

Achieving career success through NIKERI Institute

The National Indigenous Knowledges Education Research and Innovation (NIKERI) Institute at Deakin University provides access to university for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through our distinctive Community Based Delivery (CBD) program. The CBD program offers a combination of on-campus study blocks and supported learning in home communities. This enables NIKERI students the flexibility to maintain family, work, and fulfil cultural obligations while studying without having to relocate from home.

Kuku Yalanji woman Antoinette Braybrook AM, credits studying a law degree at Deakin to shaping her career.

“My time at NIKERI was critical in setting me on my current path and journey to Djirra.”

Djirra is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation that provides holistic, culturally safe, legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who experience family violence. Antoinette has held the position of CEO since the service was established in 2002.

“I studied law and graduated in 2000. Being able to undertake my studies at NIKERI with other Aboriginal students contributed to the successful completion of my degree. After graduating, I decided to

use my law degree to dedicate my life to advocating for and amplifying the voices of Aboriginal women.”

Dr Dee Basaraba, a Barkinji/Wiraduri woman from Queensland also praises the supportive Community Based Delivery model that allowed her to pursue multiple qualifications while raising her family.

“Studying participating in Community Based Delivery allowed me to remain in my own community, continue working, and raise my children while attending week-long intensives at the Geelong campus.

This approach was incredibly beneficial, as it enabled me to pursue my education without having to significantly rearrange my life and community commitments.”

“The intensives allowed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to come together, study in a culturally safe space and be supported by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators.”

Dr Basaraba obtained a Bachelor of Education, Master of Education and Doctor of Philosophy through Deakin.

“The Institute enabled me to complete all degrees in a culturally safe and supported environment.”

Current Bachelor of Social Work student, Frances Marlow, a South West Noongar woman from Western Australia is also looking to a future career that can positively impact her community.



Frances Marlow from Western Australia is currently studying a Bachelor of Social Work at NIKERI Institute.

“My decision to study social work stems from a deep desire to give back to my community and to break the cycle of disadvantage that many face. My personal experiences have driven me to be part of the solution, to advocate for those who might not have a voice, and to create lasting change.”

“I hope my career in social work will allow me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families, particularly within Indigenous communities. I aspire to work in roles that focus on mental health and family support, using my lived experiences to inform my practice and provide culturally sensitive care. Ultimately, I want to empower others, break cycles of disadvantage, and contribute to a future where all communities can thrive.”

NIKERI Institute has a proud history of

empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from across Australia to pursue careers in health, education, arts, law, research and environment management.

If you are considering study next year, our Direct Admissions Program (IDAP) will again be offered from November 25-29. The program provides entry into NIKERI courses and is designed to provide applicants with the study skills to succeed, prepare them for university, and the experience of on-campus study blocks through the Community Based Delivery. All prospective students who have completed an online application to NIKERI Institute are invited to attend the program.



Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

Experience a university degree with the flexibility to maintain your work, family and cultural commitments.

Study education, arts, law, nursing, social work, land and sea country management, public health or Indigenous research through our Community Based Delivery.

deakin.edu.au/nikeri
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