



Indigenous Students at The Kids Research Institute Australia



Acknowledgement of Country

The Kids Research Institute Australia acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of Australia. We acknowledge the Nyoongar Wadjuk, Yawuru, Kariyarra and Kurna Elders, their communities, and the lands on which our Institute operates. We respect and value their knowledge, culture and ongoing connection to Country, and seek their wisdom in our work to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.



Welcome to The Kids Research Institute Australia



Based at Perth Children's Hospital, The Kids Research Institute Australia is a national organisation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of children and families across the country.

With offices in Perth, Subiaco, Broome, Cockburn, Joondalup and Adelaide, and team members located in every Australian state and territory, The Kids brings together experts from a wide range of disciplines to address some of the most complex health challenges facing children today.

First Nations Health and Equity

At The Kids, Aboriginal health is everyone's business. We are committed to embedding Indigenous perspectives, leadership and community partnerships across our research, education and engagement activities.

The Institute is home to several nationally recognised First Nations-led research programs focused on health equity, wellbeing and community-driven outcomes.

First Nations Research at The Kids

Indigenous Genomics

Professor Alex Brown (Yuin Nation) leads the Indigenous Genomics Group. His team works to strengthen Indigenous leadership in genomics, data science, precision health and research ethics, with the goal of improving health outcomes and equity for Indigenous communities.

Healing Kids, Healing Families

Professor Helen Milroy, a descendant of the Palyku people of the Pilbara and Australia's first Indigenous doctor and child psychiatrist, leads the Healing Kids, Healing Families team. The group's research focuses on understanding the impacts of trauma and adversity on children and families and identifying pathways to healing and recovery.

First Nations Childhood Cancer Research

Dr Jessica Buck, a proud Kamilaroi woman, leads the First Nations Childhood Cancer Program. Her research aims to improve cancer care and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children through culturally responsive and innovative approaches.

Youth Mental Health

Dr Bep Uink, a Noongar woman from Western Australia, leads the Youth Mental Health team. Her research explores how social and structural factors influence the wellbeing of young people and how systems such as education can better support mental health outcomes.

Support for Indigenous University Students

Kulunga Aboriginal Health Unit

The Kulunga Aboriginal Health Unit is the primary support unit for Aboriginal health research at The Kids. Kulunga works closely with researchers, communities and organisations to ensure research is relevant, culturally safe and beneficial to Aboriginal children and families.

For Indigenous students, Kulunga provides opportunities to:

- Connect with Aboriginal researchers, mentors and professional staff.
- Participate in the Indigenous Student Leadership Program.
- Access networking and skills-development opportunities.
- Learn about research pathways and career opportunities.
- Explore scholarship and funding opportunities.

The Student Admin Team works closely alongside Kulunga to support students' academic, professional, and personal success. The Team provides student representation, professional development and research skills training, career planning and networking opportunities, research funding support, and access to wellbeing and counselling services. Students can also use the Employee Wellbeing Service, which provides up to four free and confidential counselling sessions each calendar year.



Indigenous Student Leadership Program

The Indigenous Student Leadership Program provides Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with opportunities to:

- Develop leadership, interpersonal, and professional skills.
- Connect with fellow students, Indigenous leaders, and Aboriginal staff.
- Share feedback and help shape the student experience.
- Participate in workshops, cultural immersion activities, networking events, and professional development activities.

The program is open to all Indigenous students, from undergraduate through to postgraduate level.

Recipients of the **Aboriginal Student Leadership Scholarship (Honours)** and **Aboriginal Student Leadership Scholarship (Masters/PhD)** are required to enrol in the Indigenous Student Leadership Program and expected to strive to maintain a minimum attendance rate of 80%. Aurora interns are also expected to participate in the program as part of their professional and leadership development.

Scholarships and Financial Support

The Capacity and Capability Team is committed to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students throughout their research journey. The Kids offers dedicated scholarship opportunities to help students pursue their studies and develop their research careers, including:



**Aboriginal Student
Leadership Scholarship
(Honours)**



**Aboriginal Student
Leaderships Scholarship
(Masters/PhD)**



Aboriginal Student Leadership Scholarship (Honours)

The Kids is offering **two Indigenous Honours Scholarships, valued at \$25,000 each**, to support outstanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students undertaking an Honours degree. Recipients will join a research team at The Kids for a 12-month placement, gaining hands-on research experience while contributing to projects that align with their Honours research interests. The placement will run during university semesters and require a commitment of 7.5 hours per week. Scholarship recipients will be required to have a co-supervisor from The Kids Research Institute Australia to support their research placement and project.

This unique opportunity provides mentorship from leading researchers, professional development, and the chance to make a meaningful impact on the health and wellbeing of children, young people, families and communities.



Aboriginal Student Leaderships Scholarship (Masters/PhD)

As part of the Indigenous Student Leader Program, **two successful recipients** will each receive an ongoing scholarship of **\$25,000 per annum** for the duration of their studies. The scholarship is designed to provide financial support to students undertaking a Masters by Research or PhD, helping to ease financial pressures and enabling them to focus on successfully completing their studies and research.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for an Institute Aboriginal Student Leader Scholarship, applicants must:

- Provide evidence of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Be willing to undertake research related to children's health and wellbeing.
- Be eligible for, or currently enrolled in, a Master's or PhD program. (PhD theses submitted on or before the application closing date are not eligible.)
- Remain enrolled in their degree for the duration of the scholarship.
- Remain a student at The Kids Research Institute Australia for the duration of the scholarship.
- Provide confirmation of project supervision from both The Kids Research Institute Australia and their university.

External Students

Students do not need to be enrolled at The Kids Research Institute Australia or have an existing supervisor at the Institute when they apply. Successful applicants will be supported by the Student Admin Team and the Kulunga Aboriginal Unit throughout the onboarding process and in identifying a suitable supervisor. The Kulunga team will also work with HDR students to explore career opportunities within the Institute that align with their interests and goals.

Aurora Education Foundation & The Kids Research Institute Australia: Research Internship Program

Curious about a career in research? Through our partnership with the Aurora Education Foundation, undergraduate students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by joining a research team at The Kids Research Institute Australia. This paid internship program offers a unique chance to work alongside leading researchers, contribute to meaningful projects, and explore pathways into research and higher degree study.

Internships can be completed full-time over 4 to 6 weeks, or part-time over a longer period, depending on your availability. Successful interns receive a scholarship through Aurora of up to \$900 per week for the duration of their placement.

Opportunities are available throughout the year across a range of research areas. We encourage interested students to get in touch to learn about current openings and find a project that matches their interests.

Research opportunities span the following themes:



To undertake an Aurora Internship, students must:

- Be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Provide confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.
- Be enrolled for study at a university or vocational institute (minimum Certificate IV) or have graduated from a degree at an Australian university.

Process Map

1. Student lodges an application

- Student submits their application through the Aurora application portal.

2. Aurora conducts interviews

- Aurora interviews shortlisted candidates face-to-face.

3. Student selects The Kids

- Student chooses The Kids Research Institute as their preferred host organisation.

4. Aurora shares student details

- Aurora provides the student's details and placement preferences to The Kids.

5. Placement is confirmed

- Student is matched to either a professional services team or a specific research project.

6. Student is onboarded

- The Student Development team at The Kids coordinates and delivers the onboarding process.

7. Placement commences

- Once all checks and paperwork are finalised, the student begins their placement. All Aurora Interns will be invited to attend a welcome session, to learn more about the cultural support they will receive during their placement.



For more information on the Aurora Internship process, please see the following link to their website FAQs:

<https://aurorafoundation.com.au/our-work/internship-program/resources/>

Wesfarmers Centre for Vaccines and Infectious Disease (WCVID) Aboriginal Research Cadetship Program

The WCVID Aboriginal Research Cadetship Program gives Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander university students the opportunity to be part of a world-class research centre while continuing their studies. Through a paid one-day-per-week placement over 12 months, cadets gain hands-on experience, build professional networks, and explore how research creates real-world impact.

What you'll receive:

- Paid 12-month cadetship working one day per week in a leading national research centre.
- A \$10,000 scholarship paid throughout the program.
- A tailored experience shaped by your interests, from laboratory and clinical research to community engagement and public health.
- Professional and cultural mentoring from Aboriginal researchers, leaders and Elders.
- A culturally strong workplace where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff make up around 10% of the WCVID workforce.

Whether your passion lies in the laboratory, working with communities, or somewhere in between, this cadetship gives you the flexibility to explore your interests, grow your skills, and discover where a future in research could take you.

Contact Samantha.garlett@thekids.org.au or shaun.wright@thekids.org.au to find out more!

Careers and Future Opportunities

Whether you are at the beginning of your undergraduate studies or considering postgraduate research, The Kids encourages students to explore employment, internship and research opportunities.

Visit: <https://www.thekids.org.au/be-involved/careers-and-volunteering/>

Contact Us

To learn more about student opportunities, research teams or Indigenous student support at **The Kids:**

W | www.thekids.org.au

Kulunga Aboriginal Health Unit:

E | Kulunga@thekids.org.au

