

Australian Psychological Society bursaries for Indigenous postgraduate psychology students

Call for applications

**** Closing date extended to Sunday 31 March 2013 ****

Applications are now open for the 2013 Bendi Lango bursary, established by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) to support Indigenous postgraduate psychology students. Each bursary 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 six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander postgraduate psychology, 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 \$30,000 in both 2011 and 2012, providing strong endorsement for the Indigenous education and employment component of the APS Reconciliation Action Plan.

The establishment of the bursary is one response to the need to boost the growth in the numbers of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander psychologists if we are to approach parity (2.5% of the Australian population and the profession) this century. Over the 20 years to 2007, an average of only 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists were added to the profession per year, but that rate has now begun to accelerate, bringing the current total to approximately 80 registered psychologists.

The closing date for all applications is **Sunday 31 March 2013**. 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).

Application details, including the application form, are available at <http://www.psychology.org.au/bendilango/> or by emailing science@psychology.org.au

The APS encourages Schools of Psychology and Indigenous Student Centres to promote this award to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students who have been accepted into, or are currently enrolled, in a postgraduate psychology coursework (professional) degree for 2013.