **In 2009, the proportion of Indigenous medical students among all medical students was 0.9** (Table 3).

Table 3. Medical Students by Indigenous status, 2009

	Number	Per cent of total medical enrolments
Indigenous	137	0.9
Total	14521	99.1

Source: Medical Deans Australian and New Zealand, 2009.