

Western Sydney University empowers Indigenous students in health

Western Sydney University is celebrating a significant achievement as record numbers of Indigenous students embark on their journey towards health degrees and careers.

In 2024, Western Sydney University welcomes more than 330 new Indigenous students with over 120 of these students commencing study in health courses such as Paramedicine, Physiotherapy and Nursing. This achievement not only highlights the dedication and talent of these students but also represents a significant step forward in addressing the shortage of qualified Indigenous health professionals.

Western Sydney University Indigenous Engagement Officer, Amelia Corr said that it is fantastic to see such strong numbers of mob engaged in study across diverse health degrees, with the milestone leading to a positive, long-term impact across the broader community.

"Not long ago, you would predominantly see Indigenous faces in education classrooms. Now we are everywhere, excelling in degrees including Paramedicine, Occupational Therapy, Nursing and Physiotherapy," said Ms Corr.

"I'm pleased to see so many Indigenous students gaining entry to these courses through our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Entry Pathway. One of the most remarkable aspects of this achievement is the ripple effect it is poised to have on Indigenous health outcomes as these students progress through their studies and eventually enter the workforce as qualified healthcare professionals. I know that the future of Indigenous health outcomes will be in good hands."

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Entry Program provides a way for mob to enter degrees at Western by completing an entry assessment. Importantly, this entry program looks at capacity for success, rather than prior educational journeys or ATARs.

Indigenous student Andrew Webster, who is in his second

year of a Bachelor of Paramedicine at Western took part in the Pathway Entry Program and would encourage others to apply to embark on their own journeys towards their dream careers.

"After researching the Paramedicine degrees available, Western seemed to be the best option for me with the staff, facilities and support on offer," said Andrew.

"I had an excellent experience with the Program, with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Program team going above and beyond to give me extensive and continued support as they helped to guide me through my options and understand the process, particularly what was required of me to enter the degree which I desired."

With the appeal of helping people during their most vulnerable times and working in high pressure situations drawing him to the role, after graduating Andrew plans to gain experience in regional and metropolitan areas, while moving up the ranks in the Ambulance Service to deliver the best healthcare to those who need it most.

Growing up on Dharug land, Andrew said he feels a great sense of pride to be able to study a health degree that allows him to share his knowledge to break down barriers and drive change in the community.

"There are differences between Western medicine and First Nation values that sometimes don't align, so it's important for mob to be put into positions where they can help their communities and combine both modern medicine and traditional values to ensure the best health outcomes for everyone," he said.

"Hopefully, I can be a great model to another Indigenous person and empower them to give back to their community in their own way."

For more information on the Entry Program and upcoming Assessment Days, please visit the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Entry webpage.



Bachelor of Paramedicine student Andrew Webster

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PATHWAY ENTRY PROGRAM

YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Pathway Entry Program is an alternative University Entry Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

No matter your age, employment status, or educational journey, this program is your pathway into Western based on your potential.

We accept applications throughout the year.

ASSESSMENT DATES FOR 2024 MID-YEAR ENTRY: 3-7 JUNE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY:
westernsydney.edu.au/pathwayprogram
 Call 1300 897 669
 or email Indigenouseengagement@westernsydney.edu.au