

# Our IAHA SRC Journey

By Kirrilaa Johnstone – SRC Chairperson & Nicola Barker – SRC Deputy Chairperson



This year we were lucky to be selected on the Indigenous Allied Health Australia's Students Representative Committee of 2017. Our interest into studying our chosen health degrees started at a very early age for the both of us.

Kirrilaa is a Ngiyampaa-Barkindji Woman who was born in Broken Hill NSW. After spending most of her life in Canberra she now lives in Wollongong and is now working towards a degree in Public Health majoring in Indigenous Health at University of Wollongong (UOW).

Nicola Barker is a Ngemba Murriwarri woman from Brewarrina far west NSW. Nic completed her schooling on Gumbaynggirr country, Coffs Harbour mid north coast NSW. Nic is now studying a Bachelor of Social Work at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in Canberra.

Both of us aim to contribute to closing the health gap, particularly in rural and remote communities upon the completion of our studies.

The past 12 months has brought about a very diverse learning experience for the two of us and we have been awarded some incredibly exciting opportunities for personal and professional development.

## We have attended:

- SRC Leadership Training
- IAHA Closing the Gap Event (Resigning the Statement of Intent)
- Closing the Gap Annual report launch – celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health professionals
- Wollongong AIME Senior Day Careers Expo
- Launch of the Royal Flying Doctors Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Scholarship
- Q&A – 50 years since the referendum
- Brisbane IAHA members meet & greet
- IUIH Site Visit
- Deadly Ears Site Visit
- UQ NAIDOC Ball



The SRC's structure of 9 representatives, with no more than 2 from the same discipline, has created the opportunity to collaborate with students from different allied health degrees. We have also been given different opportunities to attend events external to IAHA as part of our own leadership journeys.



## Why you should join the SRC:

- Incredible opportunities for personal and professional development
- Safe environment to push yourself
- Hands on mentoring
- Amazing relationships with the SRC, the board and the secretariat.
- Have input into the direction of IAHA on behalf of the student membership body
- Chances to network with inspiring Indigenous Health Professionals

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2018 IAHA SRC  
CLOSE 5PM 29<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER**

