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MEDIA RELEASE

Jeff McMullen jumps on board with Engineering Aid Australia

This month Jeff McMullen AM joined the Board of Directors for Engineering Aid Australia (EAA).

EAA founder Jeff Dobell said EAA welcomed Jeff McMullen's life-long experience with Indigenous people.

"Jeff's wealth of knowledge adds strength to EAA's contribution towards closing the gap.

"EAA is a small but dedicated team of people working to increase the number of Indigenous engineers.

"In the process we also hope to improve the engineering industry's understanding of Indigenous knowledge and culture," said Mr Dobell.

Dr Jeff McMullen sees natural synergies between his work with Indigenous health and education programs and EAA's programs.

"These programs are all part of empowering Indigenous people to make their own positive choices about the future.

"They're about providing access to basic services that most of us take for granted.

"EAA, through their annual Summer School, has developed a way to share with young Indigenous Australians what engineering is all about.

"Some young Indigenous people have no understanding of what engineers do – let alone have considered that one day they could become one.

"But there is an emerging generation of young, well-educated and confident Indigenous Australians.

"Through the Summer School we can encourage the growth of this group – and hopefully add to it some aspiring Indigenous engineers," said Dr McMullen.

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About Dr Jeff McMullen AM

Dr Jeff McMullen has spent more than 40 years as one of Australia's best known and respected journalists and film-makers. Amongst his extensive philanthropic work, McMullen is CEO of Ian Thorpe's Foundation for Youth. This a non-profit charitable organisation aims to empower children through improvements in their education and health. The Foundation's work includes the Literacy Empowerment Project and the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience. For more information see <http://www.ianthorpesfountainforyouth.com.au/>

About Engineering Aid Australia

Engineering Aid Australia is not-for-profit organisation that provides engineers and related services to assist disadvantaged communities in Australia. The organisation's principal program on behalf of Indigenous young Australians is the annual Indigenous Australian Engineering Summer School. IAESS is a week-long Summer School program aimed at showcasing engineering studies and careers to young Indigenous Australians. For more details see <http://www.engineeringaid.org/>