

## MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association

15 May 2018

### **AIDA welcomes the first ever National Healthy Skin Guideline**

AIDA is pleased to endorse the first edition of the National Healthy Skin Guideline. The development of the Guideline by the Australian Healthy Skin Consortium is a welcome move to improve the skin health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples throughout Australia.

We praise the Guideline's inclusion of online resources, such as photographs, learning tools, and an interactive questionnaire, which will support health care providers to diagnose and treat skin infections.

AIDA Director Dr Dana Slape, a descendent of the Larrakia Nation and dermatology registrar, noted the important link between skin health and life-threatening illnesses, "Resources such as this provide support in addressing skin conditions. In doing so we can disrupt the downstream impacts, such as invasive group A streptococcal infections, rheumatic heart disease, and chronic renal disease."

Having worked in several communities across Australia with large Aboriginal populations, Dr Slape remarked that the urgent issues associated with Indigenous skin health are directly linked to the social determinants of health, "Housing, sanitation and access to clean running water shouldn't be a challenge in a country as wealthy as Australia, but they are and they are intrinsically tied to why skin conditions are so problematic."

AIDA believes culturally appropriate care is essential to address the current health disparities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Creating awareness in health service delivery and acknowledging the exceptional resilience and knowledge of Indigenous communities is imperative to achieving improved health outcomes and a better health system for all Australians.

We commend the partners of the Australian Healthy Skin Consortium – Telethon Kids Institute, Menzies School of Health Research, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, James Cook University, the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, and One Disease – and we look forward to future editions of the Guideline.

Visit [the Telethon Kids Institute website](#) for more information and to download your copy of the [National Healthy Skin Guideline](#).

### **END MESSAGE**

Media enquiries to

P: 02 6273 5013

E: [communications@aida.org.au](mailto:communications@aida.org.au)