



Leaders graduate at Deakin Uni

INSTITUTE of Koorie Education director Professor Liz Cameron believes education plays a vital role in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander self-empowerment.

“The educational attainment disparity that exists between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in Australia is significant,” Prof Cameron said. “Deakin University is dedicated to closing this gap through its commitment to Indigenous student and community needs.

“The culmination of students’ dedication and determination makes graduation the most important event for the Institute.

“The Institute of Koorie Education at Deakin University celebrates over 30 years of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education.

“While our students graduate with a qualification from Deakin University, it is important to celebrate our students’ achievements and the significance of Indigenous education. The Institute celebrates these contributions at our October Community Graduation Celebration.

“The Institute’s Community Graduation is an opportunity for our students, their families, and our communities to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Indigenous graduates,” Prof Cameron said.

In 2018, 32 students will graduate through the Institute.

This year, Institute of Koorie Education graduates hail from communities across the country from Weipa in Queensland and Kununurra in Western Australia, to many other urban and regional locations Australia-wide. Graduates will receive a range of degrees including nursing, social work, education, law, and Indigenous research. Indigenous Teaching and Learning



Institute of Koorie Education graduates with Deakin University vice-chancellor Professor Jane den Hollander.

Associate Professor Dr James Charles commends the number of Indigenous graduates obtaining qualifications this year.

“We are proud that our graduates are part of a growing number of qualified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses, social workers, and Indigenous researchers,” Dr Charles said. “We need more Aboriginal people delivering essential health services and undertaking health research to

strengthen our communities.”

The unique learning model offered at the Institute, allows students to maintain their work, family and community connections.

The Institute has a number of pathways, which value life experiences and aspirations. As a result, our exclusively Indigenous cohort of students has a diverse range of backgrounds, life experiences and ages.

A significant focus of the Institute is the

delivery of postgraduate studies and higher degrees by research.

Dr Charles places great emphasis on the importance of these qualifications.

“Postgraduate qualifications are the key to obtaining leadership and senior management roles,” Dr Charles said.

“We need more Indigenous people with leadership and influence, to represent our communities’ needs and aspirations.”



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BE THAT PERSON

We all need someone who cares, especially when life gets tough. And there’s no better feeling than being that person – the one who makes a difference in someone’s life.

Could that be you?

Charles Sturt University’s (CSU’s) Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health) will prepare you to be a qualified mental health professional. This course is specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health practitioners, with a strong focus on the contemporary health issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We’ve got your back

When you study with CSU, we’re with you all the way. We’ll help you develop your study and academic skills in person, online or over the phone. You can also access support from our Indigenous Student Centres.

Are you ready to be that person?

futurestudents.csu.edu.au/mental-health

