

## **FACT SHEET**

### **UNSW INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

**UNSW is committed to doubling Indigenous student enrolments to 500 by 2015.**

UNSW has a proven track record in Indigenous education, providing innovative pathways into higher education, student support services and study assistance to all Indigenous students. This model has boosted retention and employment rates for Indigenous graduates.

- Our university preparation and pre-programs are among the largest and most successful of their kind in Australia.
- Over the last five years there has been a significant improvement in Indigenous retention rates, which are now similar to non-Indigenous students.
- We have the highest number of Indigenous medical students of any university in Australia. Students receive financial support including nine scholarships from The Balnaves Foundation.
- UNSW has produced more Indigenous law graduates than any other university in Australia and in 2011, we accepted our largest ever intake into the Faculty.
- We have a long list of high-profile alumni who are trailblazers in their fields, including Australia's first Indigenous surgeon, Kelvin Kong; the first judge, the late Bob Bellear; and the country's first Indigenous federal magistrate, Matthew Myers, appointed last year. Alumnus Damien Miller is the Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Germany; COFA alumna Lucy Simpson is an award-winning artist and NSW's first Indigenous optometrist, Jenna Owen, is a recent science graduate.
- We are building on this record of achievement to double enrolments from 263 (Semester 2, 2012) to 500 by 2015 with a particular focus on increasing students studying in non-traditional areas such as business, engineering, science and the built environment.
- Central to our strategy of closing the gap in Indigenous education is the opening of the new centre, **Balnaves Place – Home of Nura Gili**.

## ENROLMENTS

In 2011, there were 259 Indigenous students enrolled at UNSW.

Undergraduate	199
Postgraduate	36
Research	13
Non-award	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>

<b>UNSW Faculty</b>	<b>2011 enrolments</b>
Arts & Social Sciences	46
Australian School of Business	23
Built Environment	15
COFA	30
Engineering	17
Law	44
Medicine	42
Science	22
UNSW Canberra	7
Division of Registrar	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>

### Top 5 Bachelor degree programs in 2012

This semester there are 263 Indigenous students enrolled at UNSW. The top five Bachelor degree programs for Indigenous students are: Medicine, Arts/Law, Fine Arts, Commerce and Arts.

## RETENTION RATES

### Five-year trend is positive but there is more work to be done

Over the last five years there has been a significant improvement in Indigenous retention rates, which are now approaching those of non-Indigenous students. Retention rates have increased from 70.5% in 2006 to 77.46% in 2010, with a significant jump expected to more than 80% in final 2011 stats.

## ABOUT NURA GILI

Nura Gili is UNSW's Indigenous programs unit, providing support services and study assistance to all Indigenous students, as well as academic leadership in Indigenous courses and research.

Nura Gili coordinates a range of programs to improve access, participation and retention of Indigenous students in higher education.

Working with schools across Australia, Nura Gili assists Indigenous students to create pathways into tertiary studies.

These programs, which are recognised nationally, include the Winter School, a week-long residential program for senior high school students to experience university. It is one of the largest Indigenous university preparation programs of its kind, attracting 150 students from across the country.

Other programs include the Spring Forum for mature age and TAFE students and the four-week residential Pre-Programs in Business, Law, Medicine and Social Work.

Global financial firm, UBS, is a founding partner of Nura Gili and has invested \$1.25 million over five years to support these programs.

The words Nura Gili are from the language of the Eora Nation, Nura meaning 'place' and Gili meaning 'fire/light'. Nura Gili at UNSW brings together these concepts to create a 'place of fire and light'.

[www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au](http://www.nuragili.unsw.edu.au)

## **ABOUT THE BALNAVES FOUNDATION**

The Balnaves Foundation is a private philanthropic organisation established in 2006 by Neil Balnaves AO to provide support to charitable enterprises across Australia.

Dispersing over \$2 million annually, the Foundation supports eligible organisations that aim to create a better Australia through education, medicine and the arts with a focus on young people, the disadvantaged and Indigenous communities.

In addition to the \$1.5 million donation for **Balnaves Place – Home of Nura Gili**, the Foundation has previously committed \$1.41 million to nine scholarships for Indigenous students to study medicine at UNSW.

Read more about the Foundation's support for UNSW students [here](#).

[www.balnavesfoundation.com](http://www.balnavesfoundation.com)