

BRIDGING THE GAP

FOUNDATION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE
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Bridging the Gap Foundation receives surge of donations to support Indigenous health

Over the past few weeks, Bridging the Gap Foundation has successfully raised over \$100,000 to fund programs to promote health and education opportunities and outcomes in Indigenous communities.

The generous donations from both individuals and organisations will directly fund the paid full-time employment of an Indigenous trainee for Menzies School of Health Research's HealthLab.

The traineeship will be undertaken through employment combined with study over 12 months. Current and former trainees have benefited from traineeships which aim to build pathways to employment and careers.

Bridging the Gap board member and former AFL player, Dean Rioli, is well placed to comment on the importance of traineeships as he has nurtured the professional development of many Indigenous young people. Once his playing career came to an end, Dean moved into training and mentoring and has worked as an employment adviser and mentor to place young Indigenous people in jobs and traineeships.

"Traineeships such as with HealthLab are a really great way to get a head start and gain essential skills, becoming a valuable asset to an organisation. Those who leave their community to further their education or training are able to learn skills they can implement when they return home," said Dean Rioli.

These generous donations to Bridging the Gap Foundation will help to not only provide employment opportunities, but are also creating promising futures for the next generation," he said.

For more information about Bridging the Gap Foundation visit the website at <https://btgfoundation.com.au/>.

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