

Making new connections

Kayannie Denigan is looking forward to putting her new knowledge into practice after completing a Master of Public Policy at The Australian National University (ANU).

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner alumna recently returned to the workforce as a ministerial advisor after taking 18 months out to focus on study.

Kayannie is Anangu Luritja with strong family and cultural ties to Bagarmuguwarra and Kuku Yalanji Bama of Cape York.

Prior to her scholarship, Kayannie had mixed experiences with university.

After finishing high school, she enrolled in an undergraduate degree in political science and history but found that it wasn't for her.

However subsequent work experience and an interest in career progress helped to renew her interest in study.

"Living in Cairns, there were a limited number of jobs. In order to be competitive, I found I needed to have a university qualification," Kayannie said.

Some years after her initial experience, Kayannie returned to university to study history and Aboriginal studies.

She discovered her



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- Kayannie Denigan

passion for learning.

"Learning is amazing. Studying gives you new content, ways to think and to talk to people. It helps you make new connections."

Kayannie is currently taking leave from the Department of

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, where she managed policy, operations and heritage responsibilities in Australian territories.

"I applied for the tscholarship

to do a Master of Public Policy because I felt it would help me tackle some of the challenges faced by the APS," Kayannie said.

The Master of Public Policy covers foundations and evidence in public policy, public sector

management, an introduction to economics and policy research. Kayannie also undertook electives in public sector ethics and Indigenous governance.

The Sir Roland Wilson Pat Turner scholarship is a one-to-three-year full pay scholarship for any level of postgraduate study at ANU or Charles Darwin University for high performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander APS 4 to SES Band 1 APS employees.

The scholarship allows you to take paid time out of work to focus on full-time postgraduate study.

While Kayannie studied a Master of Public Policy, other Pat Turner scholars have chosen programs in Asian and Pacific studies, business administration, education, leadership, forestry, economics, culture, health and medicine.

Pat Turner PhD scholars are conducting crucial research into cultural competency, co-design, unconscious bias, healthcare and demography.

Learn more about the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation and the Pat Turner scholarship program at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au.

Australian National University Sir Roland Wilson Foundation



Pat Turner Scholarships

Full-pay scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian public servants to do full-time postgraduate study or research at The Australian National University or Charles Darwin University.

Our scholarships develop research, analytical and leadership skills, and support scholars to study topics of national significance and strategic importance to the Australian Public Service.

Applications to study in 2024 opening in October 2022.

Find out more at srwfoundation.anu.edu.au or email srw.foundation@anu.edu.au

Pat Turner AM
Patron of the Sir Roland Wilson Foundation