

# CULTURAL AWARENESS



HANDBOOK

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# WHAT IS THE CAREERTRACKERS HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM



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## YOU CAN BE WHAT YOU CAN SEE

The CareerTrackers High School Program was established to accelerate Indigenous students' high school completion, university enrolment and participation in successive internship opportunities in our University Program. The High School Program recruits students in Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 and provides participants with training, coaching and exposure to pathways into higher education and professional employment. The final stage of the Program is an internship that provides Year 12 students interested in a degree of STEM, Business or Law with 4-weeks of paid employment, leadership development and access to a network of Indigenous role-models prior to arriving on campus for Day 1 of University.

To date, 174 Indigenous Year 12 students have participated in our LaunchPad internships of which 91% transitioned into a university degree and 73% continued in successive internships in CareerTrackers.

Aside from those with University goals, we also support and refer students who are interested in pursuing trade or certificate pathways.

Trust and respect is a central part of Indigenous culture and therefore students benefit by working closely with dedicated CareerTrackers Advisors who are all tertiary educated professionals. Students also benefit by engaging with Indigenous professionals, corporate and university partners to build academic proficiency, leadership skills and motivation to pursue higher education and employment. On a practical level, CareerTrackers Advisors coach students to help make important educational decisions such as selecting high school subjects that promote access to further education and choosing university degree preferences that align with their career ambitions and the job market.

The CareerTrackers High School Program leverages our existing network of employment partners, university partners and programs in schools to deliver pre-university training and exposure that equips students with an relevant skills and a support system to strengthen their transition from school into university and a professional career.



# KEY POINTS FROM VIDEO RESOURCE

PLEASE NOTE: THESE OUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND THEY MAY DIFFER, PERSON TO PERSON

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## Difference of Acknowledgement to Country and Welcome to Country

Acknowledgements can be performed by the broader community, not just Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Welcome to Country is to be performed only by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the lands in which their Mob are connected to. It's easy when you think – you acknowledge when you are in someone else's house versus you welcome other's to your house when they knock on the door.

## Identity

Identity is a big part of our culture – particularly for our young people to navigate. Support and celebrate with our youth in this journey for the impact of Stolen Generation, displacement and skin colour are areas that still strongly impact our current generations.

Not all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people know their mob and it can be a sensitive topic – so wait until your student initiates the conversation and support them in this journey where possible through discussion and active listening.

## Cultural capacity/burn out

Some students feel they are always called on to present Acknowledgement to Country's, work on NAIDOC week events and build on Reconciliation Action Plans etc – check in on the student and ensure they still have time for themselves, their education and their well-being while balancing these commitments. Ask if their school has a cultural liaison officer for support or refer them to our High School Program staff.

## You don't have to have all the answers

There are great services and resources to refer students on to, should they wish to learn more or if they raise a topic that you don't feel comfortable in discussing from your own personal experience. We are all on this learning journey together. Ultimately, our young people want to be treated with respect and value learning in a creative and supportive environment.

## Common Phrases and Meanings

Deadly: refers to something/someone awesome or great. To be called deadly is a compliment in our community.

Gammon: can mean fake, not good – or pretending/just joking

Shame: The concept of shame is very important within many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Shame can be overwhelming and can also act as a barrier to seeking help.

In conversational context, it can refer to embarrassment in certain situations such as public speaking/performing etc.

Bub: younger person

Kinship: The concept of kinship describes a person's responsibilities towards other people, the land and natural resources.

Aunty/Uncle: a sign of respect to our community members who are older than us – not always necessarily blood relatives. This is always applied to 'sis, brother, cuz'

Tidda: sister girl/friend

## Resources:

Supply Nation

Trading Blak

Reconciliation Australia

Narragunnawali

Youth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

Mental Health First Aid

# MEET THE TEAM

THE WOMEN WHO MAKE UP THE  
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS TEAM  
SHARE THE VISION AND VALUES OF  
OUR COMMUNITY

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## ALIRA TUFUI

Program Manager

Alira is a proud Gomeri woman based on Gadigal Country who has a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school students, community groups, career services, employment and management. Alira is incredibly passionate about family, community led initiatives and the CareerTrackers mission. Alira is excited to use her experience and connection to culture to support our future leaders on their path in turning aspiration into career.

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## ANN-MAREE LONG

Senior Advisor

Ann-Maree is a proud Badtjala and Torres Strait Islander woman based in Meanjin. Growing up on Jarowair Country, Ann-Maree was the first in her immediate family to graduate high school and went on to study Dance, Journalism, Media and Communication at QUT. After 3 years at CareerTrackers working with the University stream of students, she is passionate to support young mob with their career aspirations from Grade 9 and beyond.

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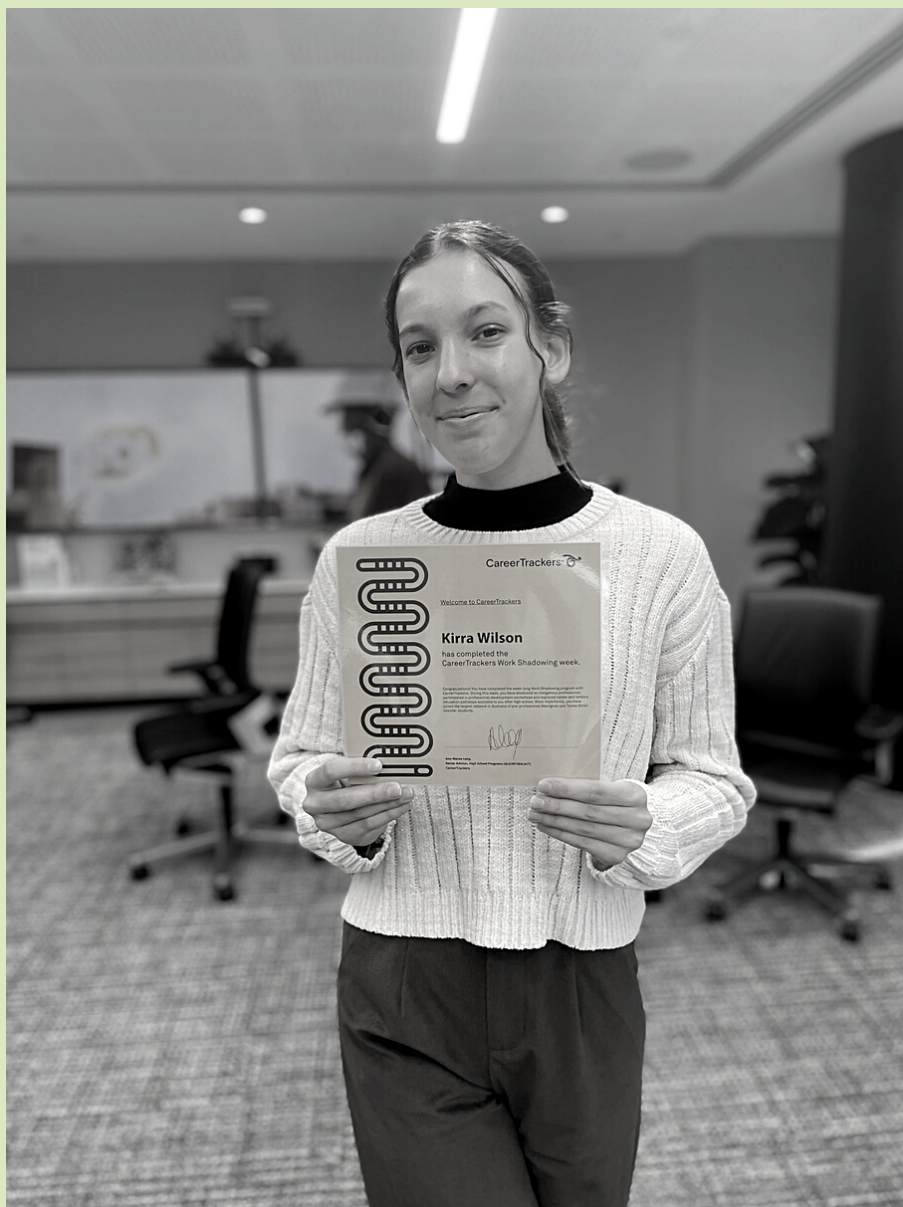
## ABBEY WRIGHT

Advisor

Abbey is a proud Gomeri woman who grew up on Wiradjuri country, where she completed a Bachelor of Communications and Public Relations at CSU. Growing up in the Central West has fueled Abbey's passion to ensure support, resources and opportunities reach our young mob based outside of metropolitan areas.

## YOU CAN ACCESS OUR CULTURAL AWARENESS VIDEO VIA THIS LINK

Enter the Passcode: 85QX.INu



## CONTACT US

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