

Interim 2026 Student/JMO Funding Guidelines

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Purpose and Background

AIDA is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors to participate in the AIDA 2026 Conference. This guideline applies for 2026 student / JMO funding or until a formal, long-term funding framework is approved. This guideline provides a clear interim framework to ensure funding allocation is:

- **Fair and consistent**
- **Transparent and accountable**
- **Aligned to AIDA's strategic priorities and member support approach**

Scope

This guideline applies to applications for full Conference funding support for:

- Graduate medical students who are eligible to receive their stethoscope (usually PGY1)
- Indigenous medical students (all year levels)
- Indigenous medical doctors not on a specialist training program (PGY 2 – PGY 4)

Funding **will** support:

- Travel (return from your nearest major airport) and accommodation (up to four nights) for the AIDA 2026 Conference in Perth.
- Ground Transfers (airport to hotel, return)
- Full conference registration (three days)
- A ticket to each of the social functions

Funding **will not** support:

- Meals not provided at Conference
- Upgrades (business class, premium hotels) or excess baggage charges
- Alcohol, entertainment, social activities not tied to the conference program
- Car Hire
- Personal travel not tied to the conference (including non-emergency changes to travel bookings)

Definitions

Medical student: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander medical student enrolled in an accredited Australian medical program.

JMO or PGY 1 – PGY 4: Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander doctor (PGY 1– PGY 4) not on a specialist training program.

Financial member: A member whose AIDA membership fees are paid and current (and maintained financial status for the 12 months prior).

Eligibility

To be **eligible** for full Conference funding, applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- Be an AIDA member and have maintained financial membership for a minimum of 12 months prior to receiving funding. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis for members with less than 12 months' membership.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander medical student enrolled in an accredited Australian medical program.
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander doctor PGY 1– PGY 4 not on a specialist training program.

Note: Some funding rounds may be subject to additional eligibility criteria where funding has been provided for a defined cohort or purpose (restricted funding streams)

The following are **not eligible** for funding under this guideline:

- Indigenous medical doctor Fellows (including stethoscope recipients)
- Non-Indigenous AIDA members
- Members whose membership is pending, lapsed, life or honorary at the time of application
- Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this guideline.

Eligibility must be met at the time of application and approval.

Restricted / Quarantined Funding

AIDA may receive funding from external organisations, partners, donors or stakeholders that is restricted to a specific cohort, locations, training stages, or specialty areas.

Restricted funding is separate to AIDA's general funding pool and does not automatically override AIDA's overall prioritisation approach to general funds.

Where funding is restricted AIDA must apply the funding provider's eligibility conditions as the priority provided that doing so does not breach AIDA's values, governance obligations, or create cultural safety risks.

Restricted funding will therefore be allocated in the following order:

1. Eligible applicants who meet the restricted criteria, assessed in line with any additional requirements set by the funder (e.g., state/territory, training stage, specialty interest).
2. If there are more eligible applicants than available funds, AIDA will apply the AIDA prioritisation and secondary ranking criteria within the restricted cohort.
3. If restricted funds remain unallocated, AIDA may go back to the funder to seek approval to broaden the eligibility.

Application Requirements

All applications for full Conference funding must include:

- Completed application form
- Evidence of enrolment / graduation certificate
- Provide a 250-word statement describing how attending AIDA 2026 Conference will support your academic and/or professional development, contribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes, and support or inform your future career aspirations

Incomplete applications: The application process involves a two-step process; applicants must complete both steps for their application to be considered. If an application is incomplete, AIDA will make one attempt to

follow up with the applicant and if the application remains incomplete after follow-up, it will not be assessed or considered for funding.

Application Cut-off dates: Funding application cut-off dates will be published on the AIDA 2026 Conference funding registration page. Applicants are responsible for checking the conference website for the key dates and ensuring applications are submitted by the published cut-off date. Late applications will not be considered.

AIDA is not responsible for applications submitted after published deadlines or for incomplete applications not finalised by the cut-off date.

Funding Prioritisation Order

Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee funding, as support is subject to available funding and prioritisation order.

Funding will be allocated in order from priority group 1, then priority group 2, then priority group 3. Within each priority group, funding will be allocated top to bottom in the order shown in the table until available funds are exhausted.

| Priority Group 1 | Priority Group 2 | Priority Group 3 |
|--|---|------------------|
| Graduate medical students who are eligible to receive their stethoscope (Usually PGY1) | Current Medical Students / PGY2 (In equal distribution) | PGY 3 |
| AIDA Regional Leads / AIDA Student Representatives | | PGY 4 |

Where funding is restricted/quarantined by a stakeholder, the stakeholder eligibility requirements apply first (see Restricted/quarantined funding).

To support equitable access, a percentage of funding allocation will be preferentially allocated to rural and remote applicants.

Secondary ranking criteria

If applications fall within the same priority cohort and funding is limited, AIDA will apply the following rules in order to support consistency and equitable distribution.

Important note: *AIDA does not assess or rank applications based on an individual's financial situation, personal hardship, or perceived level of need. Decisions are made using objective and transparent criteria only.*

Ranking criteria 1: Applicants who have not previously received AIDA funding to attend Conference

Ranking criteria 2: Applicants who are ineligible to receive funding from another source (e.g. university, workplace, external sponsorship etc)

Ranking criteria 3: Equitable distribution across geographic spread

If applications remain equal after applying the above criteria, AIDA may use a random selection method and document this approach for transparency.

Notification and conditions of funding

AIDA will notify applicants of the outcome in writing within a reasonable timeframe, noting that timeframes may vary depending on application volume, funding availability, and committee meeting schedules.

Successful applicants will receive written confirmation including the conditions of funding (including reimbursement arrangements if applicable)

Unsuccessful applicants will receive written notification and the option to be placed on a waitlist (if applicable)

Where funding is offered, the applicant is required to:

- Attend all activities as planned
- Provide a short reflection four weeks' post Conference (can include video, photos, blog, report etc.)
- Where funding is provided through a restricted / quarantined funding source, successful applicants must comply with any additional conditions or reporting requirements attached to that funding, as advised by AIDA.

Assessment / approval and appeals process

Assessment process: Applications will be assessed by AIDA staff against the requirements of this guideline including eligibility, completeness of the application and supporting documentation, alignment to the purpose of the funding and available funding capacity.

Approval authority: Funding approvals will occur in line with AIDA delegations and governance arrangements. Where restricted/quarantined funding is applied, eligibility conditions attached to that funding must be met and documented.

Review of decisions (appeals): AIDA aims to ensure funding decisions are fair, consistent and transparent. Applicants may request a review of decision only where there is evidence of an administrative error, such as

- The eligibility criteria were applied incorrectly
- The application was assessed on incomplete or incorrect information due to an internal processing error

A review will not reconsider decisions based on personal circumstances or perceived fairness where this guideline has been applied correctly.

Requests for review must be submitted in writing within 10 business days of notification and will be reviewed by a delegated senior staff member who was not involved in the original assessment, where practicable and if further review is required the Membership Committee. The outcome of the review will be provided in writing and will be final.

Conflict of interest

AIDA is committed to ensuring decisions are made fairly and without real or perceived bias. Any staff member or committee member involved in assessment, allocation or approval must declare a conflict of interest where they:

- Have a personal relationship with an applicant
- Are a supervisor/colleague with a direct interest in the outcome
- May benefit from the decision, or be perceived benefit

Where a conflict is declared, and no suitable alternate is available, the conflict will be managed through additional oversight (e.g., secondary review or committee endorsement), and the conflict and mitigation steps will be documented.

Record keeping and reporting

AIDA will maintain an internal register of all applications. De-identified summary reporting may be used periodically to support oversight, transparency, and continuous improvement of this interim and any future guidelines.

Cultural or organisational considerations

The Board (or delegate) will apply existing assessment tools developed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to ensure culturally appropriate evaluation.

Privacy/confidentiality

All AIDA Board members, staff and contractors must maintain confidentiality regarding all information relating to funding, recipients, and the selection process for funding allocations. This includes refraining from sharing any personal, cultural, or organisational information obtained through the process, unless authorised for official communication.