



Noel Hayman

The best medicine

Noel Hayman is bringing better health to his community.
Story by Alex Bernard

Noel Hayman is a very modest man. The 2011 Queensland of the Year has dedicated himself to improving the life expectancy of indigenous Australians. He is Queensland's first Aboriginal doctor. But when we talk about what he's most proud of among his achievements his answer is a little surprising: his long standing high jump record when he was a boy at Cleveland State High.

"I'm really proud of that. That record stood for ages; I want to say 30 years! It was only broken fairly recently," he laughs with genuine pride.

However, Noel Hayman has much more to be proud of. He was part of the first wave of

indigenous medical graduates from University of Queensland (UQ) and has since paved the way to inspiring many more as an associate professor and occasional lecturer at UQ.

"I saw an article in the *Sunday Sun* back in 1983 or '84 from the dean of the medical faculty at the time asking for Aboriginal students. I was 30 and I had my BA of Applied Science from Gatton and was working as the assistant quality control manager at Edgells on the hill at Manly. I ran the lab there and I really enjoyed it, but I wanted to do more," Hayman says.

Growing up in Cleveland, Hayman was the first in his family to get a tertiary education. His



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