

# Opportunities aplenty

**W**OOLYUNGAH Indigenous Centre (WIC) at the University of Wollongong has enjoyed student growth and innovation in 2017.

WIC says that with the implementation of the Indigenous Tailored Academic Program (ITAP), WIC-Ed and its partnerships with internal and external agencies, students are able to discover a range of opportunities.

The WIC-Ed program, developed, created and facilitated in partnership with University of Wollongong's Learning Development team, assists students to learn new study skills at various levels of tertiary education.

### Skillset

University can be a daunting and overwhelming experience, and WIC-Ed is designed to assist students navigate the world of academia while strengthening their existing skillset.

WIC says the program has been fundamental in equipping first-year students with the necessary knowledge to function at a tertiary level.

WIC's partnership with the NRL School to Work program has strengthened significantly over the past 18 months. The

university and WIC have welcomed 16 students in 2017, studying in degree areas including Health Science, Psychology, Nursing and Science Education.

A total of 57 Indigenous students have graduated from UOW this year – a 19% increase from 2016. Of those, WIC student support and recruitment advisor Lesli Kirwan was awarded the Graduate Certificate in Business.

"My mother was born Biripi, her mother Ngarabul, and I was born in Eora Country," she said.

"I have lived most of my life off country in the Yuin Nation, Wadi Wadi country on the South Coast of NSW. As part of the hidden generation I was not stolen, instead it was my country, my culture, and my language that were taken from me.

"I left school when I was 14 and just lived the best I could. As a single mother I wanted better for my kids. I went to TAFE and completed a Certificate IV Tertiary Preparation, then I went to university and graduated from a Bachelor of Arts with distinction.

"I am now studying a Masters of Science – Project Management."

For more information, go to [www.uow.edu.au/wic/](http://www.uow.edu.au/wic/)



Woolyungah Indigenous Centre student support and recruitment advisor Lesli Kirwan.

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## Supporting and empowering Indigenous students

### WOOLYUNGAH INDIGENOUS CENTRE

Our programs aim to foster equity by supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from entry to UOW, through to successful completion.

Direct entry into the University's undergraduate programs and Enabling Programs are available through the Alternative Admissions Program.

### APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR STUDIES IN 2018.

Closing date is 23 October, 2017.

For further information, come in and meet our team.

### CONTACT US:

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