



Aboriginal Pathway Program: supporting parents with study

The ability to balance study and family life has been the secret to success for many of the students completing the University of South Australia's Aboriginal Pathway Program.

The 18-month program prepares students for university study and is open to all people who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal Pathway Program Director Dr Nazz Oldham says students can access personalised one-on-one support from teaching staff, smaller class sizes and tutoring to help achieve academic and career goals, allowing flexibility and support with family life.

"We not only support but celebrate our students balancing their studies with their family life and thrive in their careers," Dr. Oldham says.

Amie Brant, of Mount Gambier, started in the Aboriginal Pathway Program before successfully transitioning into a Bachelor of Nursing and now a Bachelor of Midwifery.

"Seeing Amie manage a pregnancy while continuing to focus on her studies and never allowing her focus to waiver is an inspiration," Dr. Oldham says.

Amie has remained in Mount Gambier throughout her education, allowing her to be with her family while studying and contributing to her community.

"I always dreamt of going to university, but thought I was too old and not ready," Amie says.

"I reached 30, was working in a job I didn't love and saw my husband following his passions.

"I then discovered the APP, and this changed everything.

"I finished my nursing degree and I now work as a Registered Nurse at the local hospital in Mount

Gambier. I've even decided to further my studies and become a midwife

"I chose to study at the Mt Gambier campus because it's local to me and it means I don't have to move away and with a young family that was kind of impossible to do."

The Aboriginal Pathway Program is offered at UniSA College in Adelaide as well as regionally in Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln, and Whyalla.

Students in each location can access dedicated study space and a local tutor for support.

Adelaide-based APP student Stella Garlett, says family commitments don't hinder the ability to study, rather they encourage it.

"My children are everything to me," Stella says.

"They're behind me 100 per cent and if I try to give up or even if I have the smallest negative thought, they say no, you can do this.

With her children's support and motivation to build a career in the sports exercise field, Stella is thriving in the Aboriginal Pathway Program.

"There have been quite a few times where I've thought I don't know if I can do it.

"Having the people at the College saying all these positive things and really trying to push you as well and make you understand how valuable you are, really have just been helping so much."

With support from the dedicated UniSA College staff and utilising study assistance and mentoring programs, students have built on the skills, knowledge, and confidence to take on new challenges, all while successfully studying at tertiary level.

For more information, visit unisa.edu.au/app or email app@unisa.edu.au.



Stella Garlett, APP student (Adelaide City).

START YOUR UNSTOPPABLE CAREER WITH UNISA'S ABORIGINAL PATHWAY PROGRAM

Our unique, fee-free* program for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students** could be your pathway to university.

Benefit from the flexibility and support of small class sizes, mentoring and your choice of in person and online study options, as you build your study skills and set yourself up for success.



Study in Adelaide, Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Port Lincoln or Whyalla and access accommodation and travel support.

UNISA.EDU.AU/APP

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

RHYS PEDEN

Student, Bachelor of Law (Honours) – Aboriginal Pathway Program completer



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