



Celebrating First Nations leadership in practice

Cris Castro believes leadership is something anyone in the public service can practice and apply, no matter what their position or experience.

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Scholarship alumnus completed a Master of Leadership through The Australian National University (ANU) Research School of Management. He graduated in 2021.

The Master of Leadership teaches contemporary approaches to leading people, managing teams and undertaking organisational change, and explores how businesses and leaders can deliver societal impacts.

"While most people consider management and leadership to be an art form, it was amazing to see how much scientific evidence exists around what does and does not work," Cris said.

Cris has recently been promoted to Assistant

Secretary, Closing the Gap at the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

"I work in Secretary Natalie James' office and am responsible for overseeing and driving DEWR's contributions to the Closing the Gap reform agenda, including the Priority Reforms set out in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap."

Cris uses his platform wisely. "As an Aboriginal person and holding a leadership position within DEWR, I advocate on behalf of staff and the Indigenous community in everything I do."

"It is about sharing a vision of how we could be doing bigger and better things for the community – building a coalition of motivated and willing public servants and harnessing their collective power to deliver even greater public value."

The Master of Leadership has added to Cris' growing toolkit of skills and experience.

"Since returning to my department I have successfully practised a range of leadership techniques to obtain the buy-in from internal and external stakeholders, including to some significant reforms in the vocational education and training sector."

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner scholarship is a one-to-three-year full-pay scholarship for any level of postgraduate study at ANU or Charles Darwin University for high-performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander APS 4 to SES Band 1 APS employees.

The scholarship allows you to take paid time out of work to focus on full-time postgraduate study.

Applications to begin study in Semester 2 2024 and Semester 1 2025 open on 11 October 2023. Learn more about the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and the Pat Turner scholarship program at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au.



Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner Scholarship alumnus Cris Castro.



Pat Turner AM
Patron of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation



Australian National University

Sir Roland Wilson Foundation

Pat Turner Scholarships

Full-pay scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian Public Servants to do full-time postgraduate study or research at The Australian National University or Charles Darwin University.

Our scholarships develop research, analytical and leadership skills, and support scholars to study topics of national significance and strategic importance to the Australian Public Service.

Applications to study in Semester 2 2024 and Semester 1 2025 opening in October 2023.

Find out more at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au or email srw.foundation@anu.edu.au