



# A Beacon of Opportunity: The Transformative Impact of the Karnkanthi Education Program

IN a world where educational success often determines one's future, programs that uplift and support students are not just beneficial; they are crucial. The Karnkanthi Education Program, delivered by Wirltu Yarlū Aboriginal Education at the University of Adelaide, is one such initiative making significant strides in empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students to pursue higher education.

Meaning 'Lifting up' in the Kaurna language, the Karnkanthi program focuses on students in Years 10 to 12/13, providing early intervention, pastoral and cultural support, learning tools, and inspiration to succeed academically and initiate conversations and consideration of higher education as a viable and rewarding experience.

For Teegan Bryant, the Student Experience Manager at Wirltu Yarlū, the impact of the Karnkanthi Education program is endless. "It exposes high school students to their capabilities earlier, even before they decide where they want to go or what they want to do after secondary school." The program enables them to create a pathway to university earlier. "By connecting students with like-minded peers and providing them with the tools to develop their capabilities, the program lays the foundation for a successful academic and professional journey," adds Teegan.

The Karnkanthi Education Program's holistic approach is designed to dismantle the barriers often faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. By covering costs and providing resources, the program alleviates financial burdens, allowing students to focus on their studies and personal growth. More than just an academic initiative, it is a community where students feel supported, encouraged, and inspired to dream big.

Jayden Thyer, who is currently in her fourth year of medical studies at the University of Adelaide, is a testament to the program's transformative impact. "I heard about the Karnkanthi program in year 10," she reminisces. "My parents encouraged me to apply, so I decided to sign up, and I've had some great experiences with the program." Through exposure to various fields, including medicine, health, nursing, and dentistry, Jayden discovered her calling and developed the confidence to pursue a career in the medical field. Her journey was not without



Karnkanthi Education Program, Health Camp 2024

obstacles; not meeting the required ATAR requirements straight out of year 12, Jayden's determination led her to complete a year of Bachelor of Health and Medical Sciences before transferring into medicine. "Honestly, I think you can do it, and there are programs in place and people cheering for you."

The Program is not just about academic activation and support; it is a community that has been built over its 8 years of history, nurturing continual growth and connection. For Tristan Kranz, the program has been pivotal. "I already have a support network that I've built since joining the program. It makes the transition into university easier," he shares. Tristan's experience is echoed by Bianca Hammond, who highlights the program's support for regional students. "I live in a regional area, and the program covers my transportation costs," she explains. The accessibility provided by the program allows students like Bianca to attend university events and experience what city students might take for granted. Join the program; you'll get to meet other people and learn what University life is all about.

**To find out more or to join the Karnkanthi program, please visit [adelaide.edu.au/wirltu-yarlū](http://adelaide.edu.au/wirltu-yarlū), email us at [wirltu.yarlū@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:wirltu.yarlū@adelaide.edu.au), or call us at 08 8313 3623.**



Karnkanthi Graduations 2024 – (Left to Right) – Renee Johnson, Manager Wirltu Yarlū; Professor Steve Larkin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous; Tyson Sutton, Karnkanthi Graduate 2024; Clancy StClair, Karnkanthi Graduate 2024; Bianca Hammond, Karnkanthi Graduate 2024; Hektor Kotz, Karnkanthi Graduate 2024; Tristan Kranz, Karnkanthi Graduate 2024; Professor Peter Høj AC, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide; Professor Jennie Shaw, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic).



Tristan Kranz, Health Camp 2024 - Karnkanthi Education Program.



Bianca Hammond, Health Camp 2024 - Karnkanthi Education Program.