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For immediate release

Diploma graduates working towards better Aboriginal health

Eighteen practice managers from Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs) across NSW and ACT are the fourth cohort to graduate from a unique nationally recognised Diploma in Practice Management for Aboriginal Medical Services developed by general practice training organisation GP Synergy in collaboration with TAFE Digital.

Their achievement was recognised at a graduation ceremony in Sydney on Thursday night.

One of the graduates, Anita Dwyer of Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service undertook the course to expand her skills as a practice manager.

"Since starting the diploma the skills and knowledge I've gained have helped me not only grow as a practice manager but become more confident as a person.

"I hope that I can better support my Aboriginal Medical Service in sustaining and increasing services that are needed in my community.

"I've also made some really good friends and contacts from other AMSs that I am in touch with for support and guidance when needed," Ms Dwyer said.

GP Synergy CEO John Oldfield congratulated the graduates on completing the diploma.

"The Diploma in Practice management for Aboriginal Medical Services was first delivered in 2015, as a vehicle to improve healthcare service delivery for local Aboriginal communities through practice manager upskilling.

"The course is also helping AMSs increase opportunities for doctors training to be GPs to undertake Aboriginal health training in a community-controlled setting.

"The diploma plays an important role in our commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals to help close the gap between health outcomes for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians," Mr Oldfield said.

Melissa Mills, Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service's Executive Manager Operations, supported Ms Dwyer in completing the course this year.

"The diploma allows participants to gain relevant and practical skills that are based on best-practice models for practice management in AMSs.

"The participants also undertake the course with people in similar positions and are able to share and gain knowledge from their peers," Ms Mills said.

2018 graduates included staff from Aboriginal community controlled health services in Wagga Wagga, Moree, Ballina, Batemans Bay, Port Macquarie, Forster, Taree and Broken Hill.

-Ends- Images attached.

For more information please contact:

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About GP Synergy

GP Synergy is an established general practice regional training organisation, funded by the Australian Government to deliver vocational GP training to doctors seeking to specialise as general practitioners.

GP Synergy is the sole provider of the Australian General Practice Training (AGPT) programme within NSW and ACT.

GP Synergy has regional offices with local medical and administration teams in Armidale, Ballina, Canberra, Chippendale, Dubbo, Liverpool, Moree, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, and Wollongong.

For more information please visit our website: www.gpsynergy.com.au