



# Changing lives with a passion for Life Long Learning

Throughout her career, proud Gomeri Yinnar (woman), from Moree NSW, Rebecca Lewis has completed many leadership courses, but what attracted her to the AGSM @ UNSW Business School's Emerging Indigenous Executive Leadership Program (EIELP) was that this program approaches leadership skills and frameworks with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective.

"It's the only program I've ever done that really had that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective. It gives you strategies on how to cope and be resilient to some of the politics and confrontations that can come in your work environment when it comes to First Nations affairs," she says.

Rebecca says having the opportunity to network with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders was also extremely valuable. She learned about how family history, community and culture helped shape the leaders they've become and for her, that was an empowering experience.

"It focused on being a leader but acknowledged navigating in two worlds. Your traditional culture and the Western world. It asks the question of where you fit in as a leader today without impacting your cultural integrity.

"When I started the EIELP, they said 'we want you to do a project that's impactful and meaningful.' I thought oh perfect, I'm going to do this. I knew with the expertise here I

could properly set it out, get help putting strategies in place, and figure out how I was going to do it. The Honour Roll project was an extension to the original research of Michael Bennett," says Rebecca.

The EIELP program module, 'Develop and implement a strategic action learning project to impact change in your organisation' gave Rebecca the opportunity to bring a project to life that was close to her heart, and the hearts of First Nations Peoples everywhere in NSW - the NSW Aboriginal Trackers Honour Roll.

The Aboriginal Trackers display was officially opened at the NSW Police Academy in Goulburn in March 2023 and Rebecca says it was an extremely proud moment.

The historical display and honour roll reflects the remarkable stories of 609 NSW Aboriginal Trackers, showcasing their dedication and unique skills which enabled NSW Police to solve crime, apprehend offenders, save lives and share knowledge through storytelling and learning from the land. While she was able to follow her passion for knowledge and education into the EIELP, the program and Honour Roll project made Rebecca consider her career outside the NSW Police Force (NSWPF).

Now Rebecca has started a PhD focused on defining what is appropriate police discretion within Aboriginal communities. She will also be using her policing history to



Rebecca Lewis' participation in the Emerging Indigenous Executive Leadership Program (EIELP) at AGSM @ UNSW Business School, provided her with a unique platform to pay tribute to the overlooked Indigenous Trackers of the NSW Police Force.


inform her work, talking to Aboriginal police officers and First Nations communities to get their view of appropriate discretion.

"In academic literature, there's a lot of research in the space of inappropriate police discretion and linking that to overrepresentation. I can't find anything that defines appropriate discretion," Rebecca says.


Rebecca always had the intention to change people's minds, but through following a passion for #LifeLongLearning to

AGSM, Rebecca now has the skills and confidence to turn the power of knowledge into a new profession, with life-changing capabilities.

**To learn more about AGSM's Emerging Indigenous Executive Leaders Program (EIELP)**  
<https://www.unsw.edu.au/business/our-schools/agsm/learn-with-us/short-courses/emerging-indigenous-executive-leaders-program>



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