

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FOUNDATION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND EDUCATION

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**28 February 2018**

## **BRIDGING THE GAP FOUNDATION JOINS FORCES WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE TWO INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS**

Bridging the Gap Foundation (the Foundation) has announced a new partnership with the International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) to provide two scholarships for Indigenous students to attend the college and study hospitality.

Bridging the Gap Foundation has been established through the Menzies School of Health Research (Menzies) and Charles Darwin University (CDU) to fund research and undertake projects in health and education in order to address one of Australia's most urgent issues: the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' health and education opportunities and outcomes.

There are many challenges currently facing our Indigenous communities, which can all be summarised in a simple statistic: there is a 10-year gap in the average life expectancy between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians with health and education being major contributors to this gap.

"We are proud to announce this partnership with ICHM which will provide education and employment opportunities for Indigenous students," said Richard Ryan AO, Chairman, Bridging the Gap Foundation. "This scholarship is open to Indigenous students from anywhere in Australia who wish to obtain qualifications in hospitality."

Established in 1992, ICHM is a higher education provider based in Adelaide and is part of Charles Darwin University. It is one of the highest quality hotel schools in Australia, preparing students for management careers in the hospitality industry.

Tourism and hospitality are growth industries, particularly in the Northern Territory and South Australia in both regional and urban locations.

ICHM will contribute to the scholarship by providing the funds for the tuition of two Indigenous students, with the Foundation providing support in the form of accommodation, books and uniforms. The student's family will also be required to make a small contribution.

"At ICHM, we pride ourselves on being able to support our students through their entire journey, from the classroom to the workforce. In partnership with Bridging the Gap Foundation, we have identified the need to provide educational opportunities for Indigenous students in the hospitality sector. Our mentoring program is dedicated to ensuring the

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transition to our campus is as seamless as possible for students,” said Gerald Lipman, Chief Executive, ICHM.

An Indigenous mentor will be provided to the students while they are on campus, along with a counsellor and learning support. The mentors will also provide support while the students are on placement which they are required to undertake in a paid hospitality position each year.

The scholarships are available for intake in July 2018, January 2019, and July 2019.

## **For more information on the ICHM scholarships contact:**

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## **About us**

*Bridging the Gap Foundation has been established through the Menzies School of Health Research and Charles Darwin University. Its objective is to fund research into health and education and undertake projects in these fields in order to address one of Australia’s most urgent issues: the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians’ health and education opportunities and outcomes.*

*You can help bridge the gap by contributing to the work of the Foundation. Donations can be made online or by cheque. All donations are tax deductible.*

*If you wish to discuss a donation, please contact:*

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