

# malpa

Australia's primary school aged children are angrier, lonelier, more anxious and less able to control their emotions than they were five years ago.

**Australian Council of Education Research, 2023**

Progress towards the fifteen Closing the Gap targets that can be assessed has been limited, with only four on track to be met.

**Productivity Commission, 2023**

Health Workforce Australia has confirmed a shortage of more than 100,000 nurses and more than 2,700 doctors within the next three years.

The Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) has predicted that the skills shortage in aged care itself could reach 110,000 or more in the next decade and well over 400,000 by 2050.

**Dr Sidney Chandrasiri, CMO,  
Epworth Health Care 2023**



The Malpa Project uses an Aboriginal approach to child health with Aboriginal people controlling the design and delivery of projects



# The issues

Low Aboriginal attendance and engagement in primary schools

Low Aboriginal school retention

Urgent need for Aboriginal children to choose careers in health

Violence in classrooms

Poor teacher morale

Fractured communities constricted by racism

Poor student and community health

## Outcomes

Increases school attendance – 94.5% + (average of 34.5% rise)

Increases student engagement

Creates high levels of teacher motivation

Eliminates classroom violence in its sessions

Builds reconciliation

Eliminates the need for classroom carers

Creates career pathways

Engages graduates as health ambassadors

Has a positive return on investment 1:1.41





# How we can help

“Young Doctors for Life” (YDFL) is an innovative project for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children (9-12 years old) from seriously disadvantaged backgrounds. The Young Doctors engage in culturally derived, community co-designed fifteen-week projects which trains them as local health ambassadors.

They learn hands-on skills from Elders, doctors, surgeons, paramedics, dietitians - anyone who knows things they want to know. They learn practical skills in health leadership, nutrition, health literacy, environmental health, hygiene and social and emotional well-being. Sessions are delivered in schools, hospitals, Aboriginal Medical Services, cultural centres and medical teaching facilities.

Once empowered, the Young Doctors engage with their families and communities to spread health knowledge and transform the health destiny of everyone concerned.

The mix of students is two thirds Aboriginal and one third non-Aboriginal to help foster genuine reconciliation.

The projects are supported by nationally experienced expertise. YDFL is scaleable and replicable. YDFL aligns with national and state Health and Physical Education curriculums and contains STEM components.

## Our supporters

Hooper Shaw Foundation, Aspen Medical,  
B. Braun, Pfizer Australia, Johnson & Johnson,  
Woolworths, Symbion/Ebos, Roche Pharmaceuticals,  
Bupa, Barrack Broking, Alcoa Foundation Int.,  
Waratah Education Foundation

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# Our track record

3,500+ students already trained

Over 4,000 sessions delivered

1,000+ in training in 2024

60 projects across NSW, VIC, SA and WA in 2024

Universal positive outcomes across regional and urban locations

Endorsement from National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, Australasian

College of Emergency Medicine, Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc, Calvary Hospital (SA),

Australian Society of Lifestyle Medicine

Multi-award winning

62 staff - most of whom are Aboriginal

Recognition in The Lancet, BBC World News, SBS/NITV, Sydney Morning Herald, ABC Radio National, The Australian ++



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