Australian Psychological Society bursaries for postgraduate psychology students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent (Bendi Lango bursary)

Call for applications

Applications are now open for the 2016 Bendi Lango initiative, established by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) to support postgraduate psychology students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent. Each award of financial assistance is valued at $15,000 per annum during the time that the applicant is in full-time study (or $7500 per part-time year) in either a Masters coursework degree (MPsych) or professional Doctorate (DPsych or PsychD).

Since 2006, the APS has assisted nine Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate psychology students, initially with funds raised from the Bendi Lango series of art exhibitions organised by former President Amanda Gordon. In 2011 this initiative was formalised as a fund for tax-deductible donations. These member donations have exceeded $140,000 since 2011, providing strong endorsement for the Indigenous Education and Employment component of the APS Reconciliation Action Plan.

The establishment of the bursaries is one response to the need to boost the growth in the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists if we are to approach parity (3% of the Australian population and the profession) this century. There are an estimated 80 to 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists (Australian Census 2011 & Health Workforce Survey 2013). This is less than one percent of the profession and much work remains to be done.

The closing date for all applications is Friday 1 April 2016. A selection committee will recommend the recipient(s) to the APS Board on the basis of merit and demonstrated financial need, together with confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identity, and proof of offer and acceptance, or enrolment, into a program of study accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

Additional information about the bursary, including the application form, is available at http://www.psychology.org.au/bendilango/ or by emailing science@psychology.org.au

The APS encourages you to promote this award to your networks.