

2022 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Recipient: Rachel Radcliffe

Cancer Council WA



About Me

I'm a Yamatji/Martu woman born in Geraldton, WA. My drive for education started when I was in high school. I always knew finishing school was important and what I decide to do after that was up to me. I didn't excel at school however, I did well in Human Biology and Arts. Human Biology was interesting, and I decided I wanted to pursue a career in science. After completing year 12, I applied for an Aboriginal bridging course to get into Edith Cowan University. I completed this in 2005 and enrolled in my first undergraduate course, Bachelor of Health Science majoring in Biomedical Science. Unfortunately, I discontinue this course to work full time so that I could help at home however, I was still driven to complete a degree and always knew I'd come back.

I wanted to do something more than just complete a degree, I wanted to help bridge the gap in health outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. I felt I was in a position and had the opportunity to do more for my community. I re-enrolled back into a Bachelor of Health Science majoring in Health Promotion in 2015. I knew completing this degree and entering the health industry could help improve outcomes for Aboriginal people. My career in Health Promotion will be to advocate for Aboriginal people so that we can live strong and healthy.

About my Scholarship Project

will be working for Cancer Council WA to implement The Aboriginal Cancer Education Improving Resources Project (ACE-IRP). Cancer Council WA have several cancer prevention and early detection resources available to the WA Aboriginal community. My project (ACE-IRP) will do a gap analysis of current Cancer Council WA cancer prevention and early detection resources and examine barriers in these resources in regional WA. Looking closely at the Cancer Education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples video available on the Cancer Council WA website, we will work with stakeholders in three regional communities to improve this and develop a tailored digital cancer prevention and early detection resource. Working with these communities, we will incorporate Aboriginal languages and develop facilitation guides to assist health professionals in delivering cancer prevention and early detection messages to increase knowledge, attitudes and understanding among Aboriginal peoples living in regional WA.