

Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship Newsletter

WHAT ONE OF OUR 2024 WINNERS SET OUT TO ACHIEVE

Brigalow

University of Melbourne



My name is Brigalow Joaquin McIntosh, I am a proud Muruwari and Kooma man from the Culgoa River region of NSW and I was recently awarded the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship in 2024. The Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship gave me a great deal of pride in my studies as the recognition and financial assistance made me feel very valued. My time at the University of Melbourne, especially my Honours year, was a big learning curve on how to do research. I believe because of my work and university commitments, as well as personal circumstances and life events, my thesis became very hard after a while. Although in some parts I struggled, the first class honours I received reinforced my commitment to my work and showed me that I do have the necessary skills to continue in an academic career. My Honours thesis is titled 'Youth Justice Policy in Aboriginal Communities: Government Accountability and Aboriginal-led solutions' and provides a policy analysis of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Closing the Gap and the Victorian Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy.



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Additionally, I have since had some more experience and developed my research skills as my role as a Student Researcher with the Reach Alliance. With the Reach Alliance I was fortunate to be able to travel to Colombia and work with displaced caregivers of children aged 0-5, to create a case study of our partner organisation, Semillas de Apego. I was able to lead and conduct focus groups, interviews and observational research, which was an invaluable first foray into real life research. Furthermore, I will be attending the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Indigenous Knowledge network in Chile this year as part of the University of Melbourne delegation, as well as the Reach Alliance's end of year conference in Toronto, Canada. The Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship has enabled me to pursue my dreams within this international Indigenous space, giving me much needed financial assistance. I was also recently accepted into a PhD program in Potsdam, Germany, starting in February of next year. The main research project focuses on decolonial research methodologies and the implications of German immigrants to Australia and Canada benefitting from stolen Aboriginal lands. As was a main focus of my Honours thesis, my PhD will continue to examine government accountability within policy and interrogate methods of decolonising the Aboriginal affairs system.

