

mid-year higher education 2022

YOUR GUIDE TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr Cameron leads the way on STEM subjects

One of the University of Newcastle's brightest researchers Dr Guy Cameron has recently been awarded the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Professional Career Achievement Award at the 2021 Indigenous STEM Awards.

His first nomination and first win, the Career Achievement Award recognises professionals with more than five years postgraduate experience who are making significant contributions to key STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) initiatives, programs or research, and are role models for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

A proud Wailwan man, Guy is working to improve the clinical care experiences of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through cutting-edge research. With a PhD in immunology and microbiology and as a current student in the Joint Medical Program at the University of Newcastle, Guy is now studying a medical degree with the aim to expand his understanding of health from a clinical perspective.

Since commencing his studies, Guy has been supported by the Wollotuka Institute and credits this help and sense of community as a driving force behind his accomplishments.

"The Wollotuka Institute has supported me in many ways throughout my time at the University. With counselling and assistance during a difficult time in my life, to mentoring from other academics, networking, and the opportunity to study medicine through the Miroma Bunbilla program," Guy said.

Guy is a strong advocate for encouraging Indigenous students to engage with STEM projects, working at a strategic level to ensure positive experiences for students as well as directly with students to



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Wailwan man Dr Guy Cameron

Proud Wailwan man Dr Guy Cameron is a scientific researcher at the University of Newcastle in NSW. He is the winner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander STEM Professional Career Achievement Award 2021.

reinforce that their studies are achievable.

"Through the Wollotuka Institute I've been engaged with tutoring young students as they come through their different degrees and it's been so rewarding to give back because it wasn't that long ago that I was in their position," said Guy.

On a professional level Guy has seen two of his research papers, about the activity of the immune system cells involved in the body's response to

kidney damage, published – which has been a career highlight for the researcher.

"Getting my research published by internationally-recognised journals was so amazing because now my research is being seen by others and they can build upon that.

"I've also been able to engage with other researchers, learn from what they're doing and teach them about my experience so we can,

together, make a difference," Guy said.

But his latest highlight, winning the Career Achievement Award has been the most fulfilling to date.

"It was such an honour to be recognised with this award.

"I'm really passionate about what I do and it's important to me that I'm able to intertwine my passion for understanding the fundamentals of biology with medicine, to improve the health outcomes we

desperately need to address in our community," finished Guy.

So, what's next for Guy? With a natural curiosity and interest in STEM, Guy will further his knowledge and as an excellent communicator, share complex health information in an accessible way to the wider community.

He also continues to act as a role model for mob and encourage the next generation of community leaders.