



The University of South Australia's Aboriginal Pathways Program has been providing support to Aboriginal students wanting to achieve their academic and career goals through further education.

# UniSA's Aboriginal Pathway Program celebrates five years



The University of South Australia's Aboriginal Pathway Program (AAP) is celebrating a significant milestone in 2021: marking five years of supporting Aboriginal Peoples to achieve their academic and career goals.

In that time, 26 students have completed the 18-month, fee-free\* program. Each student brings unique experiences and stories, but common goals – to learn, grow, challenge themselves and make their families and communities proud.

AAP students have built on the skills, knowledge, and confidence to step outside of their comfort zones and take on new challenges and opportunities, all while successfully studying at tertiary level.

Student Amie Brant is testament to the success of the program, relishing her opportunities at UniSA and coming full circle to graduate from a UniSA degree.

Amie completed the Aboriginal Pathway Program in 2018 and graduated from a Bachelor of Nursing at the start of 2021. She is now working as a nurse at the Mount Gambier Hospital.

She had always dreamt of university, but considered herself too old and not ready. Those beliefs were debunked when she discovered the Aboriginal Pathway Program, the perfect fit. "I reached 30, was working in a job I didn't love and saw my husband following his passions and dreams," she says. "I wanted that and that's when I found the Aboriginal Pathway Program. It gave me the confidence and knowledge to complete undergraduate study and has helped me achieve my academic and career goals."

While she's completed her study and is now working in a field she enjoys, Amie has just applied for a Bachelor of Midwifery in 2022.

"I started Nursing to eventually end up in Midwifery," she says.

"Whilst I absolutely love

**Amie Brant completed the Aboriginal Pathway Program in 2018, graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing in 2021, and hopes to start a degree in Midwifery in 2022.**



Nursing, Midwifery is where my heart lies and having a diverse skill set will hold me in good stead for my future endeavours."

Aboriginal Pathway Program director Dr. Nazz Oldham says Amie is a strong example of how the program can help students achieve their study and career ambitions.

"Amie is an inspiration," he says. "She recognised her studies were the key to her dream career."

"Her focus never wavered. She even managed a pregnancy, barely missing a lesson, and studying every chance she had. In just a few years, Amie had turned that dream into her reality."

Amie has remained in Mount Gambier for her entire education journey, showcasing the regionality of the program.

Over the years, a focus to 'study as a community, in your community,' has naturally become the program's mantra. The messaging ensures the APP is accessible to all Aboriginal students, regardless of location.

The program is offered to local communities in Adelaide, based at UniSA College on the City West Campus, however regional students are provided the same learning experiences in Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, and Whyalla. Students in each location can access a dedicated study space and a local tutor for support.

Over the past five years, the program has achieved

recognition, both locally and nationally.

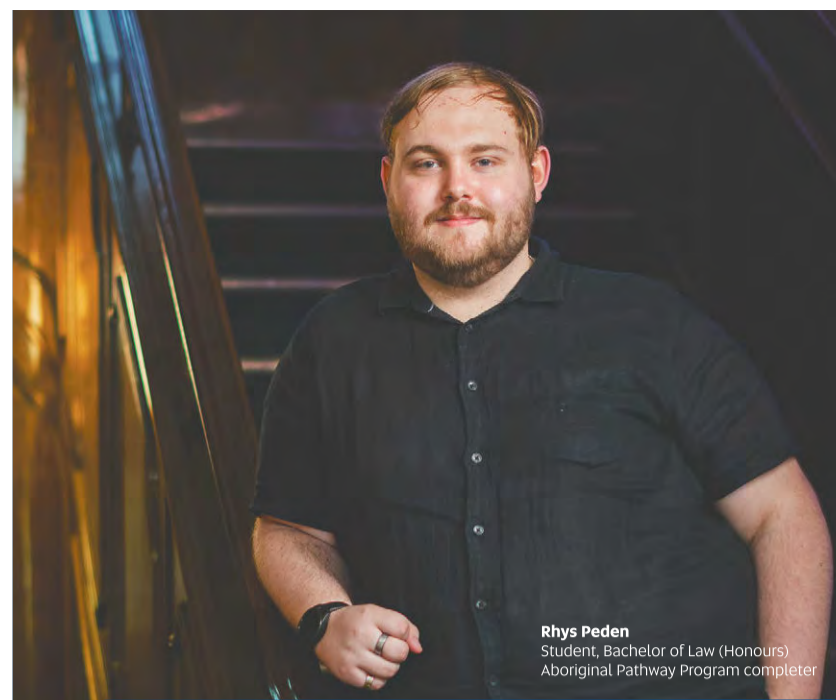
"Significant milestones include winning the 2020 Winnovation Award for Social Impact, and the 2019 SPERA Award for Rural Education; a former student Susie Betts becoming the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2018; local Elders joining the program's teaching team; and supporting students to take on leadership opportunities as USASA reps and on community boards," Dr Nazz Oldham says.

The program continues to expand in exciting directions to further remove obstacles to study. The Aboriginal Pathway Program will launch online delivery options for 2022 enrolments. Full details available soon.

UniSA's Aboriginal Pathway Program is open to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and can lead to entry into a university degree at the University of South Australia. Applications are now open to study in 2022.

For more information contact Soraya Butler – email: soraya.butler@unisa.edu.au or phone (08) 8302 0188, or Sharon Mychaljiw – email: sharon.mychaljiw@unisa.edu.au or phone (08) 8302 9093.

\*Aboriginal Pathway Program students are not charged course fees, but may be required to pay Student Amenities Fees as determined by the Australian Government.



**Rhys Peden**  
Student, Bachelor of Law (Honours)  
Aboriginal Pathway Program completer

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Start your unstoppable career with this unique, fee-free\* program, designed specifically for Aboriginal students.

Benefit from small class sizes and peer mentoring, as you build your study skills and prepare for your future degree.

Study in **Adelaide, Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln or Whyalla**. Travel support available.

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\*Students are not charged course fees but may be required to pay Student Services and Amenities Fees.

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