**LIME Network External Reviewers on Indigenous Health Initiatives**

A peer mentoring model for medical schools:

Engaging external expertise for Indigenous health initiatives reviews.

**Background**

The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) Network [Reference Group](http://www.limenetwork.net.au/about-us/lime-reference-group/) is an important forum for peer support and mentoring for those involved in the teaching and learning of Indigenous health at medical schools across Australia and New Zealand. It provides the opportunity for sharing knowledge and experience, reflecting on work practices and workplace environments, and supports collaboration and relationship-building. In this way it aims to contribute to the professional development and capacity building of its members.

The LIME Network has a [Peer Support Vision Statement](http://www.limenetwork.net.au/about-us/policy-and-protocols/), with activities including:

* Matching new LIME Reference Group members with existing members as formal peer support contacts;
* Providing introduction packs to relevant new staff at medical schools;
* Linking existing Reference Group members in groups on particular issues as requested;
* Scheduling time for peer support within the bi-annual Reference Group meetings;

Over many years, LIME Network Reference Group members have provided informal support to one another regarding how to best develop and deliver Indigenous health education. This peer to peer assistance has also been supported by a number of tools and resources developed by the LIME Network.

This document sets out a proposal for a structured approach that will provide medical schools the opportunity to engage members of the LIME Network Reference Group as external reviewers who can provide feedback, advice and expertise regarding their Indigenous health initiatives. It aims to formalise the sharing of expertise and advice that has been regularly undertaken by LIME Reference Group members.

**LIME Accreditation and Review Tools**

Medical schools regularly review their teaching and learning in Indigenous health via internal review processes and/or the Australian Medical Council (AMC) Accreditation process.

The LIME Network has developed a suite of tools ([The Accreditation Tools](http://www.limenetwork.net.au/resources-lime-publications/accreditation-tools/)) to assist schools to internally review and map their Indigenous health initiatives across the areas of workforce development, student recruitment and retention, research, community partnerships and curriculum development and implementation.

**Proposal: LIME Network External Reviewers on Indigenous Health Initiatives**

To complement the use of the LIME Accreditation Tools, medical schools may choose to engage an external reviewer, from the LIME Network Reference Group, to evaluate/audit their Indigenous health teaching and learning, provide comment on the data gathered through the LIME Accreditation Tools, and recommend new ways to develop and deliver Indigenous health education, in order to strengthen the work being done at the medical school.

This opportunity will be particularly useful for those schools approaching AMC Accreditation, and will help to ensure adequate preparation and assist in identifying any gaps to be addressed.

The LIME Network secretariat will act as a conduit to connect external reviewers with medical schools and can provide information about the expertise of the reviewer, but has no responsibility for the logistical organisation of the review or for the advice provided.

This process will ensure that the informal sharing between Reference Group members and medical schools is increasingly trackable and reportable as activity for both the LIME Reference Group members’ professional roles, and for the LIME Network Project.

**Suggested Process**

* **Review Undertaken:** Medical schools undertake a review of their Indigenous health Initiatives – using the LIME Network Accreditation Tools to gather, collate and present relevant information.
* **Request Received:** Medical schools contact the LIME Network to request an external reviewer to support the evaluation/audit of information gathered through the Accreditation Tools.
* **Callout to Reference Group Members:** After receiving a request for an external reviewer, the LIME Network secretariat will circulate the request to the Reference Group, asking for interest in the role. Responses will be collated and passed onto the relevant medical school for decision making.
* **Fee involved:** The external reviewer may negotiate any fee for work on a case by case basis. This negotiation is between the reviewer and the organisation involved.
* **Undertaking the Role:** The external reviewer will liaise with the relevant medical school regarding the amount of time needed for the review, the documents to review, the scope of the review and so on.
* **Evaluation Provided:** The external reviewer will provide comment on the review data, meet with staff where requested and/or necessary to gather further information, and present recommendations for strengthening the development and delivery of Indigenous health teaching and learning at the medical school.

To request a LIME Network external facilitator, or to talk further about the process, please contact: **E:** [lime-network@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:lime-network@unimelb.edu.au) or **T:** +61 3 9035 8294