

CQU to host Australian-first First Nations student research conference

CQUniversity will host an Australian-first conference for First Nations research higher degree students on Darumbal lands (Rockhampton) this July.

Titled Guwal Jilbay, meaning 'yarning research', the inaugural three-day event invites First Nations research students and their supervisors, from the Northern Australia Universities Alliance and Regional Universities Network, to attend.

CQUniversity Deputy Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement Professor Adrian Miller said that as part of CQU's ongoing commitment to reconciliation, the University was working to improve the participation and success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and strengthen research opportunities and partnerships that are high-impact and beneficial to people and communities.

"I'm thrilled to officially announce this conference that will be the first of its kind for this country," Professor Miller said.

"Guwal Jilbay aims to address the isolation that

regional and rural First Nations research students and their supervisors experience," he said.

"Participants will be inspired and walk away with new skills, stronger goals, larger networks, collaboration opportunities and a fresh passion for their research projects."

"We know that many Indigenous researchers from rural and remote areas face unique challenges and are often called upon by their home communities to address seemingly impossible issues. Guwal Jilbay Yarning Research is here to show you you're not alone on the journey. By connecting with others, students can benefit from the strengths and wisdom of Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being."

Professor Miller said CQUniversity was well-placed and equipped to highlight the unique voice and impact of regional and rural research communities.

"With the creation and ongoing success of the Jilbay First Nations RHD Academy, we



are best-placed to lead the charge in increasing retention and completions of First Nations RHD students and inspire other universities to support similar programs to assist students to succeed in a culturally safe space.

"My hope is that the success of this event will lead to an annual conference."

Guwal Jilbay will be held from July 16-18 at CQUniversity's Rockhampton North Campus.

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– CQUniversity Deputy Vice-President of Indigenous Engagement Professor Adrian Miller

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