



2026 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship round is open for applications

The Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship is for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying entry level health qualifications in 2026.

Emily Hunter is a proud Nyikina and Kokatha woman from the West Kimberley. With the help of the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme, named after her late, great father, she is now Senior Nurse Administrator at Broome Hospital.

If you're thinking about studying health, this scholarship could change your life. You'll receive mentoring as well as financial, cultural, and other support.

Applications are open from the 1st September until the 31st October.



Visit iaha.com.au/scholarships to apply or call 1800 413 933.

Don't wait — your future starts today.



Scholarship helping for decades



THE Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship, just like the proud Nyikina man Dr Arnold 'Puggy' Hunter after which it's named, has had a significant impact on the wellbeing and lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for decades.

Puggy Hunter was a pioneer in Aboriginal health, using his background in community development to advocate for his mob, locally and nationally. Among his many achievements, Puggy was involved in establishing and governing local Aboriginal Medical Services and was the inaugural Chairperson of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation on its establishment in 1991, advocating for the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership nationally.

Through his many roles, Puggy passionately and tirelessly fought in the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The many reflections of his leadership highlight his ability to do this in a culturally responsive and culturally centered way, in relationship with his people, as well as the respect and regard in which he was held by politicians

and governments.

The scholarship named in his honour has continued his legacy, supporting thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to succeed in their studies, and to lead change in how services are delivered with our people.

On 1 July 2024, the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship became the first Commonwealth funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health program to transition from a mainstream provider into the hands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community control, a fitting moment for the program.

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), two national community-controlled organisations, partnered with Rural Doctors Network to ensure the culturally safe continuation of the program. More than 100 Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarships are awarded every year, and each provides up to \$15,000 per year for the duration of eligible qualification.

Leveraging their experiences and expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce

development, and with the support of the Hunter family and key stakeholders, IAHA and NAATSIHWP are committed to ensuring that the scholarship is equitable and responds to the needs of students and our communities. This includes not only providing financial assistance, but facilitating access to mentoring, connectedness, cultural support and other development opportunities which empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to excel.

Donna Murray, Wiradyuri and Wonnarua woman and Chief Executive Officer of IAHA, said of the program that "the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship invests in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students coming from diverse backgrounds, who want to carry forward the fight for health equity. It is a flexible and culturally responsive program helping our next generation of health workforce not only to aspire, but to thrive in their studies and beyond".

Applications for the 2026 scholarship round are now open and close 31 October 2025. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people studying a health qualification in 2026 are encouraged to apply now.

Visit: www.iaha.com.au



Ms Emily Hunter is the daughter of the late Dr Puggy Hunter.