



Australia's first Indigenous business leadership degree offered at Monash



Karl Briscoe is a proud Kuku Yalanji man and a successful business leader.

As CEO of the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP), he advocates the importance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce in closing the Indigenous health outcomes gap.

He wants to be an even more effective leader for the association so they can optimise their ability to influence and progress Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' economic futures.

Karl is one of 15 students enrolled in Australia's first Indigenous business leadership degree: the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership at Monash Business School.

Exclusively offered to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, the master's program contains the core elements of a traditional MBA, in a program tailored for Indigenous leaders, and delivered face-to-face in intensive mode, allowing students to participate without interrupting their jobs, family or communities for long periods of time.

Karl said he chose the Monash Master of Indigenous Business Leadership over a traditional MBA degree because of its up-to-date relevance to his work.

"The course is on the cusp of Aboriginal terms of reference of how we do business with organisations and includes the latest, evidence-based research. That's really one



Professor Jacinta Elston, pro vice-chancellor (Indigenous) addresses new students at the launch of the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership at Monash University, 2021.

of the major differences between a mainstream MBA and what we're doing."

Mundanara Bayles is connected to the Wonnarua and Bunjalung people on her mother's side and the Birri-Gubba and Gungalu on her father's side. She is based in Brisbane and is the managing director of Australian BlackCard, a company focused on cultural capability and competency training in the corporate sector.

Also enrolled in the master's degree, Mundanara says the program will elevate both her work with multinational corporate clients and the Indigenous community.

"This program enables me to add value to the work that I do with our BlackCard clients such as ANZ, the Commonwealth Bank, and PwC," Ms Bayles said.

"My family and the broader Aboriginal community will also benefit from the knowledge and skills that I develop and bring back as we strive towards more Aboriginal people participating in business and being that example for the younger generation.

Professor Jacinta Elston, pro vice-chancellor (Indigenous) and head of the William Cooper Institute, notes that, as a university, Monash has the longest history of

engagement in Indigenous higher education in Australia. This program is a testament to all the Indigenous students and leaders that have come before us at Monash.

"We were proud of our legacy, but we knew we could do more to serve Indigenous Australia. We recognised many Indigenous leaders have had very limited opportunities to engage in formal education and business training," Professor Elston said.

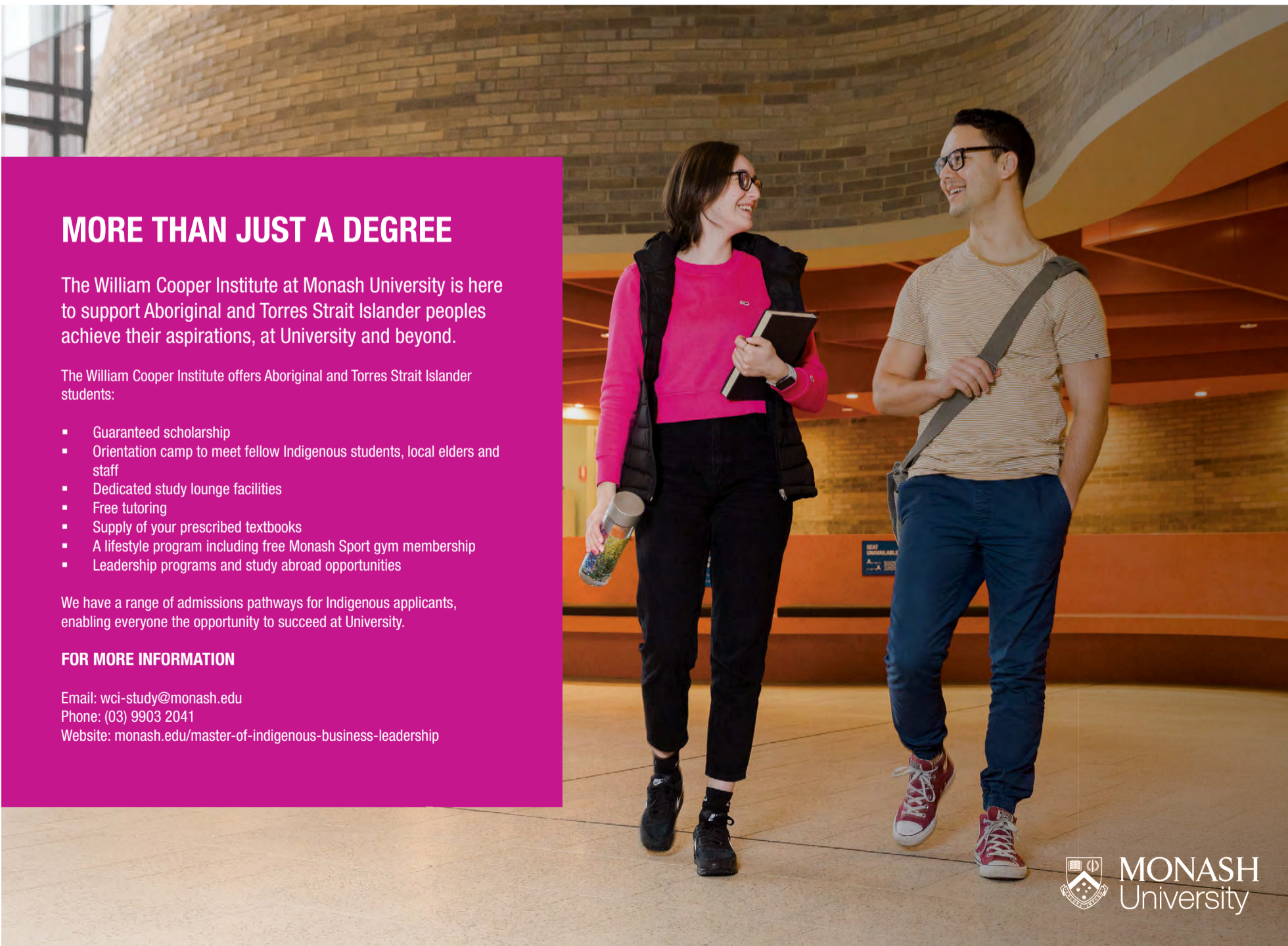
"As a result, we have created the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership to help strengthen the current and upcoming generations of Indigenous business leaders to shape Australia's public, private and community sectors."

As a director with Indigenous recruitment agency Ergon, Kyra Galante, a Guburn (Kupurn) woman from the Goldfields region of Western Australia, having connections to Noongar country, is excited about making a meaningful impact with the newfound knowledge she is gaining from her studies in the program.

Kyra has said that participating in this program "means we are ready to contribute to our communities, to bring them into their new economy to take their rightful place to care for their families, land, spirituality and ancestral stories. That is true self-determination."

Applications for the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership for 2022 are now open.

For more information about the program and pathways into it, please contact the William Cooper Institute on wci-study@monash.edu or (03) 9903 2041.



MORE THAN JUST A DEGREE

The William Cooper Institute at Monash University is here to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples achieve their aspirations, at University and beyond.

The William Cooper Institute offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students:

- Guaranteed scholarship
- Orientation camp to meet fellow Indigenous students, local elders and staff
- Dedicated study lounge facilities
- Free tutoring
- Supply of your prescribed textbooks
- A lifestyle program including free Monash Sport gym membership
- Leadership programs and study abroad opportunities

We have a range of admissions pathways for Indigenous applicants, enabling everyone the opportunity to succeed at University.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: wci-study@monash.edu

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Website: monash.edu/master-of-indigenous-business-leadership

