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Rural doctors keep walking the road toward reconciliation

National Reconciliation Week 27 May 3 June 2024

[Reconciliation.org.au](https://reconciliation.org.au)

#NRW2024



Reconciliation remains unfinished business and the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is committed to achieving better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through connection, respect and understanding.



RDAA President, Dr RT Lewandowski, said that RDAA is continuing its reconciliation journey.

“As an organisation we maintain a focus on reconciliation and the role we can play in furthering this process,” Dr Lewandowski said.

“This year’s theme, **Now More Than Ever**, reminds us that the rights of First Nations peoples continue to need upholding, that racism needs calling out, and that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across this continent need to be echoed by all Australians.

“RDAA has a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which provides a framework for strategically taking meaningful action to advance reconciliation.

“The RAP works to further our reconciliation journey, recognising that acknowledging, understanding and respecting the traditions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, communities and the whole population.

“As doctors who provide care to rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we are all invested in working towards delivering the best possible care and the best possible health outcomes for our patients,” Dr Lewandowski said.

“RDAA is supporting our members to gain a greater understanding of culture and perspectives by partnering with the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) to provide discounted access to their on-line training module, *Cultural Awareness – An Introduction to Cultural Safety*.

“This course provides the best possible introduction to cultural awareness and application to health practice, as it was developed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors and designed specifically for doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers.

“We have received great feedback from members who have completed the training saying it immediately supported them in their care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait patients.

“RDAA will continue to work constructively toward reconciliation **Now More Than Ever**, seeking greater understanding of history, furthering education, and tackling racism.”

A high resolution photo of Dr RT Lewandowski is [available here](#).

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