

The University of Newcastle offers study pathways designed suit you

Kobey Potts always wanted to work in healthcare, but after learning he was not eligible for an ATAR he didn't know how he would get there.

A Kamilaroi man, originally based in Tamworth, Kobey's culture has always been important to him. Being a part of the Clontarf Foundation, a group dedicated to improving the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment prospects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, Kobey had grown up in a supportive environment. The support he received within the Foundation helped Kobey to realise his life-long dream was to help people.

Completing a traineeship with Hunter New England Health in years 11 and 12, Kobey was well on his way to realising his dream. Following a recommended course load, he completed his HSC but was surprised to learn he would not receive an ATAR.

Not letting this setback stop him, Kobey reached out to his teacher who linked him with the University of Newcastle and on a visit to the Wollotuka Institute, Kobey learned about the different options, leading to the Yapug program.

What is Yapug?

Yapug is a pathway program designed to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to gain the knowledge and skills for entry into university while immersing them in Indigenous knowledge, history and culture. Together with the Wollotuka Institute, Yapug provides students with foundational knowledge,



Kamilaroi man Kobey Potts found his way into tertiary study through the Yapug Pathway Program. He is currently studying the Joint Medical Program with support from the Miroma Bunbilla program.

embedded support and a range of social activities to enjoy during their time in the program and into their degrees.

Kobey valued the foundational courses and support he received through Yapug, attributing his success to the academic skills and self-discipline he gained throughout the program. "I honestly feel if I went straight into an undergraduate degree, I probably would have failed due to the academic standards. Yapug gave me an understanding of what uni really is", said Kobey.

Kobey has now begun his degree in the Joint Medical Program and is enjoying the challenge. He wants to help inspire other Indigenous people to pursue their dreams, letting them know anything is possible.

Yapug top 5 benefits:

- Yapug is completely free.
- The Yapug program provides you with a culturally safe and inclusive program, connecting you with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and community.

- Upon completion, you will receive guaranteed entry into selected degrees at the University of Newcastle.
- You have the support of a dedicated Indigenous Enabling Learning Advisor, who is available to help guide you through your studies and answer any questions you have during your time in Yapug.
- Study at the University's Callaghan campus in Newcastle or their Ourimbah campus on the Central Coast.
- You will have access to a wide range of courses that will help set you up for success in your degree.

Studying at the University of Newcastle

The University offers hundreds of scholarship programs that can give you extra support throughout your studies and provide secure, affordable, and comfortable accommodation options for students while studying.

The Wollotuka Institute provides an inclusive, culturally safe environment where you can come for support, advice, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing. They are guided by a comprehensive set of cultural standards that reflect and embrace the essence of their goals. Their space is one where you can connect with other students and community – a home away from home while studying at the University of Newcastle.

There's a place for you at the University of Newcastle. To find out more about Wollotuka and explore other programs available for 2023 visit www.newcastle.edu.au.

NT awards acknowledge top vocational training provider

Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education was announced 2022 Large Training Provider of the Year at the prestigious annual Northern Territory training awards.

The NT Training Awards recognise excellence in the Vocation Education and Training sector. This is the second successive year that Batchelor Institute has received the honour.

Batchelor Institute has been a leader in First Nation's vocational education and tertiary training sector for 50 years, starting as a small annexe of Darwin-based Kormilda College in the late 1960s.

Over the past five decades, its expanded footprint includes a large campus with residential blocks at Batchelor, a campus at the Desert Knowledge Precinct near Alice Springs, facilities at Charles Darwin University and learning centres in remote communities across the Northern Territory.

As a uniquely First Nations organisation, Batchelor Institute prioritises social equity and justice. Its student cohort is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and almost 40 per cent of staff are Indigenous. Its governing body, the Institute Council, comprises predominantly Aboriginal leaders.

The Institute's students, who are primarily Aboriginal and often live in remote communities, are generally isolated from services and opportunities available in regional centres, towns and cities.

The Institute overcomes this tyranny of distance by delivering training via learning centres in students' home communities as well as residential workshops, where remote

The Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education



From left: Robert Buttery, Batchelor Institute Acting Director VET Business Operations, category sponsor, Rohan Skennar, Area Manager for Hastings Deering NT, Leon Yeatman, Batchelor Institute CEO.

students are supported while on campus by Student Services in a culturally safe and inclusive environment.

Batchelor Institute CEO, Leon Yeatman, said the VET sector is critical to creating

career opportunities for Indigenous people.

"We are very proud of the role Batchelor Institute plays in developing employment pathways, particularly for Indigenous people living in remote communities," Mr Yeatman

said.

"We deliver culturally appropriate training that offers a mix of studying at home and, alongside other Indigenous students, and at our residential campus in Batchelor for short-term blocks.

"Our students succeed because we understand their unique challenges to study, and we work with them to find solutions, giving them the best opportunity to graduate."

In keeping with Batchelor Institute's ethos to help close the gap in access to education, the Institute collaborates with NT Corrections to provide training in prisons.

The Institute also delivers training to Indigenous army candidates through the Regional Force Surveillance Group – Education and Development Course (REDC), which integrates VET with army skills development.

Batchelor also congratulates VET Lecturer Brenton Dawes, who has worked at Batchelor Institute since 2016 teaching Certificate II in Resources and Infrastructure and Certificates II and III in Civil Plant Operations. Brenton was runner-up in the VET Teacher/Trainer of the Year.

The Northern Transportables and Batchelor Institute partnership project, Building an Indigenous Workforce, was also awarded runner up in the NT Training Awards Industry Collaboration of the Year.

Batchelor Institute will automatically go through for consideration as the Australian Training Awards Large Training Provider of the Year to be judged at Adelaide in November this year.