



20 January 2020

National Office  
Australian Institute of Company Directors  
18 Jamison Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**By email: [contact@aicd.com.au](mailto:contact@aicd.com.au)**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA) is a not for profit organisation and is the peak professional body for dietitians in Australia with over 7,000 members, and branches in each state and territory. DAA is the leading voice in nutrition and dietetics in Australia supporting members, advocating for our profession and building healthier communities. DAA manages the Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD) program, which is the credentialing program for dietitians, recognising professionals with qualifications and skills to provide expert nutrition and dietary advice in a safe and evidence-based way. The APD program provides an assurance to the public of safety and quality.

DAA is passionate about reconciliation and improving the health of indigenous Australians, promoting and increasing our indigenous workforce. In short, we need more dietitians working in Indigenous Australia, and more Indigenous Australians working as dietitians.

I would like to support Tracy Hardy's application for a scholarship to excel within the AICD Aspiring Indigenous Director program. It would be beneficial for DAA to elect an Indigenous dietitian onto our board (currently our constitution is a member vote appointment) and for more Indigenous dietitians with the skills and passion that Tracy have to be on other boards to progress health for all people, and in particular Indigenous Australians.

I am not an Indigenous Australian, however I grew up in the Kunnunurra in Northern Western Australia and my first interactions with a dietitian, and the positive impact it had on my life and the lives of others within our community (majority Aboriginal Australians) was an influence for me to choose the career path I did as a dietitian. It is my hope that with more Indigenous Dietitians working with Indigenous people, we will have greater results in improving nutrition and health in communities, and we will also positively inspire young people to work towards becoming a dietitian. In Australia, we have a workforce distribution issue where we do not have enough dietitians in regional and remote Australia.


Tracy Hardy has been a member of DAA since July 2016 and is an active member of the DAA Indigenous Nutrition Interest Group.

Tracy Hardy is a perfect candidate for the AICD Aspiring Indigenous Director program. She has broad experience within a number of sectors of dietetics and undertakes leadership roles regularly on a volunteer basis. Tracy has been a board member for Indigenous Allied Health Australia and has been an active member of the DAA Reconciliation and Action Plan Working Group. Last year at our National conference, Tracy led the main stage session on Indigenous Nutrition with three other presenters and facilitated an excellent keynote and panel session. Feedback from the session was excellent, and resulted in DAA receiving feedback from members that having an Indigenous director would be beneficial for the association. When dealing with Tracy, she is passionate, professional and purposeful with her communication, and works in consultation with people when making decisions or speaking on behalf of a group. She is the type of person that will lead and influence people, and I believe that when she has increased competence and confidence in leadership, the world will benefit from her taking on director roles. From reviewing the outline of the proposed AICD Aspiring Indigenous Director program, I believe this course will allow Tracy to gain skills, knowledge and confidence to allow her to excel as a company director.

Yours sincerely



Tara Diversi, APD  
President  
Dietitians Association of Australia



Robert Hunt  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dietitians Association of Australia