



21st November 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

Re: Letter of Support for Bernard Kelly-Edward's 2025 Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program Application.

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Bernard Kelly Edward's application to the 2025 Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program.

The Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program presents a unique opportunity for Bernard to further develop his leadership capabilities and contribute significantly to the betterment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Bernard's participation in the Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program will undoubtedly enhance his ability to drive positive change in Indigenous health outcomes.

Bernard has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in their role as a Cultural Advisor and person with lived experience of diabetes as part of the FlashGM Study. The FlashGM Study is Australia's first randomised controlled trial using a diabetes device for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with type 2 diabetes. With over 25+ trial sites in ACCHOS, AMS and primary and tertiary care centers, this Study represents a significant collaboration of dedicated teams across Australia to improve diabetes outcomes for Indigenous people with type 2 diabetes. The Study commenced in 2020, with Bernard's artwork featured on the informed consent video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u11T7u6expk>) and Study t-shirts. Bernard's work on the Flash Study centers on connecting communities and people with diabetes grounded in cultural practices. His ability to inspire and motivate team members, coupled with his deep understanding of culture, deep listening and lived experiences of diabetes is remarkable. Bernard will benefit immensely by being surrounded by like-minded individuals, growing his capacity, leadership skills and forging global connections.

I am pleased to commit that Bernard will have protected time to take leave to attend all three week-long modules of the Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program. Our team and I recognise the immense value this program will bring to Bernard's professional development and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, families and workplaces. I can confirm that my team at the University of Melbourne will cover the full registration fee for the 2025 Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program. This is an investment in both Bernard's future and the future of Indigenous health leadership.

In summary, Bernard is dedicated, thoughtful, open and passionate person. I have known Bernard for over 4 years and his determination to spread knowledge of culture to better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families, communities and workplaces is effervescent. I have no hesitation in giving Bernard my highest recommendation for the 2025 Melbourne Poche Indigenous Health Leadership Program.

Mariam Hachem | Clinical Trial Project Manager
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