



THE LIMENETWORK
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education

LIME CONNECTION VI

Knowledge Systems, Social Justice and
Racism in Health Professional Education

James Cook University, Townsville, Australia

11-13 August 2015

INDIGENOUS MEDICAL STUDENT AND COMMUNITY MEMBER BURSARY REPORT 2015

LIME CONNECTION VI BURSARIES

To support participation of students and community members in the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Connection VI, bursary places were offered to Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori medical students and community members, with a strong interest in Indigenous health. Each bursary covers the costs of the Palm Island Pre Conference Visit, registration, travel, accommodation and meals.

Without this financial assistance I would not have had the opportunity to connect with other students and delegates, and found myself once again inspired and motivated to complete my degree.

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015



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DESIGN

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LIME CONNECTION VI EVENT SUMMARY

The sixth biennial LIME Connection was held in **Townsville, Australia** from **11-13 August 2015**. Keynote speakers included experts in Indigenous health education from Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Hawai'i. Delegates included Indigenous and non-Indigenous health professional educators, students, policy makers, health practitioners and community members from Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand, the USA and Canada. **Host:** James Cook University. **Auspice Organisations:** Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand; Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA); and Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa (Te ORA) Māori Medical Practitioners Association.

PROCESS

PURPOSE

Indigenous Medical Student & Community Member Bursaries:

- Support and encourage professional development for those with an interest in and experience with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori health;
- Provide financial support for student conference presenters;
- Highlight the commitment of community and students to improving Indigenous health;
- Increase and support leadership opportunities for those involved with Indigenous health;
- Strengthen active involvement of students and community with health professional schools;
- Encourage collegiality and inclusion so students may pursue a career in health education.

FUNDING

Bursaries were funded by Medical Schools across Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand. In addition, the Cultural and Community Relations Grants (University of Melbourne) supported two non-Indigenous medical students to attend; the University of Saskatchewan funded one Indigenous medical student to attend; and a student presenter from University of British Columbia, and James Cook University were assisted to attend.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Eligibility criteria included:

- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent or whakapapa (Māori ancestry); and
- Current medical student from Australian or Aotearoa/New Zealand and a student member of AIDA or Te ORA; or
- Actively working with a medical school (Community).

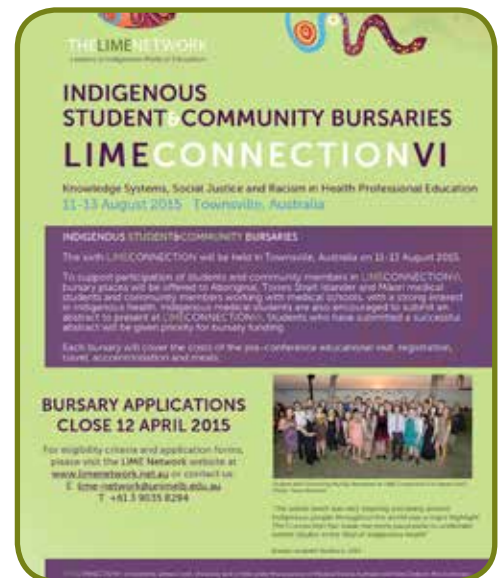
Bursaries were awarded by a committee from AIDA and Te ORA. LIME Reference Group members were consulted to ensure students could gain leave. Recipients were selected based on:

- Demonstrated interest and experience with Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori health;
- Commitment to improving Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and/or Māori health in the future;
- Approval of a LIME Reference Group member;
- Active involvement with medical schools (Community); and
- Those presenting were considered as a priority.

PROMOTION

The Bursaries were promoted via:

- Emails to LIME members;
- Posters sent to medical schools and supporting organisations;
- Facebook and Twitter posts;
- LIME Newsletter articles; and
- Articles in other organisations newsletters.



BURSARY COMMITTEE

- AIDA, Jasmin Hunter
- Te ORA, Tania Huria, Rhys Jones

WELCOME DINNER

Bursary recipients met on Sunday 9 August at Cactus Jacks Restaurant, Townsville for the Welcome Dinner. This event was designed to ensure bursary recipients had the opportunity to meet one another and form initial networks, prior to the first day of the conference.

RECIPIENTS

BURSARY RECIPIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

This year 42 bursary places were awarded, which is the most ever for LIME Connection. Two recipients were unable to attend. There were 49 applications.

- 34 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori medical students; 2 non-Indigenous students;
- 6 Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or Māori community members;
- 57% Australia; 43% Aotearoa/New Zealand
- 77% Female; 23% Male;
- 20% of all delegates were students;
- 14% of all presenters were students.

BURSARY RECIPIENTS 2009-2015



I think the bursary is a very important part of what makes the conference so special. It was great to see so many more students at this LIME

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015



Students:

- Charmaine Earnshaw (ANU)
- Danielle Dries (ANU)
- Laura Alsop (Deakin)
- Sarah Bormann (Flinders SA)
- Asti Grard (Auckland)
- James Enright (Auckland)
- Kamaia Pere (Auckland)
- Maihi Brown (Auckland)
- Moerangi Tamati (Auckland)
- Gary Sit (Melbourne)
- Kiri Gates (Melbourne)
- Levi McKenzie-Kirkbright (Melbourne)
- Ngaree Blow (Melbourne)
- Bridget Fernando (Melbourne)
- Nick Wilson (Melbourne)
- Nicole Payne (Newcastle)
- Nicole Whitson (Newcastle)
- Rebecca Gough (Newcastle)
- Sarah-Rebekah Clark (Newcastle)
- Amanda Robinson (Notre Dame Fremantle)
- Kayla Arabena-Byrnes (UQ)
- Kersandra Begley (Sydney)
- Monique Juhe (UWA)
- Kelly Langford (UWA)
- Anika Tiplady (Otago)
- Chivala Heal (Otago)
- Jake Aitken (Otago)
- Josh Firmin (Otago)
- Kennedy Sarich (Otago)
- Matt Solis (Otago)
- Natasha Martin (Otago)
- Ricki-Lea Aitchison (Otago)
- Rueben Bennett (Otago)
- Samantha Jackson (Otago)
- Nikki Randriamahefa (UTAS)
- Artiene Tatian (UWS)

Community:

- Renee Owen (Deakin)
- Dolly Taetae Paul (Auckland)
- Hannah Burgess (Auckland)
- Aunty Ali Golding (UNSW)
- Annalyse Crane (Notre Dame Sydney)
- Amber Philpott (Otago)

Other Assisted Students:

The following students were also assisted to attend:



- Raquel Ball (JCU)
- Baillie Redfern (UBC - Canada)
- Jaylynn Arcand (Saskatchewan - Canada)

OUTCOMES

Bursary recipients provided feedback on whether the Connection met their expectations, what they learnt, key themes, benefits of attending, relationships established, and any other outcomes or recommendations.

EXPECTATIONS

100% (n=42) of the bursary recipients reported that LIME Connection VI met or exceeded their expectations.



 The LIME Connection exceeded my expectations. It was life changing, being in a place surrounded by like-minded people. 

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

LESSONS LEARNT

Overwhelmingly, bursary recipients reported that they learnt they are not alone. A sense of **support, solidarity and strength** was gained through the realisation that other students, community members and academics from across the world have experienced similar challenges related to racism, and have similar cultures and histories.

Many also reported they learnt strategies for **coping with racism**, learnt about **history and culture**, were **inspired** by the academics and students around them, and gained **new ideas and skills** related to their careers.

 I learnt a lot about what is happening locally, nationally and internationally in the sphere of Indigenous Medical Education...I feel better equipped to assist others and build myself as a upcoming doctor. 

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

RELATIONSHIPS

100% (n=42) of respondents reported that they built on or developed new relationships at LIME Connection VI. Relationships were built between bursary recipients and:

- **Students** from their own university, across Australia and internationally;
- **Academics**, colleagues and keynote speakers;
- **Practitioners**; and
- **Community members**.

Respondents reported that these relationships were important because they build **networks and support systems** through medical school and into their careers; support **learning** from others in the field; and provide inspiring **mentors** who motivate them to complete their study.

PALM ISLAND

The Palm Island Pre Conference Visit provided an opportunity for bursary recipients to meet one another, connect with LIME Reference Group members who could provide support and guidance, and be informed about their responsibilities during the conference. **97%** (n=38) of respondents reported that the trip was valuable.

Photographs in this document were taken by Roslyn Budd W: buddphotography.com.au.

The LIME Connection Program, Timetable and Conference Report contain further information. Please see the LIME Network website W: limenetwork.net.au/lime-connection.

OUTCOMES

KEY THEMES

Bursary recipients highlighted the following key themes which emerged from the conference:

- Dealing with **racism**;
- Improving the **curriculum**;
- **Supporting students**;
- Understanding **identity**;
- **Colloration** across countries; and
- Valuing **culture and history**.

CHALLENGES

Bursary recipients identified the following challenges during the event:

- Dealing with the **intensity and emotion** of discussions, particularly around **racism and cultural safety**. Most noted this challenge was countered by strong support from the delegation;
- **Nervousness** around meeting new people, presenting and speaking up in sessions; and
- A **lack of time** to attend all sessions and reflect on learnings.

17% (n=7) reported no challenges.

It is such an amazing experience being surrounded by Indigenous medical students from different universities with similar struggles and similar values, it is such a safe space and you instantly feel like...part of a family.

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING

Reported benefits of attending included:

- The **financial** benefit, with many recipients noting they would not have been able to attend without the financial assistance;
- Creating **relationships** with fellow students, educators and community members (nationally and internationally), which will provide support throughout study and careers;
- Being **motivated** to continue with their studies;
- Learning about **work being undertaken in the field**, and understanding development of Indigenous health curriculum;
- Having the opportunity to **present** work;
- Planning for and gaining new ideas about future **careers**; and
- Learning about **history and culture** with peers.

[The] LIME conference is a time where I can be re-motivated to study and re-focus on my passions within the health care profession...especially when I feel overwhelmed with my studies.

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

Some of the most challenging aspects [were] the most rewarding.

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

I believe being a bursary student and attending before graduating means we can incorporate the knowledge learned from the conference into our practise from day one of our careers.

- LIME Connection VI Bursary Recipient 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for future conferences included:

- Create a student **yarning circle** or time for reflection;
- Provide **work spaces** to undertake pressing university tasks at the event;
- Include a focus on **practical solutions**, particularly in relation to student struggles at university;
- Continue to support **non-Indigenous students** to attend; and
- Facilitate **introductions between students and academics**, including the Deans who funded the bursaries.

ENGAGEMENT

LIMELIGHT STUDENT AWARD

The LIMELight Awards recognise the significant and outstanding work that staff, students and schools undertake in the teaching and learning of Indigenous health, as well as Indigenous student recruitment and support.

Bursary recipient **Natasha Martin** from University of Otago, Wellington was the winner of the Student Award.



PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The Student Panel was noted by many delegates as a highlight of LIME Connection. Panelists were:

- **Raquel Ball**, James Cook University; **Rueben Bennett**, University of Otago; **Ngaree Blow**, The University of Melbourne; **James Enright**, The University of Auckland.

Many bursary recipients gave presentations:

- **Kennedy Sarich**, University of Otago, Christchurch - Developing & implementing a junior roadshow for Maori high school students across mid/lower New Zealand;
- **Danielle Dries** (with Samia Goudie, Gaye Doolan), Australian National University - Indigenous health stream: from a trickle to a flow;
- **Anika Tiplady**, University of Otago, Christchurch - Results from the University of Otago LGBTI curriculum development group and implications for Indigenous health education;
- **Artiene Tatian**, University of Western Sydney, **Kersandra Begley**, The University of Sydney - Building a supportive resilient community: representing a national Indigenous medical student culture;

- **Charmaine Earnshaw**, Australian National University - The mental health website Indigenous scale: quality assessment of online health information sites about depression for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians;
- **Hannah Burgess**, The University of Auckland - Pipeline promises: exploring factors that influence Māori & Pasifika student success within the Bachelor of Health Sciences.

Other student presenters:

- **Natalie Ngu**, **Nahkita Wolfe**, Monash University - Engaging medical students in Indigenous health through non-traditional learning;
- **Nick Wilson**, The University of Melbourne - Student placements in ACCHOs: identifying the factors involved in successful placements for staff & students;
- **Baillie Redfern**, The University of British Columbia - Recruitment & retention of Indigenous medical students at UBC: a student perspective;
- **Jaylynn Arcand** (with Valerie Arnault-Pelletier), University of Saskatchewan - Miyo maskihkiy: good medicine - increasing & retaining Indigenous students in medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Many students made use of twitter and facebook to engage further with the conference. Students created the hashtag [#LessonsFromLIME](#) to continue conversations about the event on Twitter. Bursary recipients established a facebook group to stay in touch.



FUNDING

Bursaries were funded by the following Medical Schools across Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand:

- Australian National University;
- Bond University;
- Deakin University;
- Flinders University;
- Griffith University;
- James Cook University;
- The University of Adelaide;
- The University of Auckland;
- The University of Melbourne;
- The University of Newcastle;

- The University of New South Wales;
- The University of Notre Dame Fremantle;
- The University of Notre Dame Sydney;
- The University of Sydney;
- The University of Western Australia;
- University of Otago;
- University of Tasmania;
- University of Western Sydney; and
- University of Wollongong.

Additional bursaries were funded by:

- Cultural and Community Relations Grants (University of Melbourne); and
- The University of Saskatchewan.

BACKGROUND

The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network Program is a dynamic network dedicated to ensuring the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning of Indigenous health in medical education, as well as best practice in the recruitment and graduation of Indigenous medical students.

We do this through a bi-national presence that encourages and supports collaboration within and between medical schools in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand, and by building linkages with the community and other health science sectors.

The LIME Network is a program of Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health.*

LIME CONNECTION

The focus of this Connection was **Knowledge Systems, Social Justice and Racism in Health Professional Education**.

The theme of the conference built on evidence based presentations from previous LIME Connection conferences and captured new initiatives, shared successful methods and workshopped visions for the future, through:

- **Collaboration**, information sharing & networking amongst peers;
- **Professional development** and capacity-building;
- **Linking** with community, colleges & all health disciplines;
- **Discussion** and critique of current practices; and
- **Exploration** of emerging tools and techniques to drive improvement in outcomes for Indigenous health.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like more information regarding LIME Network activities, would like to become a member, or have something you would like to contribute to our next Newsletter, please contact us.

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Website: limenetwork.net.au

Facebook: [facebook.com/LIMENetwork](https://www.facebook.com/LIMENetwork)

Twitter: twitter.com/LIME_Network

YouTube: [youtube.com/LIMENetworkProgram](https://www.youtube.com/LIMENetworkProgram)



THELIMENETWORK

*The LIME Network is hosted by the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne.