



Learning to thrive in business

"I didn't even think for a second that I would be the person who could learn about business or thrive in the business sector."

This was Courtney Hagen's initial reaction when colleagues suggested she study the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership at Monash University.

A proud Butchulla and Gubbi woman from K'gari and the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Courtney grew up in a small town playing backyard sport.

Following her passion, Courtney completed an undergraduate degree in exercise and health science and is now the General Manager of First Nations Football Australia.

At only 26 and swiftly climbing the corporate ladder, Courtney quickly realised she needed to develop her leadership skills.

Unsure of her ability to juggle study at a masters level, she talked to Monash Business School's senior lecturer, Katrina Johnson, a Gooreng Gooreng woman from south-east Queensland and one of the co-directors of the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership.

Launched in 2020, the transformational leadership program developed jointly with the William Cooper Institute and Monash Business School explores Indigenous knowledge systems and ways of doing business with western concepts.



Courtney Hagen is the General Manager of First Nations Football Club and a proud Butchulla and Gubbi woman.

Courtney joined the inaugural cohort and now, two years down the track, she and her fellow students are nearing graduation.

Courtney says the course is taught in a way that suits her as a rising indigenous leader, boosting her confidence and personal growth.

"Since starting the course, I'm

able to put myself into more conversations and environments that stretch me both professionally and personally," she says.

"I have the confidence to reach out to my other First Nations people, particularly (those) that are working in sport and in our surrounding organisations and bring them along the journey."

Katrina Johnson says the Masters program is unique because it was created from a First Nations' perspective.

"Right from the concept to design, to development, to the curriculum, we have a very strong emphasis on mastering our own Indigenous business concepts, and then mastering and learning

about Western concepts because we work in both worlds."

Coming together as a mob is a crucial element of the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership program.

By providing a rich environment grounded in connection and solidarity, students lean on each other, are exposed to influential networks and have also forged their own strong business relationships.

"These business leaders are walking away with a level of confidence that they never had before," Katrina says.

"They're walking away with knowledge that they can apply immediately to their families, to their communities and to their business environments."

"We've become a bit of a family," says Courtney. "We have this really strong group that are all working towards the same thing in all different sectors and we're all collectively contributing, which is amazing."

The Master of Indigenous Business Leadership can help you develop the business acumen, confidence and connections to make a positive contribution in any workplace.

Explore the Master of Indigenous Business Leadership, visit monash.edu/study/indigenous-leadership

BE PART OF THE RISING GENERATION OF INDIGENOUS BUSINESS LEADERS

William Cooper Institute and Monash Business School jointly offer a new Master of Indigenous Business Leadership – a transformational leadership program designed to strengthen Australia's Indigenous workforce and shape a positive future for Indigenous Australians.

Find out more

monash.edu/study/indigenous-leadership

Monash University acknowledges it is located on the unceded lands and waters of Australia's traditional owners. We pay respect to Ancestors and Elders, past and present, and emerging leaders.



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