



## Grow your career and connect with Mob at the university where you belong



UNIVERSITY study opens doors to rewarding careers and opportunities to make a difference for mob and community.

It's often a journey of lifelong learning, building on prior education – such as vocational training – and skills gained through work, community involvement, and lived experience.

Charles Sturt University has ranked first among all Australian public universities for full-time undergraduate employment for eight consecutive years.

*According to the 2025 Good Universities Guide, 89 per cent of Charles Sturt undergraduates secure full-time employment within four months of graduating.*

The university also earned a five-star rating for postgraduate employment, with 91 per cent of graduates employed full-time within the same timeframe.

First Nations Student Connect provides support throughout your studies, offering a space to connect with Mob and access services like academic skills support, tutoring, career development and more.

Alicia Johnson, a graduate of the Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health), said she has “the life I do because of my degree”.

“My life is amazing – I have a beautiful family, and I get to work in a field where I create change. Supporting mob in my work is incredibly special. I always knew I wanted to work with Aboriginal communities to drive change. I loved education, but I knew I had more to learn.”

Reflecting on her journey as a single mum balancing study and work, Alicia said “I was so fortunate to have an incredible support network at Charles Sturt”.

“I came through with a group of Aboriginal students, all navigating life together and leaning on each other. I loved online study – it gave me flexibility and control. I could work from home, stay with my family,



**Alana Nixon, a Bachelor of Nursing graduate.**

keep my job to pay the bills, and still have ongoing support from the university. That meant everything.”

Like many students, Alicia believes the journey was worth it.

“Being able to support mob in my field – I’m part of change. I can empower people through my role. It’s humbling. It’s special.”

Vanessa Robb, a graduate of the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary), also followed her passion for making a difference through education.

“Ever since I was little, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. Pop always said that when he was younger, he didn’t have a voice.

Now that we do, we need to use it. That message stuck with me – don’t stand back, take the opportunities,” she said.

Opportunities that weren’t available to previous generations are now within reach for many First Nations families.

“Pop definitely inspired me to go to university. He wanted us to

have the education he couldn’t. He passed away during my degree, but I could feel him with me. He pushed me through. So, we did it,” Vanessa said.

Family support was vital, especially when studying off Country.

“Moving away from family was hard. You rely on them, and

suddenly it’s just you,” Vanessa said.

“But then you get to uni and realise – it still feels like home. The First Nations Student Centre was my safe space. You connect with mob on campus – they know who you are.

“I love being a First Nations teacher. It’s a unique experience. You’re not just teaching – you’re sharing moments, sharing culture. Studying at Charles Sturt let me bring our culture into the classroom and ensure it’s acknowledged and loved.”

Nursing is another powerful pathway at Charles Sturt. Alana Nixon, a Bachelor of Nursing graduate, followed her calling into the course.

“Our family is full of women – I’m one of three girls – and we’ve always had that maternal instinct. It’s beautiful to be in healthcare, sharing that sense of responsibility to our community. Everything I do is to make my family and community proud,” Alana said.

“I realised I wanted to care for people when I cared for my grandmother, who had dementia. I was just a teenager, but it taught me the importance of caring for family and community.

“Studying at Charles Sturt was a positive experience. The First Nations Student Centre was incredible – the staff and students formed lifelong connections. I’ve studied at other universities since, and they don’t offer the same support. That makes a real difference.”

The journey doesn’t end with graduation. It continues through community impact, workplace contributions, and further study.

“Being an Aboriginal nurse in the community is a privilege. There’s an unspoken connection when your patient recognises you – and you recognise them. You do everything you can to make their experience better. Being that person, offering that care – it’s an honour,” Alana said.



**Vanessa Robb, a graduate of the Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood and Primary).**



**Alicia Johnson, a graduate of the Bachelor of Health Science (Mental Health).**