

2020 Aboriginal Scholarship recipient: Travis Talbott (Telethon Kids Institute)



About me

I have been based in Perth, Western Australia for the past 10 years, though I was born and raised in Melbourne, and am of Kamilaroi decent on my fathers side. My father was diagnosed with Schizophrenia when I was 1 year old, my brother suffered drug addiction issues before he was 18, becoming emotionally turbulent and physically violent, and both my mother and brother have suffered bouts of depression over the years. I came out when I was 15 years old and have been active within the community in supporting LGBTIQ+ youth. I was part of creating a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Princes Hill Secondary College, which became the first school in Australia to participate in a Pride March. I also performed circus acts on occasion for Minus18 (an LGBTIQ+ youth initiative in Melbourne), I have also performed in Y-GLAM (an LGBTIQ+ youth acting initiative in Melbourne). Ultimately though, my passion has always involved understanding human psychology and human behaviour, to work in the health industry, in the hopes that I can help people who have experienced similar situations to myself. I engaged that passion by enrolling into K-track enabling program, the indigenous bridging course at Murdoch University in 2018 and in 2019 I commenced Bachelor of Science in Psychology, minoring in Sports Psychology.

About my Scholarship Project

My scholarship project is a component of the Walkern Katatdjin (Rainbow Knowledge) project that aims to identify the social emotional wellbeing (SEWB) needs and mental health of Aboriginal LGBTQ+ young people. This project leverages Indigenous research methodologies and principles (yarning, co-design) I will advertise our yarning sessions to gain the interest and participation of Aboriginal LGBTQ+ youth in the Perth Metropolitan area. I will then conduct yarning sessions to identify the type of health services most needed, before co-designing possible interventions to include in a health services roadmap. I will also be engaging with these health services to identify what health promotion resources will best meet the needs of our LGBTQ+ indigenous youth.