




***GRADUATION AND AWARDS
CELEBRATION 2020***

**NT ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER HEALTH
ACADEMY**





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Chairperson Welcome

As Chairperson of Indigenous Allied Health Australia, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy graduates, award winners, and all students for all that they have achieved this year.

I do so with great personal pride in our Academy students and on behalf of IAHA, its leadership and all our two-thousand-plus members. IAHA, collectively, recognise your achievements and support you in all your future endeavours.

2020 has been a challenging year for many, with the COVID-19 pandemic and public health restrictions impacting how we engage in education, training and employment and how we participate in the things that keep us well.

That the students of the NT Aboriginal Health Academy have not only remained engaged in the Academy and their education, but have achieved the growth and success they have, speaks volumes to them both as individuals and as a supportive group.

Throughout the stories in this booklet, one of the most pleasing things for me, as Chairperson of IAHA, were the references to the friendships and peer support that students have received from one another. This was one of the major motivators in the establishment of IAHA and rings true to today. Throughout 2020, IAHA have been promoting the message Staying Connected, Stronger Together, recognising that we are better together.

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy is a major priority for IAHA, as we seek to expand the number of opportunities to participate in the program in the Northern Territory and beyond. IAHA consider it essential that education is delivered in a culturally safe way, which recognises and values the strength of culture, family, and community, and which provides the types of holistic support which empowers our young people to thrive.

While we hope many of our graduates go onto great things in health professions, helping to transform health care and systems with their presence, we are proud that this graduating class are able to be advocates for their own health and wellbeing, and are positioned to succeed whichever path they pursue.

The NT Aboriginal Health Academy, as the first Academy established, is very important to IAHA and we look forward to a long future celebrating the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the NT.

Program

- Welcome
- Welcome to Country
by Lynette Fejo
- Garramilla Dancers
- Introduction to the Class of 2020 (Year 11
and 12 students)
- Video Messages
- Opening Address and overview of the NT
Aboriginal Health Academy
 - National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Health Academy
 - NT Aboriginal Health Academy
- NT Aboriginal Health Academy Awards
- Presentation of the Class of 2020 Year 12
Graduates
- Closing messages





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ISLANDER HEALTH ACADEMY**

Menu

Entrée

Classic Caesar Salad – (no anchovy)
Creamy Alfredo Linguini

Main

Poached chicken supreme with steamed market veg,
mashed potato and gravy

Roasted black angus Steak medium to well with roasted
potato, natural gravy and broccolini

Dessert

Chocolate caramel cake
Mango cheesecake

Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy Overview

The Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy (NTAHA) was the first Academy established under IAHA's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy (NATSIHA) program. The NTAHA is a sustainable program, which delivers culturally informed training designed to maintain engagement in education. It creates opportunities for local NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to complete their year 12 education and to consider and pursue employment and/or further education and training opportunities across a range of sectors.

The NTAHA has developed a genuine pathway for students to attain relevant industry qualifications, through a school-based traineeship model. It supports future employment in high and growing demand across diverse sectors including education, early childhood, mental health, social and emotional wellbeing, health, disability, community services, justice and aged care; as clinicians, administrators, project officers, trainers and support workers.

In addition to impacting the lives of individuals and families, the NTAHA is an education and training pathway for building a future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander skilled and qualified workforce, addressing issues around service accessibility and quality of care, while also supporting individuals in the social and cultural determinants of health.

The core components of the NTAHA are to:

- Enable local NT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to stay engaged in their education from years 7-10 and to have access to additional support and development in years 11 and 12 to complete their secondary education successfully.
- Work in and directly with students, families, schools, careers advisers, employers, and other community stakeholders to engage students on a pathway toward long-term employment and careers.
- Support students to gain a nationally recognised vocational qualification, learning employable, job-ready skills in a range of settings, and providing the foundational skills to progress into further education and/or training.
- Enable students to complete a culturally safe school based traineeship over their final two years of high school study, as paid employees of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) through IAHA's Group Training Organisation, IAHA Group Training.
- Provide mentoring for students through relationships with relatable, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander role models, who themselves have completed education, training and career pathways to successfully gain employment across diverse sectors.
- Engage students in Indigenous leadership development, goal setting and career planning activities, to support lifelong learning and skills.
- Expose students to the different employment opportunities across diverse settings and sectors.
- Expose students to professions and roles that directly impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families and communities.





Students, Schools and Host Employers

Student	Grade	School	Host Employers
Whitney AhMat	12	Casuarina Senior College	Menzies School of Health Research
Dashay Borsi	11	Palmerston College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Porsche Cahill	11	Palmerston College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Nakita Clancy	11	Palmerston College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Gabrielle Da Costa	11	Palmerston College	TEHS Batchelor Health Clinic
Tianna Fitzgerald-Millar	12	SEDA	Bodyfit NT
Sarcora Giles-Morcom	12	Taminmin College	Movement For Life
Toya Wilson-Norris	11	Palmerston College	Bodyfit NT
Laila Olm	12	Good Shepherd Lutheran College	Life without Barriers
Lorraine Randall	12	Palmerston College	Palmerston Regional Hospital
Kerryilee Raymond	11	Marrara Christian College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Keneisha Riddle	11	Palmerston College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Elyssia Tallon Rosas	11	Haileybury Randell	Top End Health - Aged Care Unit
Shakira Shields-Corp	11	Palmerston College	Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Yr 12 Graduating Students

Whitney AhMat

Tianna Fitzgerald-Millar

Sarcora Giles-Morcom

Laila Olm

Lorraine Randall

Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy Awards

NTAHA Inspiration Award

The NTAHA Inspiration Award recipient demonstrated the ability to inspire others through their positive approach to their personal and professional journey in the Academy – overcoming challenges and taking a strengths-based approach towards success. The award also recognises the recipient's commitment to their studies, the Academy, and ambitions for their future.

NTAHA Local Champion

The NTAHA Local Champion Award recipient demonstrated commitment to all levels of the Academy, is active in class, at school and within their community. This award recognises a student who is an inspirational role model for other students and our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

NTAHA Deadly Student Award

The NTAHA Deadly Student Award recipient has demonstrated Deadly qualities such as respect, a passion and interest in their own learning. This award recognises a student who contributes to class and is always willing to give it a go.

NTAHA Commitment Award

The NTAHA Commitment Award recipient demonstrated a commitment and contribution to the Academy, and who has demonstrated leadership, strength, and reliance towards their role within the Academy. This award recognises those small achievements which have a positive and strong impact on both themselves, fellow class members and the Academy family.

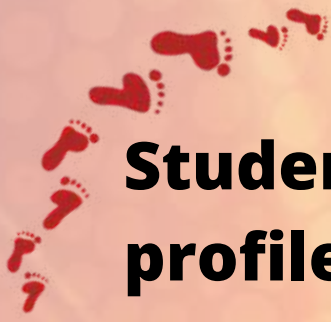
NTAHA Student Choice Award

Selected by their peers, the NTAHA Student Choice Award recipient demonstrated growth, inspired others, displayed leadership, and worked with peers in a friendly and respectful way.

NTAHA Future Health Leader Award

The NTAHA Future Health Leader Award recipient demonstrated strong leadership capabilities and commitment to their studies and as a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, fellow students, their families and others.





Student profiles

Whitney AhMat

My name is Whitney AhMat, I am an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory. I am graduating from Year 12 at Casuarina Senior College.



I joined the NTAHA to explore potential health career pathways and develop my knowledge on the different aspects of health. The NTAHA has helped and encouraged me to develop my professionalism and social skills giving me confidence to transform from schooling life to the workplace and explore all future professional options.

I have enjoyed participating in the interactive activities. When starting my work placement at Menzies School of Health Research, I was very nervous, but with support I was able to overcome this. I am still interested in a future career of nursing and NTAHA are supporting me with pathway possibilities to achieve my goals.

Dashay Borsi

My name is Dashay Borsi and I am a year 11 student at Palmerston College. I am a young Larrakia woman, born and raised in Darwin and I enjoy spending my time with family and friends. I learnt about NTAHA through a friend of mine, as well as from the Girls Academy at school. I was a bit curious about going down a health pathway, and when I was given information about NTAHA, I soon enrolled in the program.



Being part of the NTAHA has changed me for the better, it has helped me to gain more knowledge on all aspects of health. I have become more organised and gained a lot of knowledge regarding my own health and that of my peers. Some of the topics I have learnt include work health and safety and nutrition.

Since joining NTAHA I still take an interest in health, but I am still unsure about the area of health I am most interested in working in. What makes me different from everyone else is I am normally a calm and quiet person who likes to spend time with others but also need time to myself. I am an organised and time efficient person when I need to be.

Porsche Cahill

My name is Porsche Cahill, and I am a year 11 student at Palmerston College.

I am an Ngombur woman from the Kakadu region. I was born in Adelaide and when I was about 6 months old I moved to the Northern Territory with my family.



I wish to become a health professional and work in many different fields of health. The NTAHA has helped and guided me to become a person that I aspire to be. I have grown tremendously since the start of the year, including my career aspirations and attitude by taking steps out of my comfort zone.

The most enjoyable moments for me are the little activities games, excursions, and group interactions. The highlight of this year during the academy was to make unforgettable connections through experiences with the staff and the rest of the Academy, and to learn more about myself and to see how far I and others have come from the start of the year.

I am still really interested in a career in the health industry because I not only get to care and help my family but I get to help other families, and the most rewarding feeling is knowing that you are changing Australians health status one person at a time, both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as well as people from all other backgrounds.

My career goal is to finish school and then start working towards being a professional pharmacist. I would then like to move into a different part of health to further my skills and experience.

The advice I would like to give others is that the Academy allows you to grow and learn in a space that you are comfortable and safe in. The kind of support that the NTAHA gives is incredible down to the very little things like food, someone to talk to, a shoulder to cry on & help with school work. The NTAHA supports you on a personal level and pushes you out of your comfort zone for the better.

In NTAHA all the girls stand out in their own unique way, but what makes me different from everybody else is that I have a lot of passion in what I love and care about.





Nakita Clancy

My name is Nakita Clancy and I am in year 11 at Palmerston College. I am a young Anmtjere women from Alice Springs and have grown up most my life in Darwin and enjoy reading and listening to music.



I joined the NTAHA because I had an interest in health and wanted to pursue opportunities within the Academy. Being part of NTAHA really helped me gain a lot of knowledge and experience about health and it has changed many viewpoints that I had on certain areas of my future career. Health was always something I had a slight interest in. Learning about the health of myself and others was intriguing, but I never really acted on the thought, as I didn't know what pathway I wanted to undertake.

When the NTAHA was recommended to me by my school, I realised it was a something I could do. Now I know a lot more things health-wise and I'm glad I took the opportunity to join the Academy as a student. I look forward to the future and am keen to see what pathway I choose." Through the NTAHA I have gained knowledge and experience about many things in health such as cultural awareness and nutrition. I am still not sure what area of health I would like to move into when I finish school but I am keen to see what else I can learn and what role I can play that'll give back to the community.

Gabrielle Da Costa

My name is Gabrielle Da Costa and I am a Kungarakun and Gurindji woman, and am in year 11 at Palmerston College. I joined the NTAHA to kickstart a career in health, as I had an interest in health but wasn't sure what it was like to work in the sector.

Being in the NTAHA has increased my knowledge and I have enjoyed getting away from school and experiencing working at the Batchelor Clinic.

In my spare time I like playing AFL and exercising when I am not injured and doing art, especially painting.

I am not sure on my career goal for after school, but I am working towards completing year 12 and possibly going to university.



Tianna Fitzgerald-Millar

Hi! My name is Tianna Fitzgerald-Millar, and I just graduated year 12 from SEDA (Sports Education and Development Australia). I am a proud Larrakia woman, born in Darwin, Northern Territory but raised all over Australia.

I joined the NTAHA in 2020 from the inspiration of my big brother Dom (2019 NTAHA graduate) in combination with a passion for my people's health and wellbeing.

Being in the NTAHA has altered my perspectives on allied health professions and allowed me to grow and expand on my knowledge and love for aiding my Indigenous brothers and sisters in need.

My interests in health have only expanded as has my hopes for the future. Overall, I have most enjoyed meeting new people as well as being granted the opportunity to learn and grow in a culturally aware and safe environment, where I am heard and understood for who I am.

In the NTAHA I have been supported to overcome my social anxiety and to put myself in vulnerable situations such as new workplaces. I have developed personal characteristics, including but are not limited to, adaptability, dependability, honesty, and loyalty.

My hobbies include anything sports related. I spend most of my time on the footy field or netball courts. When I'm not playing sport, I'm chasing my brothers and sisters which, in my opinion, is more exercise than both sports combined.

I think that the thing that makes me different is my motives and the fact that everything I do is to make my mum proud and my brothers and sisters.

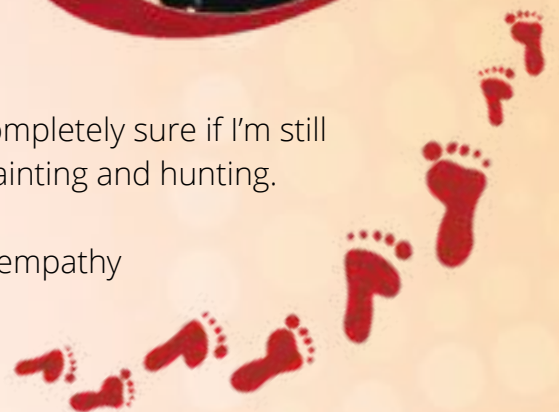
Sarcora Giles-Morcom

Hi, My name is Sarcora Giles-Morcom, and my family are from Borrooloola, Elliot and have connections to Tiwi Islands. I was born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory and I am in year 12 at Taminmin College.

I joined the NTAHA to try something new. This year I have enjoyed learning skills and meeting new people.

Being in the NTAHA I have gained more confidence and have had to overcome my shyness doing public speaking. I'm not completely sure if I'm still interested in a health career. I enjoy sports, fishing, drawing/painting and hunting.

What makes me different from everyone else is my resilience, empathy and I'm a caring person.



Toya Wilson-Norris

My name is Toya Rose Wilson-Norris, and I am a Warumungu woman, born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory and I am in year 11 at Palmerston College.



I joined the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy because I wanted a career in the health industry after school. When I heard about NTAHA, I thought it would be a perfect opportunity for me. When I first started in NTAHA, I was really shy and didn't talk to anyone. I wasn't attending school so being part of NTAHA helped me develop my confidence and leadership skills as well as helping me to re-engage back into school.

What I have enjoyed the most about attending NTAHA is meeting new people, making new friends, having the support from NTAHA staff, and eating the food they make us. While it has been a challenge for me to keep up with school and NTAHA, the staff have supported me and encouraged me along the way. NTAHA helped me with schoolwork, and they support me with things outside the classroom.

My future career goal is to help people in need, in whatever I end up doing. My advice to others joining NTAHA is don't be quiet, find your voice in the classroom, get involved and be you.

Shakira Shields-Corp

Hi, my name is Shakira Shields-Corp, I am 17 years old and in year 11 at Palmerston College. I was born and raised in Darwin NT and my mob are Malak Malak, Larrakia and the Warumungu people. My mum's side is Larrakia and the Malak Malak mob and my dad's side is the Warumungu mob.



I joined NTAHA because I didn't know what I wanted to do after I left school, but health was on my list on what I wanted to do for a career, so when I found out about the NTAHA I thought 'why don't I give it a try?'

After I joined NTAHA they showed me all the different things in health I could learn, I decided that I wanted a career in health. I have enjoyed meeting new people, making new friends and learning about all the types of health and sickness that is out there.

The NTAHA has given me more confidence, I am more comfortable about opening up about myself and I like meeting new people. Before I started with NTAHA I didn't really know how many types of health professions were out there. I have really enjoyed learning about all the different areas. I'm interested in health but I'm not 100% sure what I want to do yet. The NTAHA is supporting me with options I can pursue future possibilities.

Keneisha Riddle

Hi, my name is Keneisha Riddle, and I am a Iwaidja and Kunaarakan woman born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory and I am in year 11 at Palmerston College. I joined that the NTAHA because I wanted to learn new skills. This year I have enjoyed learning all about the different areas in health. Being in the NTAHA I have become a lot more switched on about my own health as well as my family's health. One of the highlights for me is have the support from the NTAHA team.



This is year I was diagnosed with a Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) after I was hurt playing rugby league. I have had to learn to walk, run and function my brain again. I haven't been able to attend class since my accident for health reason but the NTAHA have stuck by me and kept me involved as much as they can, and that support has been deadly.

My advice others wanting to join the NTAHA is to give it a go as you well get deadly support from the team. I still want and career in health and my future goals are to finish my course and to referee at an NRL level.

What makes me different from everyone else is my sense of humour.

Laila Olm

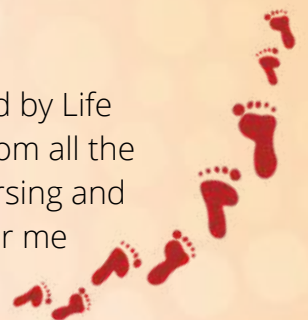
My Name is Laila Olm, I'm 18 years of age, and I am graduating year 12 student at Good Sheppard Lutheran College in the Northern Territory. I'm a Yawuru Woman from Yawuru Country in Western Australia.

I joined the NTAHA because I was interested in getting a Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance to enable a future pathway for me in the health industry. The NTAHA has changed me for the better, challenging my knowledge and understanding of awareness of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and culture through to learning through case studies and practical for first-hand training.

Year 11 for me, was horrible. I barely showed up to school, handed in my assignments late, or not at all, and was not in the best mind space throughout the whole year. At the end of year 11 my career advisor said that at the rate I was going, I wouldn't even be able to pass year 12 and get my NTCET.

Joining the NTAHA has allowed me to learn more effectively than learning and being taught in a mainstream school program. With NTAHA being a class of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, I felt that I would be more comfortable in this training space.

I have enjoyed doing my school-based traineeship with NTAHA and being hosted by Life Without Barriers. They have been great to work for and I have learnt so much from all the staff. I am still interested in pursuing a career in the health sector, especially Nursing and Paramedicine. The support from NTAHA has pointed me in the right direction for me to achieve my goals in my future pathway.





Lorraine Randall

Hi, my name is Lorraine Randall and I am a graduating year 12 student at Palmerston College.

I am a proud Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara woman, born and raised in the Northern Territory with family connections to Uluru, Mutitjulu, Badu Island and Pearce Point regions.

I joined the Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Academy (NTAHA) to try something new. I wanted to gain experience in working in health and to be with my friends.

NTAHA has supported me so much all year and gave me the opportunity to start my career in health. It has made me more independent, confident, and focused, which I was not before joining NTAHA. With the support from NTAHA I've overcome a lot of challenges including my attendance to school.

I have had the best experience being part of NTAHA and learning about the health field. I have made new friends and met a lot of new people. I also enjoyed doing our training at Palmerston Rydges during the COVID period.

My career goal upon completion of my NTAHA training is to do my Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance. I want to work in remote Aboriginal communities to make a difference in Aboriginal health.

Outside of NTAHA I play AFL for Palmerston Magpies. I enjoy fishing, listening to Fleetwood Mac with my mum and spending time with my family and friends.

What makes me different from everyone else is "My Culture, My Country, My Story".

My advice to others wanting to join NTAHA is "you will have lots of different opportunities in health and the team is very supportive".



Kerryilee Raymond

Hey, I'm Kerryilee Raymond I am in year 11 at Marrara Christian college. I come from a small remote community town of Kulumindini (Elliott) NT, my people are Muburra, Jingili, Wombaya and Warumungu.

I like to go fishing, hunting, painting, eating bush food and collecting bush medicine. Every weekend me and my family go out bush collecting bush food & medicine to make so, if we get sick, we can use bush medicine instead of going to the health centre.

I joined NTAHA because the academy staff came to my school and talked to me about joining and I was really interested. I have wanted to learn about health so I can make a change in my community because they need Indigenous people working in remote community.

From NTAHA staff I get a lot of support and advice in how to achieve my goals. Before I joined the program, I was shy and didn't want to talk to anyone but now we are talking to each other in the program. The academy staff encouraged me to work with the other students and get to know them. I have been become friends now with the other students.

During COVID-19 I returned to my home community which was in a bio-security area and was not allowed to return to school. I missed a full term of classes but the academy staff stayed in touch with me checked on me so they can see how I was doing.

What I have enjoyed most about coming the Academy is coming 2 days a week learning about something new and Tuesday and Wednesday are my favourite days of the week when I get to see all the lovely ladies.

When I finish school, I want to work back in remote community as an alcohol & other drugs counsellor. I know there's are lot of young teenagers who need support to reach their potential and to stop harming their lives with alcohol and drugs.

My advice if you are interested in a career in health, the NTAHA is perfect to join. They will teach you about working in health and help you get a job.





Elyssia Tallon Rosas

Hi, my name is Elyssia Tallon Rosas and I am a Wardaman and Dagomon women from Katherine, Northern Territory and I am in year 11 at Haileybury Rendall School.



I have always been interested in the health field for a career when I finish school. When I found out about NTAHA and that I had the opportunity to be part of the program, I thought it would be a great eye-opener to help me decide if this is where I would like to have a career after school.

Within the NTAHA I have developed my leadership skills and confidence a lot, thanks to the team making it a safe place for me to do so. Now I can speak and ask questions to any guest speakers and talk up in front of the group.

What I enjoy most about NTAHA is meeting new people and creating some incredible memories and lifelong friends. I have had so much support from NTAHA staff, and I have enjoyed learning lots of new things every week. When I finish school, I want to study further and work in remote primary health care and help people in needs.

Meet the Team



Gabe Oth
NT Project Support Officer



Rikki Fischer
National Academy Manager



Joanne Sariago
National Program Support Officer



**Are you interested
in sport, exercise,
wellbeing and
nutrition?**

***A career in health
might suit you!***

IAHA is a national, not-for-profit, member based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health organisation. IAHA works to establish supportive and culturally informed pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to succeed in careers, with opportunities in over 30 different health disciplines and in sectors including health and community services, education, disability services, aged care, hospitals, sports and others.

Our National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy (NATSIHA) is a culturally centred program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 11 and 12, to complete a qualification in allied health assistance and undertake paid workplace placements, while completing their year 12 certificate.



**For more information please contact the NATSIHA team on
Ph: (02) 6285 1010 / E: academy@iaha.com.au**

www.iaha.com.au



Become a Health Academy Host Employer

Are you interested in becoming a work placement Host Employer, to support Year 11 & 12 school-based trainees undertaking their Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance?

Host employer's play an integral role in assisting students to prepare for the workplace by providing meaningful and industry-relevant workplace learning opportunities.



The role of host employers is to:

- Provide trainees with an opportunity to relate their studies to a workplace context in a safe and supportive environment
- Give trainees an insight into the diversity of roles within the workplace and within health
- Prepare trainees for the demands and expectations of the working world
- Help trainees make informed career decisions by assessing their aptitudes and interests and how these relate to potential careers
- Support ongoing growth in trainees' maturity, confidence, and self-reliance
- Provide trainees with appropriate supervision to build knowledge, skills and attitudes concerning work.

Benefits of being a Host Employer

- Increased capacity at no direct cost to your organisation
- Access to IAHA Cultural Responsiveness in Action training to increase the cultural safety of your organisation
- Position yourself as an employer of choice and increase your ability to recruit, particularly among the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce
- Access to a network of employers in your region
- Recognition for your corporate social responsibility and the development of the future health workforce

**For more information please contact the NT IAHA team on
Ph: 0447 131 663 / E: ntacademy@iaha.com.au / www.iaha.com.au**



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