

# higher education 2023

YOUR GUIDE TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HIGHER EDUCATION

## Macquarie University

# Fostering the journey to success for students

Moving to Sydney to study from a regional area, away from mob, community and Country can be a daunting and overwhelming experience.

However, Allastassia Carter and Isaiiah Ah-See are flourishing at Macquarie University's Wallumattagal campus, and are true trailblazers. When we asked Allastassia and Isaiiah about their inspiration to study, how it is living in Sydney and what helped their transition, this is what they had to say...

### ALLASTASSIA BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

**Who is your mob and where did you move from?**

I'm a proud Gamilaraay woman from Moree with connections to Ngarbal Country. I grew up in Moree, where I attended kindergarten to year 10 and then boarded on Anaiwan County for my senior years.

**What inspired you to study at Macquarie University (MQ)?**

I was raised to appreciate education, that those before were denied. Growing up in Moree and seeing and experiencing adversities that mob face, pushed me to attend university. I recently finished a Bachelor of Social Science, majoring in politics and social justice. My drive to help my community and make my people proud inspired me to study at MQ.

**How'd you find moving to Sydney for University?**

Moving from a small rural town to Sydney was daunting, but exciting. Although I miss being away from Country, having the opportunity to study on Dharug Country and it being my home-away-from-home is



Isaiiah Ah-See and Allastassia Carter are students at Macquarie University's Wallumattagal campus.

special. Also, being a part of the Walanga Muru community helped, I've connected with mob from across the country and made lasting friendships.

**What has ensured your**

**successful transition to study?**

Walanga Muru's ATSIEP helped me get into university easily and stress-free.

The support I received, such as enrolment assistance and having a First-Year

Advisor, significantly helped. Walanga Muru was the deciding factors of attending MQ. It was official when I was sitting at Walanga Muru, speaking with the staff and Mum said, "You'll do really well here" – Mum was right.

### ISAIIAH BACHELOR OF ARTS AND BACHELOR OF EDUCATION

**Who is your mob and where did you grow up move from?**

My mob is Wiradjuri mob, I grew up in a little rural country town in NSW, Wellington.

**What inspired you to study at Macquarie University?**

I was inspired to attend MQ ever since I attended Walanga Muru's camps: Rising Stars Camp and Camp Aspire in years 10, 11 and 12.

**How'd you find moving to Sydney for University?**

I moved out of home pursuing education at a private school however, moving onto campus was still tough with me having longer times away from home. I make it through each day with the strong friendships and sense of community I've made at Walanga Muru.

**What has ensured your successful transition to study?**

My successful transition was thanks to the amazing engagement services that Walanga Muru – Macquarie University offer.

Walanga Muru provides academic, cultural, professional, and social opportunities in a culturally affirming space, ensuring a positive and successful student experience.

Start your journey to success just like Allastassia and Isaiiah at Walanga Muru – Macquarie University today!

To find out more about being part of our community please go to [mq.edu.au/walanga-muru-pathway](http://mq.edu.au/walanga-muru-pathway) or email [wmpathways@mq.edu.au](mailto:wmpathways@mq.edu.au)