

# Summer program at uni

**T**HE Wingara Mura-Bunga Barrabugu Summer Program is inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students from across Australia to the University of Sydney for five days.

Students attending the program will have the opportunity to build their academic and personal capacity, so they feel better supported and prepared to make the decision to go to university.

The university says self-motivation is key. During the program students have the opportunity to develop the experience and tools they need to determine their own educational journey and make informed choices about their future. They learn about what subjects they should study at school to get into the course of their dreams, how to improve their ATAR, how to apply for university, potential career paths and how to access the best scholarships, and support – all while making friends and connections that could stay with them for life.



**Dana Cutmore-Farina at the University of Sydney.**

Dana Cutmore-Farina, an Aboriginal woman from the Kamilaroi nation, is one of many students who attended the program and was then inspired to apply to the University of Sydney.

"The Summer Program changed my life. I wanted to come to Sydney Uni because of

the support; I feel very supported here," she says.

Moving from Sussex Inlet on the NSW south coast, Ms Cutmore-Farina received the university's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Accommodation Award. Her rent is subsidised and she receives free tutoring.

She has also received support from MOBS, the Mentoring Our Brothers and Sister program run by the university's Mana Yura support team, which connects first-year Indigenous students with other Indigenous students.

"It's really nice knowing that there is someone there for

you," Ms Cutmore-Farina says.

She said she was inspired to study a Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science, majoring in Medicinal Chemistry, because of her father's illness.

"My dad had leukaemia and I was watching the doctors. I wanted to get in there, so I chose medicinal chemistry and then I think I will do medicine afterwards," she said.

Ms Cutmore-Farina is also part of the university's Widening Participation and Outreach (WPO) program that supports the academic and personal preparation of school students who are generally under-represented in higher education.

With WPO, she worked with school students at the 2017 Gama Youth Forum in Arnhem Land (Northern Territory), and at other events on campus.

"As an Aboriginal person, you are capable of doing anything you set your heart on," Ms Cutmore-Farina said.

Find out more about the University of Sydney's support and outreach for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at [sydney.edu.au/indigenous](http://sydney.edu.au/indigenous).

## Policies in spotlight

**R**ESearchers have received a \$40,000 grant to investigate factors that influence Indigenous university student completion rates, and determine if institutions should adjust generic policies to provide more individual support.

Charles Darwin University senior research fellow Fiona Shalley will lead the study of Indigenous student

groups from CDU and Central Queensland University, collecting data dating back to 2005 to identify potential trends. "Our results will be used to investigate whether assumptions made by Indigenous higher education policy should be applied broadly, or should be more nuanced to suit specific circumstances," she said.

### Keep your income while you study

Do you want to study at university but need to provide for your family?

Our Breadwinners' Programme allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers to study for an undergraduate degree while maintaining their income. If you are a household breadwinner and get accepted into your degree, the scholarship will top up your salary to compensate for lost earnings while you study, providing you have employer approval.

"Breadwinners has enabled me to further my education while working. It has given me confidence and I am a positive role model for my children and community."

Caspa Tull, current breadwinner

[sydney.edu.au/scholarships/current/breadwinners](http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/current/breadwinners)



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## ARE YOU DREAMING OF A CAREER IN THE ARTS?

The Wilin Centre for Indigenous Arts and Cultural Development is there to help you on your pathway. If you are a deadly artist, then this can be the career for you!

Find out more about our undergraduate and graduate programs in music, visual and performing arts and screen.

Applications for Film and Television and Dance close 31 August. Applications for Music, Theatre, Acting, Music Theatre, Production and Visual Art close 28 September. Graduate application deadlines vary across programs.

**For further information please contact**

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