

Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good

Although its roots go back further, Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good, or DIYDG, was officially established in Cairns in 2016 when, as described by co-founder and chairperson Semara Jose, “A small collective of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, and culturally diverse young people got together to do good work within our communities.”

She says the process was a steep learning curve. “We were in our early 20’s and learning our obligations in terms of reporting, and building the capacity and skill set of the organisation, it was just huge.”

Prior to incorporating DIYDG, Semara, a proud Gudjula, Eastern-Kuku Yalanji and Darnley Island woman, says the group had been auspiced by a non-Indigenous corporation. She says that while they appreciated the opportunities this provided, it never fully aligned

with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander value system.

“That was what triggered us to get incorporated,” she says. “We felt it was time to stand on our own two feet and do the things we wanted, the way we wanted to do them.”

Fellow DIYDG co-founder Stacey Ketchell, is a Wakaid and Meuram woman hailing from the eastern

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and western islands of the Torres Strait. She says that despite full-time work and family commitments, she, alongside many others in the DIYDG team, poured all their spare energies into DIYDG.

“We were figuring things out as we went,” Stacey explains,

“participating in community and providing more and more opportunities for young people. It was going well but, at the same time, we knew we could benefit from new skills and capabilities to really drive home the point that us deadly young black people know what we want.”

It was at this point the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) - an ‘away from base’ residential block program specifically aimed at Indigenous early-mid career professionals - came onto their radar.

Semara, Stacey and Daniel all signed up for the BBA and Daniel, who is a Kuku-Yalanji and Guugu Yimidhirr man, says the timing couldn’t have been better. “We took away a lot of learning from our degree that we were able to implement straight away, particularly in terms of how to run



Student leaders enjoying their time at the Wellbeing Camp

and operate a business, and how to grow one within our unique capacity.”

Daniel says that while balancing work, family and studies was an ongoing challenge, the fly-in, fly-out nature of the course made this balance easier than other methods of study. “Block Mode meant we could keep up with our home obligations because we knew we had time set aside purely for our university degree. I’m not saying

it wasn’t hard, but the structure definitely helped,” he says.

“I came away from the degree much more conscious about the impact of the choices I make and realise we have an amazing opportunity to reshape how we do business in Australia. The positive ripple effect for our communities could be huge!” says Semara.

For more information about the BBA, head to bba.uts.edu.au



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