

**Australian Psychological Society bursaries for
postgraduate psychology students of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Descent**

Call for applications

Applications are now open for the 2014 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 seven 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 \$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 bursaries 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 joined the profession per year, but that rate has now begun to accelerated, bringing the current total to approximately 60 registered psychologists.

The closing date for all applications is **Friday 28 March 2014**. 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, 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 2014.