



ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTH ACADEMY

Welcome to the

**2022
GRADUATION**

On Ngunnawal / Ngambri Country



IAHA

Indigenous Allied
Health Australia

IAHA NATIONAL ACADEMY

INTERACTIVE | ROLE MODELS | FUN | INDIGENOUS LED | SUPPORTIVE | CULTURALLY SAFE

WELCOME

From IAHA Chief Executive Officer,
Donna Murray

As Chief Executive Officer of Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA), it is my pleasure to congratulate all IAHA ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy students for their achievements in 2022, and to be able to celebrate our first cohort of graduating students! Tonight's IAHA ACT Health Academy Graduation is an important event to celebrate the leadership and success of our students, and to recognise excellence in our very first ACT Health Academy awards.

A little bit about the journey that got us to where we are. The first IAHA National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy (IAHA National Academy) was launched in Darwin, Northern Territory in February 2018, following years of work. Our first cohort finished the program in 2019 where we saw six students graduate, followed by five in 2020, 13 in 2021, and 17 graduated in 2022. Going into 2023, we have 45 students across three cohorts. We hope to see this level of growth here in the ACT over the next few years.

The ACT Health Academy commenced with a three-unit Health Starter Pack in 2021, and as of 2022, the IAHA National Academy program now runs across 5 sites in the Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, and the Australian Capital Territory. We know this will contribute to better outcomes for our people, both in the short and long term. We are proud to be a part of growing the next generation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and, as we know, the best people to care for and transform systems for our mob, is our mob!



YOUR SUCCESSES HAVE BEEN BUILT UPON YOUR STRENGTHS, INCLUDING YOUR STRENGTH OF CULTURE, AND WE ARE ALREADY SEEING YOUR IMPACT ON OTHERS, INCLUDING YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH OTHER, YOUR FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

When we piloted the first Academy in the Northern Territory, developing one in the ACT was always part of our plan and important recognition of our commitment and relationship to Ngannawal and Ngambri country in the ACT and surrounding region. We would like to thank those who helped make it happen, including the support of the local community.

IAHA acknowledges the contributions of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, ACT Health Directorate, Education Directorate, Canberra Health Services, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, Canberra Institute of Technology, and the University of Canberra.



To our students, IAHA is incredibly proud of each of you and what you continue to achieve. I have been fortunate to read your reflections, and it is great to see the confidence and leadership development that you are taking through your school-based apprenticeship and Year 12 attainment.

Your successes have been built upon your strengths, including your strength of culture, and we are already seeing your impact on others, including your relationships with each other, your families, and communities. In the workplace, you have positively had an impact on your host employers and other stakeholders.

IAHA hopes many of you will continue your education, training, and employment in health and related sectors. We've been privileged enough to hear from you about your aspirations and ambitions, and you have our ongoing support as you pursue your goals, whatever they may be. IAHA looks forward to continuing to celebrate your achievements, as well as the success of other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the ACT, who look up to you as role models now and as our future health leaders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donna Murray', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Donna Murray
Chief Executive Officer
Indigenous Allied Health Australia

OVERVIEW

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy

The IAHA ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Academy (ACT Health Academy) is an innovative, community-led learning model that re-shapes and re-designs how training and education are delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in high school. The model is different to other school-based apprenticeship programs as it embeds the centrality of culture, holistic approached to health, and addresses the barriers that exist within mainstream education and training settings.

IAHA works collaboratively across disciplines and organisational sectors (health, education and training, employment) to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander high school student engagement, retention, and successful completion of Year 12 with an additional Certificate III level vocational education qualification. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from the ACT and surrounding region undertake a fully supported school-based apprenticeship that involves on the job training and wrap-around supports for an individual learning program. Provided at no cost to the student and their family, the traineeship model provides students with an income through an earn as you learn model, supporting their self-determination and resourcing.

Students in the ACT Health Academy attend 2 training days per week, one day at the workplace, and one day undertaking their certificate III training. The delivery of the training is provided within a dedicated IAHA Academy teaching space in Deakin, or on campus with our training providers the Canberra Institute of Technology.

The workplace component includes both the time spent with IAHA, as the Group Training Organisation and employer where students undertake work readiness training, and later in the year a clinical placement with one of the host employers. Trainees are required to complete a minimum of 80 hours of a clinical placement as per their Certificate III requirements, with trainee paid a wage for their training and workplace hours.

Other key strengths of the ACT Health Academy include:

- *The delivery of training in a flexible, interactive, and fun way.*
- *Instilling a sense of belonging and pride in community and culture.*
- *Provision of a culturally safe and responsive work and training environment.*
- *Access to IAHA members, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander role models in health.*

OUR PARTNERS

Students, Schools & Host Employers

Year 11 Students

Caitlin Hatch-Brookman
Poppy Chalmers
Olivia Lester
Telisha Williams
Samantha Hodder

School

Erindale College
Dickson College
Erindale College
Hawker College
UC Secondary Senior-
Lake Ginninderra College

Host Employer

Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Canberra Health Services
University of Canberra - Health Clinics
Indigenous Allied Health Australia
Canberra Health Services

Year 12 Students

Djanaya Brookman
Jorja Brown
Jacinta King

School

Erindale College
Canberra College
Dickson College

Host Employer

Canberra Health Services
Canberra Health Services
University of Canberra - Health Clinics



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CONGRATULATIONS

Meet our 2022 Graduating Students

Poppy Chalmers

Djanaya Brookman

Jorja Brown



My name is Poppy Chalmers, I am a proud Yuin woman. My family is from Jervis Bay, but I was born in Goulburn NSW. I am currently in Year 11 at Dickson Collage.

I joined the IAHA ACT Health Academy at the end of 2021 where I first completed the Health Starter Pack, which was an introductory course before starting the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance at the start of this year.

Since I was little, I have always wanted to work in the health sector. The IAHA ACT Health Academy has enabled me to do this through their program and have supported me to push myself with what I want to achieve. I was moved onto the accelerated plan towards the beginning of the year which enabled me to complete the Certificate III this year. I have learnt so much and gained so much experience from being in the academy this year. Despite always wanting to work in health I didn't know my options and didn't have much idea of the different types of jobs available in health.

Through IAHA I have learnt about the many different health professions and not only has IAHA given me a great opportunity career wise, but I have also made some good friends and lifelong memories. After completing the Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance, I am keen to keep going with my studies next year, finish Year 12 and then want to go on to complete further studies at university in either Nursing/Mid-Wifery or Social work.



Hi, my name is Djanaya Brookman and I'm a proud Wiradjuri and Gubbi Gubbi women from Tumut NSW and Cairns QLD.

I recently finished Year 12 at Erindale College and loved having the opportunity to be a part of a health school-based apprenticeship. I joined the ACT Health Academy because my dream is to become a midwife.

I have learnt so much throughout my time and loved every minute of it. I have made good relationships with the other students and teachers throughout the years. My journey started with IAHA back in October 2021 where I completed the Health Starter Pack.

There have been some days that were challenging for me in the sense that there was so much content and things to remember but there was always so much support along the way and there were always ways for me to improve. One thing I've enjoyed during my time with the program is when all the students and myself finish an assignment and it's so good to see everyone succeed and enjoy the moment together knowing we are all on the journey together and getting one step closer to our goals.

The IAHA ACT Health Academy has helped me with my goals and career and now I want to go to University to pursue my dream of being a Midwife. One fun fact about me is that I am 1 of 8 children and being the oldest has made my life super interesting and never boring.



Hi, my name's Jorja Brown. I am a proud Wiradjuri woman from Wagga Wagga NSW.

I'm recently finished Year 12 at Canberra College. My experience in the academy over the past 2 years has been very welcoming, eye opening and educational. The academy feels like home to me, and it is a comforting and exciting place to be. I started off at the academy with the dream to become a nurse, but after being exposed to so many areas of health it opened my eyes to so many different career opportunities I really didn't know about to begin with. I still aspire to be a nurse as I love helping people, but I would also love to get into the Youth Juvenile Justice System.

Some highlights of the academy were honestly just having a culturally safe space and the ability to become a family, I have enjoyed the excursions we have done and all the hands-on practical activities of the course. Although it got challenging sometimes, the academy was very supportive and flexible. This year, I attended placement at the University of Canberra Hospital. My aspirations after I graduate is to continue studying at CIT, in Community services.

One fun fact about me is I am a bartender at Grease Monkey.

MEET THE TEAM



PAUL GIBSON

Executive Director
Strategy, Partnerships



BYRON BRUNHUBER

ACT Program Support Officer



MELINDA INGRAM

Senior Policy Officer



SIMONE KELLY

Learning and Wellbeing
Support Officer

THANK YOU

To our 2022 Host Employers



Canberra Health Services



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA

University of Canberra Hospital – Brindabella Rehabilitation

University of Canberra Hospital – RACS Physiotherapy

UC Health Clinics - Cancer Wellness Centre

UC Health Clinics – Neuro-Physiotherapy

Belconnen Community Health Centre - Community Care program

Become a Health Academy Host Employer

Are you interested in becoming a work placement Host Employer, to support Years 11 & 12 school-based trainees undertaking their Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance?

Host employer's play an integral role in assisting students to prepare for the workplace by providing meaningful and industry-relevant workplace learning opportunities.



For more information, please contact the ACT Academy Team
Ph: 0429 224 771 / E: academy@iaha.com.au / www.iaha.com.au

Congratulations

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Academy Cohort



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