

Media release

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Indigenous students go further with Arrow scholarships

Arrow Energy has awarded a \$250,000 university scholarship package to 26 Indigenous students at leading Queensland universities.

The recipients are the latest members of Arrow's *Indigenous University Scholarships program*, in partnership with Central Queensland University, Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University and University of Southern Queensland.

For the past five years, Arrow has maintained 25 to 30 scholarships, contributing more than \$1.25 million in funding to support tertiary educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people each year.

"We believe increasing participation in higher education is one of the key factors in closing the gap and these scholarships are part of that effort," Arrow Energy Vice President External Relations and Tenure Management Leisa Elder said.

"The scholarships are worth up to \$10,000 a year for each person's course and also include mentoring, tutoring and peer network groups so students have the support to achieve their goals."

A new recipient for this year is Elizabeth Mahon who works as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner in Charleville.

"I've always wanted to make my family proud by being the first family member to go to University and to demonstrate that I can truly make a difference," Elizabeth said.

Elizabeth is in her first year of a Bachelor of Nursing Degree at the University of Southern Queensland.

"I am very passionate about improving the health of Indigenous men and women in rural and remote communities.

"I've personally been exposed to the hardship people face with limited medical services – that's why I am actively pursuing further education to help reduce this."

Other recipients include:

- Proud Kulkalaig man from the Central Torres Strait, **Geoffrey Lui** who is completing a Bachelor of Business at James Cook University. Geoffrey is passionate about breaking the cycle of many social and economic issues that currently affect communities in the Torres Strait.
- **Krysta Greer** of Gladstone who is studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education at Central Queensland University. After recently completing a certificate III and IV in Engineering Drafting, Krysta hopes to combine her new skills with her teaching degree. Krysta is following her passion to become a Maths and Information Technology teacher.

- Kamilaroi man and Dalby resident **Lionel Cubby** is following his passion to help people by completing a Bachelor of Human Services in Counselling. Lionel has volunteered at Dalby schools, teaching students Indigenous dance, art and culture. He recently received several community awards for his commitment to education and community involvement.

Many recipients are continuing students who were awarded scholarships through the program in 2015 and 2016.

“Where possible, we want to support individuals through their entire university journey,” Ms Elder said.

“Twenty of these scholars are continuing students that we’ve supported in previous years.

“As students then graduate we add new scholars to replace them – so we’re pleased to welcome six new scholars this year.”

Ten of the scholars in this year’s program will graduate from their studies at the end of the year.

“Over the past five years we’ve seen some very talented students achieve their dreams – from paramedics to primary school teachers, from scientists to novelists – it’s fantastic to play a small role in supporting higher education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Queensland.”

Full recipient list follows.

For more information about Arrow’s Indigenous scholarships, visit www.arrowenergy.com.au

[Student image gallery available here.](#)

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Scholarship recipients:

Central Queensland University

- **Krysta Greer – *new recipient***
Krysta Greer of Gladstone is studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education at CQU. After recently completing a certificate III and IV in Engineering Drafting, Krysta hopes to combine her new skills with her teaching degree. Krysta is following her passion to become a math and Information Technology (Graphics) teacher.
- **Christie Wishart – *continuing recipient***
Christie of Bundaberg is completing a Bachelor of Medical Science. After experiencing first-hand the disadvantages in health that many Indigenous people face, Christie was inspired to make a difference in her community. Christie would like to specialise in Indigenous healthcare as a dietician and provide her services to remote communities.
- **Chloe Roff – *continuing recipient***
Chloe of Bargara is undertaking a Bachelor of Nursing. Upon the completion of her degree, Chloe would like to work in pediatrics or mental health.
- **Taylor Gilbert – *continuing recipient***
Mudjimba student Taylor is studying a Bachelor of Nursing. Taylor's motivation to complete her studies comes from her two children, who she hopes to show that putting in the hard work and completing a degree can provide great opportunities. Once she completes her degree, Taylor would like to work in Indigenous community health, particularly in women and maternal care.

James Cook University

- **Geoffrey Lui – *new recipient***
Proud Kulkalaig man from the Central Torres Strait, Geoffrey is completing a Bachelor of Business at JCU. Geoffrey is following his passion to help break the cycle of many social, economic and health issues that currently affect communities in the Torres Strait. In his spare time, Geoffrey enjoys volunteering at his local church, youth and sporting groups.
- **Cherryl Luck – *continuing recipient***
Dharug-Wiradjuri woman Cherryl, from Townsville, is completing a Bachelor of Arts (Indigenous and Archaeology). Cherryl seeks to build understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture through historical and archaeological evidence to give acceptance to traditions and their value in a globalised world.
- **Maddison Sivyer – *continuing recipient***
Maddison of Woree is studying a Bachelor of Psychological Science. Maddison would like to work in the mental health sector, focusing on removing mental health stigmas and reducing youth suicides.
- **Paula Bobongie – *continuing recipient***
Paula, from Mackay, is undertaking a Bachelor of Education (Primary). After completing a community based teacher education program and a Diploma of Education, Paula continued onto tertiary studies. Paula works as a teacher aide and a community education counsellor, and wants to be a positive role model to her four children and her students.

Queensland University of Technology

- **Corey Curran - *continuing recipient***
Mansfield student, Corey Curran is studying a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Justice (Policy and Governance). Corey's career aspiration is to become a Barrister and continue to run 'Project Imba' aimed at promoting a pathway towards further tertiary education for Indigenous high school students.
- **Heidi Noon - *continuing recipient***
Western Wakka Wakka woman, Heidi Noon is completing a Bachelor of Human Services and would like to work for the Department of Human Services to help close the gap in Indigenous health.
- **Jed Fraser –*continuing recipient***
Mandandanji man, Jed is completing a Bachelor of Exercise Movement Science. Jed has received the Queensland government's Indigenous Future Leaders Award and twice received the Neville Bonner Award. Jed is a student ambassador, and wants to show other young Indigenous people that with focus and commitment, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.
- **Joanne Allen – *continuing recipient***
Joanne of Strathpine is completing a Bachelor of Creative Industries, majoring in creative and professional writing. Joanne's career aspiration is to write novels and to change people's lives through her writing.
- **Joshua Loyd – *continuing recipient***
Originally from Western Australia, Joshua is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering, majoring in Civil and Environmental. Joshua hopes to raise awareness of the importance of further education and assist with closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.
- **Shekira Cardona – *continuing recipient***
Skekira from Mount Gravatt is completing a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) / Bachelor of Laws (Honours). Shekira's career aspiration is to become a human rights lawyer.

University of Southern Queensland

- **Lionel Cubby – *new recipient***
Kamilaroi man Lionel, from Dalby, is following his passion to help people by completing a Bachelor of Human Services. Lionel has recently received several community awards for his commitment to senior education and community involvement. In his spare time, Lionel enjoys creating art, and playing music and sports.
- **Elizabeth Mahon – *new recipient***
Elizabeth from Charleville, is completing a Bachelor of Nursing at USQ. Elizabeth hopes to become a Nurse or Doctor, changing and improving health amongst Indigenous people in rural and remote communities across Australia.
- **Caitlin Easton - *continuing recipient***
Bundjalung woman Caitlin Easton is undertaking a Master of Science (by Research) program, with a focus on developing a suicide prevention framework for Indigenous youth. After completing a Bachelor of General Studies - Indigenous Studies at USQ, Caitlin continues to pursue her passion for the health and wellbeing of Indigenous people with this research program.
- **Brooke Hagan - *continuing recipient***
Brooke of Stafford is studying a Bachelor of Education. Upon completing her studies, Brooke would like to teach Indigenous children in rural areas.

- **Tracie Morrison - continuing recipient**
Tracie is completing a Bachelor of Education (Primary). While studying, Tracie also works as a tutor to other Indigenous students at multiple universities across Brisbane. Tracie has received several awards for her achievements in equity and diversity. Tracie hopes to be considered an invaluable contributor to the educative outcomes of Indigenous people.
- **Brittini Brady – continuing recipient**
Brittini of Maryborough is studying a Bachelor of Education (Secondary), majoring in English. Brittini’s career aspiration is to prepare young people with the skills and attitudes required to commence cultural transformation in their community.
- **Ashleigh Hyland – continuing recipient**
Ashleigh is completing a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Environment and Sustainability. From an early age, Ashleigh’s passion for the environment has inspired her to pursue tertiary education towards a career as a site environmentalist in the infrastructure industry.
- **Ryan Stephenson – continuing recipient**
Ryan Stephenson of Gatton is studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) at USQ. After significant influence from Wagga Wagga High School, Ryan hopes to actively participate in high school mentoring programs to inspire others to pursue a career in engineering. Upon completing his studies, Ryan looks forward to a career in the power generation and transmission industry.

Griffith University

- **Cheyenne Conroy-O'Halloran – new recipient**
Cheyanne is in her final year of studying a Bachelor of Child and Family Studies/ Bachelor of Education – Primary at Griffith University. Cheyanne, who lives in Coomera, aspires to be a Teacher in South East Queensland, helping children with their social and emotional development.
- **Venessa Williams Starzynski – new recipient**
Venessa, who lives in Birkdale, Brisbane, is undertaking a Bachelor of Arts (Honours program). Last year, Venessa completed a Bachelor of Contemporary Australian Indigenous Art in 2016 and received the Griffith Award for Academic Excellence for each of the last 3 years of her study. Venessa has also been a Gumurrii Mentor, providing support and guidance to other students. Venessa is working towards her career goals to be a lecturer, a project facilitator and mentor.
- **Tayla Emmerson – continuing recipient**
Tayla is undertaking a Bachelor of Oral Health in Dental Technology. Tayla hopes to improve the health of Indigenous Australians by reducing waiting lists for patients and providing communities with access to oral health education and resources.
- **Shenay Corey – continuing recipient**
Shenay is studying a Bachelor in Nursing at Griffith University. Shenay had an interest in medicine from a very early age, which encouraged her to work in aged care and pursue tertiary studies. After graduation, Shenay aspires to work in an emergency department before moving into nursing with the Army. Shenay is part of the Gumbaynggirr tribe and now lives in Yarrabilba.
- **Amarina Smith – continuing recipient**
Amarina from Rockhampton is completing a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Government and International Relations at Griffith University. Amarina is a member of the Griffith University Honours College and is enthusiastically involved in community activities, evacuation and flood relief assistance, children’s activities and volunteer mission trips to China in 2011 and Cambodia in 2012. Amarina aims to be an active member of the international legal community.