



WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

2022 IMPACT REPORT

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Front cover photo: **Sharidan Kearney**,
Bachelor of Arts with a Bachelor of Social Science,
Dr Jennifer Fraser Undergraduate Scholarship

This page: **Female Orphan School**,
Parramatta South campus



MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR



The generous philanthropic giving of our donors helps Western Sydney University level the playing field and support the success of students from all backgrounds. Your support helps us continue the world-class research that has made us a global leader for social, economic and environmental impact.

Education is the single biggest driver of advancement, the greatest force for change and for good, and the principal instrument of social justice.

Growing up, my grandmother and uncle encouraged me to pursue higher education. I had a love of history and books and they saw my academic potential. I studied hard and got the marks to go to university to do an arts degree. Once I got my start in the public service, I never looked back. I have been able to experience and achieve things that once seemed impossible.

It is an honour to have been installed as Chancellor of Western Sydney University in service of the people and communities of Western Sydney and beyond. Under my leadership, Western will continue to be a place where students of all backgrounds can learn and succeed. A place of welcoming and belonging and excellence for all.

Every time a donor supports the education of a student, they provide that student with an opportunity to change the course of their life. It makes such a difference to our students, not just financially, but also in helping them to believe in themselves and aim even higher.

I offer my warm thanks and appreciation to all of our donors and supporters.

Professor Jennifer Westacott AO
Chancellor



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRESIDENT



In 2023, Western Sydney University was named number one in the world for its social, economic, and environmental impact in the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings. This is the second year running in which the University has placed first overall in this prestigious ranking – an unmatched achievement for an Australian university to date.

The University has always been committed to the communities of Western Sydney. Recognising the transformational role of education to the growth and future success of the region and its people, we continue to advocate for equitable access to education for our community – largely enabled through the generosity of our donors.

Scholarships reward and support academic achievement and assist students from diverse backgrounds – each with their own aspirations and dreams. In the last 12 months, more than 520 students were supported by a donor-funded scholarship. There are few greater gifts than when you invest in a person's future success.

Despite the challenges of recent times, our loyal donors and supporters have remained active and committed to enhancing the lives of our students, providing educational opportunities and supporting research at Western. For this, we thank you.

This report provides a snapshot of the inspirational stories and advancements that have emerged through philanthropic giving to the University.

Thank you for supporting the work of the University and the success of our students.

Professor Barney Glover AO
Vice-Chancellor and President



ABOUT WESTERN

Western Sydney University is a world-class university with growing international reach and a reputation for academic excellence and impact-driven research.

Ranked in the Top 2 percent of universities in the world, we are globally focused and committed to making a positive impact at a regional, national and international level.

For the second year running, Western has been recognised as number one in the world in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings as measured against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This includes first in the world for SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

Our University has over 46,000 students spread across thirteen campuses and offers more than 600 courses across 100 disciplinary areas, carefully structured to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world, as well as the opportunities and challenges that are unique to our region.

We are committed to the success of our students, the impact of our research and the co-created transformation of our communities.



UNI IN THE WORLD 2022 & 2023

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS



TOP 2%

OF UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE*

* Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2019–2022



5 STARS

FOR FACILITIES, INCLUSIVENESS,
INNOVATION AND TEACHING*

* QS Top Universities: QS Stars Ratings 2022

IMPACT OF DONOR GIVING IN 2022

VALUE OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$1M

NUMBER OF EQUITY SCHOLARSHIPS

71

NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY
DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

416

NUMBER OF REFUGEE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

20

Rebekah Cromie, Bachelor of Laws student, Bartier Perry Leadership Scholarship for Women



BARTIER PERRY LAWYERS EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND LAW

Empowering others to meet their potential has been a part of the business ethos at Bartier Perry for over 80 years.¹ Today, supporting students through scholarships at Western forms part of their commitment to social responsibility and inclusivity and diversity in Business and Law.

Bartier Perry are now in their ninth year of supporting scholarships for women in Business and Law and recently expanded their focus to award their first Indigenous scholarship in 2022, to be continued and awarded again in 2023 as part of their commitment to First Nations Australians.

“Through supporting students, we hope to contribute to the legal industry and make a difference to the pathway of both Indigenous students and talented female students – enriching our community,” said Riana Steyn, CEO, Bartier Perry Lawyers.

Commenting on the impact of this scholarship, Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership) at Western Sydney University said:

“Indigenous scholarships are life-changing, and we warmly thank Bartier Perry for the leadership you are showing in the legal profession through the Bartier Perry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship at Western.”

1. Bartier Perry Lawyers | About Us

“With the support of donors like yourselves, scholarships allow students with the most potential access to quality tertiary education, regardless of their circumstances. They also encourage the most talented students to make Western Sydney University their university of choice,” continues Professor Trudgett.

The support that Bartier Perry provides scholarship recipients extends beyond the financial to providing career mentorship as well as invaluable work experience, helping equip students for life beyond graduation.

We thank Bartier Perry for their ongoing commitment to supporting student success and excellence at Western Sydney University.

“I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Bartier Perry for awarding me the Leadership Scholarship for Women. It is truly an honour to be chosen as a recipient, and I am deeply grateful for their investment in my future. I will continue to work hard to make the most of this opportunity and to make a positive impact on society. Thank you again for investing in my future and for your dedication to supporting the advancement of women in leadership roles.”

Emma Hallab,
Bachelor of Business and
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) student

“I view being awarded the Bartier Perry Scholarship as an incredible highlight of my time at Western Sydney University. Bartier Perry has supported my development by immersing me within a network of like-minded individuals within the legal industry. Furthermore, it was an incredible encouragement to be recognised by a renowned firm for my academic achievements and desire to positively contribute to the legal community.”

Rebekah Cromie,
Bachelor of Business and
Bachelor of Laws (Honours) student

Emma Hallab, Bachelor of Laws student, Bartier Perry Leadership Scholarship for Women



Professor Michelle Trudgett,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Indigenous Leadership



INDIGENOUS

In her role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership, Professor Michelle Trudgett works to elevate the University as a national leader in Indigenous higher education and training, research, community outreach and development.

Professor Trudgett recounts, *"in the year that was I born, there wasn't a single Indigenous person with a doctoral qualification in Australia – the first being in 1980. I left home at the age of 21 to start university having set myself a goal to complete three degrees by the age of 33. I commenced university studying Psychology but soon fell in love with Indigenous Studies as I wanted to delve deeper into the history and culture of Indigenous people. In 2008, I completed my third degree – a Doctor of Education."*

Western is proud to be the university of choice for over 800 Indigenous Australian students, and the University seeks to empower the Indigenous community in Western Sydney to pursue a tertiary education in even greater numbers.

At the core of Western's Indigenous Strategy is the objective to provide opportunities for Indigenous students to learn and succeed in an environment that promotes Indigenous excellence. Access to higher education plays a crucial role in helping Australians realise their potential, through improving employment opportunities, economic status, and contributing to better health outcomes.

"We are proud, strong and intelligent people and it's important that everything we ask of our Indigenous staff and students is centred around achievement and high expectations," says Professor Trudgett.

Indigenous Australian people can achieve and succeed at all levels. Making higher education more

accessible and supporting Indigenous students to achieve excellence is key to success and our collective futures.

Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Western Sydney University's commitment to Indigenous success and excellence received a boost with the NSW Government announcement of \$78.5 million in funding from the WestInvest program to help establish an Indigenous Centre of Excellence at the University.

"The University community is delighted by the NSW Government's support to help establish the new Indigenous Centre of Excellence. The Centre will consolidate Western Sydney as a region at the forefront of Indigenous education, employment and research," said Professor Trudgett.

LEADERSHIP



The Indigenous Centre of Excellence will be a benchmark for Indigenous leadership and education – a transformational place of research and inquiry, where tens of thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and history will be celebrated throughout a state-of-the-art building.

“Western Sydney is home to the largest Indigenous population in the country, so it is only fitting that we create a place for Indigenous people to celebrate culture and connection to Country. It will be an iconic destination where the community can come together to acknowledge the region’s deep connection with

Indigenous people, as well as lead global discourse on Indigenous knowledges steeped in the principles of reciprocity, generosity and respect,” says Professor Trudgett.

The Centre will be established in collaboration with the University’s Elders Advisory Committee and key Indigenous stakeholders. Environmental sustainability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ connection to Country will be central to the building’s architectural design and position within the surrounding natural landscape.

Revitalising knowledge of Indigenous languages

Established through the generosity of the Sheldon Foundation, the charitable arm of Sheldon Interiors, the Sheldon Masters Scholarship in Australian Indigenous Languages supports Masters of Research students whose area of research pertain to the preservation and revitalisation of Indigenous languages.



Awarded to Corina Norman, the scholarship supports her work in the revitalisation of Indigenous languages, in particular the Dharug and Dharawal languages of her father’s lines. Corina is a researcher, teacher, artist and activist for Dharug language and culture in Western Sydney and is highly respected for her achievements. For her thesis, Corina is researching effective ways to train community adults to acquire knowledge about Aboriginal languages and how to teach Dharug so that Aboriginal community members – and non-Indigenous Australians – can learn to speak, understand and respect Dharug language.

“Because of Charter Hall’s generosity, we can transform curricula for educating the future generation of integrative health care practitioners to meet the complex health challenges for all Australians, that we would not otherwise be able to do. With your help, we will continue to extend high-quality educational opportunities to students and the community.”

Professor Xiaoshu Zhu, Co-Director,
Chinese Medicine Centre



CHARTER HALL

A \$6 million gift from Charter Hall is set to transform Western Sydney University's work across health and medical teaching, learning and research and contribute to Indigenous Leadership with the establishment of key positions in medical research and scholarships.

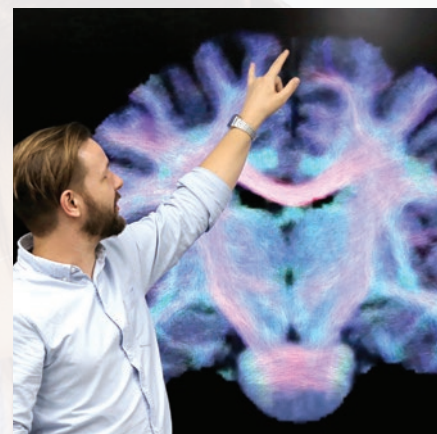
Charter Hall and Western Sydney University are long-term partners, committed to a common goal of establishing Western Sydney as a place of innovation, excellence and discovery. Charter Hall Managing Director and Group CEO David Harrison and Office CEO Carmel Hourigan, themselves alumni of Western Sydney University, remain highly committed to the region and its people.

The Innovation Quarter (iQ) at Westmead is the result of a close collaboration between Charter Hall and the University. Part of the University's Western Growth strategy, iQ Westmead is the most recent development in an ambitious strategy to reshape Western's campus network and create transformative research and educational infrastructure across Western Sydney.

iQ Westmead is home to three of the University's renowned research institutes: the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development, NICM Health Research Institute, and the Translational Health Research Institute (THRI). The multidisciplinary research hub combines world-class research, education and business to unite innovators and academics in the work of tackling global challenges in health, medicine and medical technology.

Charter Hall Chair in Human Neuroscience

A Professorial Chair position that will provide leadership and direction in the development and delivery of ground-breaking research in neuroscience that combines artificial intelligence (AI) with cutting-edge neuroimaging. This work will enable researchers to measure and model brain function and dysfunction in neurological or psychiatric conditions and improve preventative measures and treatment models of health care across our region and beyond.



Charter Hall Yarramundi Scholarship

Yarramundi Scholarships support Indigenous students for the duration of a three-year PhD. Matilda Harry is a current recipient of a Yarramundi Scholarship and is researching Indigenous Education.



Teaching Fellow – Chinese Medicine Centre

The establishment of a new teaching fellow in Chinese and Complimentary Medicine to aid in teaching and research that informs the education of our students who are the next generation of world-class Chinese medicine practitioners.

“To all the donors that support scholarships for students like me, I just want to say a massive thank you. The support that you provide is life-changing. And it really empowers young people to achieve their aspirations.”

Matilda Harry, Yarramundi Scholarship

AINSWORTH AMRIF SUPPORTING BREAKTHROUGHS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH



The Ainsworth Medical Research and Innovation Fund (AMRIF) at Western Sydney University's School of Medicine was established with a landmark \$10 million donation in 2018 thanks to the generosity and foresight of Mr Leonard Ainsworth AM.

The AMRIF was created with the objective of tackling some of Western Sydney's greatest health challenges such as diabetes, cancer and dementia. It has enabled the University to conduct vital translational and other research dedicated to addressing these health challenges of today and the future.

DIABETES, OBESITY & METABOLISM TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT (DOMTRU)

Led by Distinguished Professor David Simmons, Dr Milan Piya and Dr Ritesh Chimoriya, DOMTRU advanced their research in three high impact areas: managing diabetes in pregnancy, study of the liver in diabetes and obesity, and a pilot study on changes in cardio-respiratory fitness and systemic inflammation following a 12-week supervised group exercise course for patients with type 2 diabetes in pregnancy and class 3 obesity.

DIABETES & ISLET BIOLOGY GROUP

Associate Professor Anand Hardikar's team have identified methodologies to measure small RNA molecules in the blood that could indicate the progression of type 1 diabetes (T1D) to enable earlier detection and treatment to delay onset. This would be particularly life-changing for children where the diagnosis of T1D before 10 years of age is associated with a 16-year reduction in life expectancy.

REGENERATIVE RESEARCH GROUP: CATARACT RESEARCH

Led by Dr Michael O'Connor, the Regenerative Research Group is conducting world-leading research in cataract treatments, including lens regeneration for children and anti-cataract drugs for adults. Funding for this type of research was a challenge before the help of the AMRIF. Preconceived notions that children are not affected by cataracts, or that surgery is a cure for all patients are huge barriers to being awarded funding and so the group is especially grateful to the AMRIF in supporting their research.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE & DEMENTIA

Neuroimmunology Group

Under the leadership of Associate Professor Mourad Tayebi, the Neuroimmunology Group has achieved several important discoveries related to the early detection of Alzheimer's disease and its treatment, including establishing a proof of concept for eye and blood tests for early diagnosis. The next phase of research includes the development and validation of a routine eye and blood test for Alzheimer's disease.

PROFESSOR TIM KARL

Professor Tim Karl and his research team are working to understand the impact of risk factors on the development of brain disorders such as schizophrenia, dementia and motor neurone disease, as well as evaluating new therapeutic treatments for these diseases as well as substance abuse disorder.

NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH INTO AGEING

Dr Erika Gyengesi and her group are investigating whether natural plant compounds such as curcumin and apigenin can reverse neuroinflammation and cognitive impairment, and whether they have any potential as a treatment option for Alzheimer's disease.

DOPAMINE DYSFUNCTION

Dopamine dysfunction underlies many aspects of neurological disease and degeneration such as Parkinson's disease, schizophrenia, ADHD, depression and addiction. Dr Morven Cameron is conducting research to characterise the mechanism of dopamine release from neurons in the retina. With greater understanding of these release mechanisms, new therapies for dopaminergic dysfunction in the central nervous system could be devised for degenerative diseases.



AINSWORTH

BARIATRIC – PROFESSOR GOLO AHLENSTIEL

Professor Golo Ahlenstiel's group at Blacktown Clinical School is running a multidisciplinary program to better understand the mechanism that leads to weight gain and fatty liver disease, for example researching why obesity may run in families. The objective of this research is to move from a one-size-fits-all approach, that the health system currently provides, to a personalised approach for optimal outcomes to health intervention in the multi-ethnic population in Western Sydney.

IMPROVING EAR HEALTH WITHIN ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children suffer disproportionately from severe, persistent Otitis Media. Complications from Otitis Media can result in poor hearing, persistent ear discharge, impaired language and child development, reduced learning and lifelong disadvantage. Professor Jenny Reath and her team have been able to build on and extend their research and test strategies to prevent development of Otitis Media in newborns and better manage the condition.

ANATOMY CLASS

Dr James Dunn has sought to examine the neurological underpinnings of pain, in the hopes that better understanding the mechanism of pain will help develop future treatments.

FURTHER RESEARCH ENABLED BY THE AMRIF

DR AIDEN O'LOUGHLIN

Deoxycholic acid for the stabilisation of vulnerable atherosclerotic plaques.

PROFESSOR STEWART HEAD

Skeletal muscle fibre branching in regenerated muscle: consequences for the treatment of muscle disease.

A/PROFESSOR DAVID A MAHNS

Pain: can redefining the origin improve future treatment?

PROFESSOR SANJAY SWAMINATHAN

Targeting Epstein-Barr virus.

PROFESSOR SOON LEE

Targeting the DNA damage response pathway of MRE11A to identify its variants as markers of radiotherapy outcomes in colorectal cancer by next generation sequencing.

DR VINCENT HO

The genomic landscape of advanced stage (IV) colorectal cancer with wild-type RAS that is resistant to tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

A/PROFESSOR KIERAN SCOTT

Phase 1 trial of c2, a novel vimentin inhibitor, in men with prostate cancer.

DR ROSE CHESWORTH

A new therapeutic treatment for drug addiction in schizophrenia.

DR YOSHI BUSKILA

Targeting astrocyte-mediated mechanisms leading to neuronal toxicity in MND.

PROFESSOR JOHN MORLEY

Astrocytic modulation of epileptic activity.

PROFESSOR JANE USSHER

A community health-based approach to increasing cervical screening among African migrant and refugee women living in Western Sydney.

PROFESSOR PHILLIPA HAY

Investigating moderators and mediators of outcomes in an open trial of a novel psycho-behavioural treatment for relapse prevention and maintenance of weight loss.

PROFESSOR GERALD MUENCH

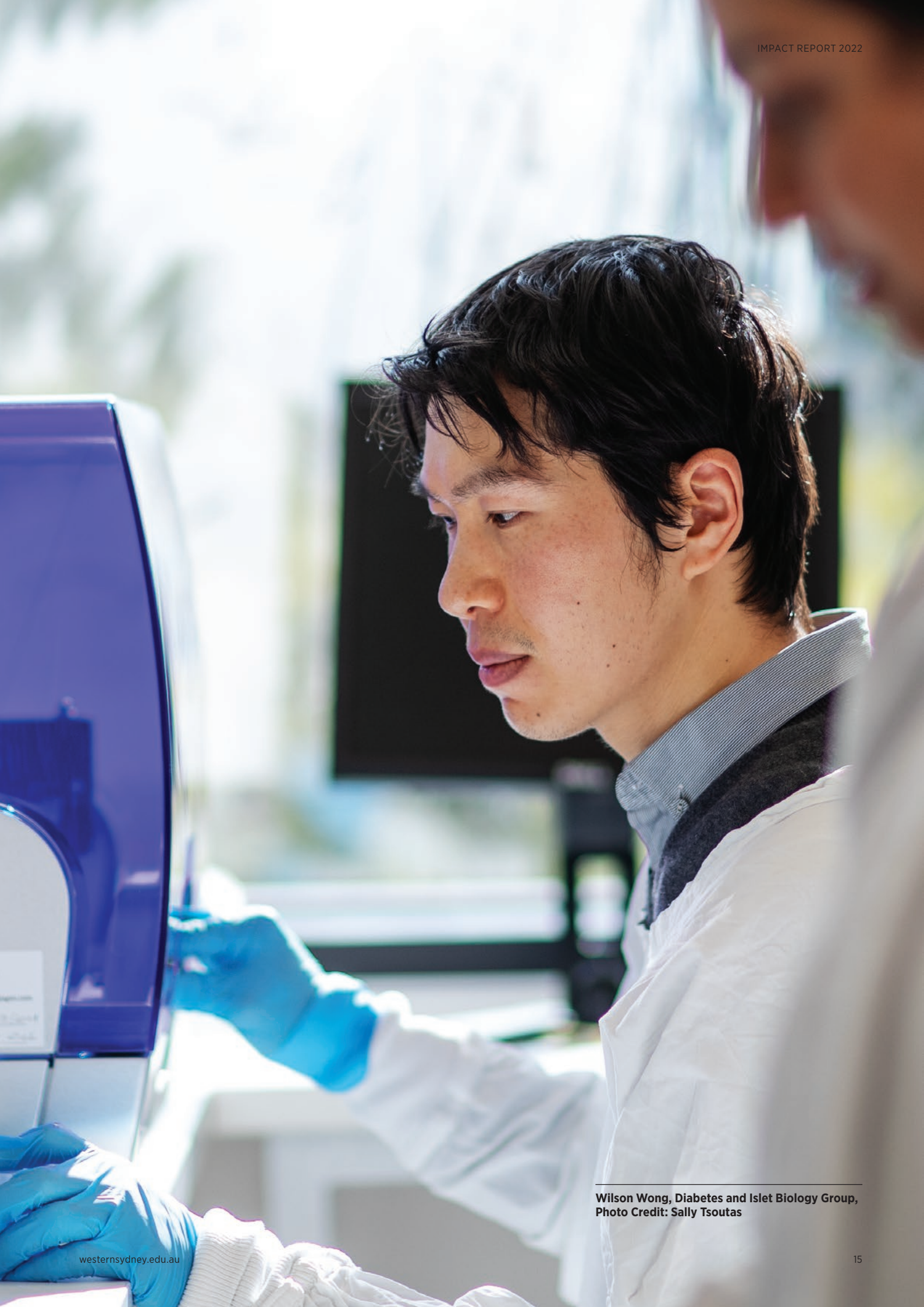
Discovery of novel anti-inflammatory compounds from Australian Bush Medicines.

DR JERRY ZHOU

Development of patient-controlled biofeedback device and mobile app for the treatment of defecation disorders.

A/PROFESSOR SLADE JENSEN

The microbiome and role of biofilms in Hidradenitis Suppurativa.



**Wilson Wong, Diabetes and Islet Biology Group,
Photo Credit: Sally Tsoutas**



Janet Dunlop, Bachelor of Laws, 2020
Brydens Lawyers Scholarship recipient

BRYDENS LAWYERS

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Founded in Sydney's South West, Brydens Lawyers has contributed over \$400,000 to life-changing student scholarships and health and medical research at Western Sydney University.

The Brydens Lawyers Scholarship is an equity law scholarship with an emphasis on supporting students from the Liverpool local government area where possible. The scholarship program has provided invaluable support and mentorship to many students, including those experiencing hardship. When asked about the firm's motivations to give, Lee Hagipantelis, Principal at Brydens Lawyers, said *"I truly believe that education is the bedrock of our society"*.

"We have been able to see, firsthand, the importance of such scholarships having met the recipients and been privileged to watch their progress through their studies leading to graduation and subsequent employment, [one] as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales," continued Lee.

Brydens Lawyers has reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the next generation of legal professionals in Western Sydney through their most recent gift of \$187,000, which will support five talented and hardworking students from the commencement of their degrees right through to graduation.

"Sponsorship of these scholarships has brought enormous professional and personal satisfaction to all of us at Brydens Lawyers. It is an opportunity for us to give back to our local community and to recognise and benefit those students who may otherwise have been challenged in committing to a five-year law degree," says Lee.

Prairiewood resident Janet Dunlop is one of the graduates who have benefitted from the Brydens Lawyers Scholarship. Now a solicitor at the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, she said receiving this vital support from the firm opened many opportunities.

"I was working full time for many years while studying so the scholarship enabled me to take a short break from working and really focus on my studies. I was able to complete an internship with a Local Court Magistrate in regional NSW, where I would travel once a week for a semester and return to Sydney for my classes," said Janet.

"Through the scholarship, I was able to network with other like-minded peers and Mr Lee Hagipantelis, the Principal at Brydens Lawyers, who gave me an insight into his background and legal journey. Overall, the scholarship opened the door to further opportunities and assisted with fast-tracking my degree."

Janet Dunlop, Bachelor of Laws, 2020 Brydens Lawyers Scholarship recipient

Caitlyn Laws, Bachelor of Nursing,
The Goodridge Foundation
Indigenous Scholarship in Nursing



INDIGENOUS STUDENTS THANKFUL FOR THE GOODRIDGE FOUNDATION'S SUPPORT

In 2021, The Goodridge Foundation announced a \$180,000 gift to support Indigenous students in Nursing with a life-changing \$20,000 a year per student.

Speaking on behalf of The Goodridge Foundation, Jacki Goodridge said:

"We feel extremely passionate about giving back to the community and helping others realise their potential. We are therefore excited to be able to support Indigenous scholarships in Nursing for students at Western Sydney University and proud to announce our gift this year on Giving Day".

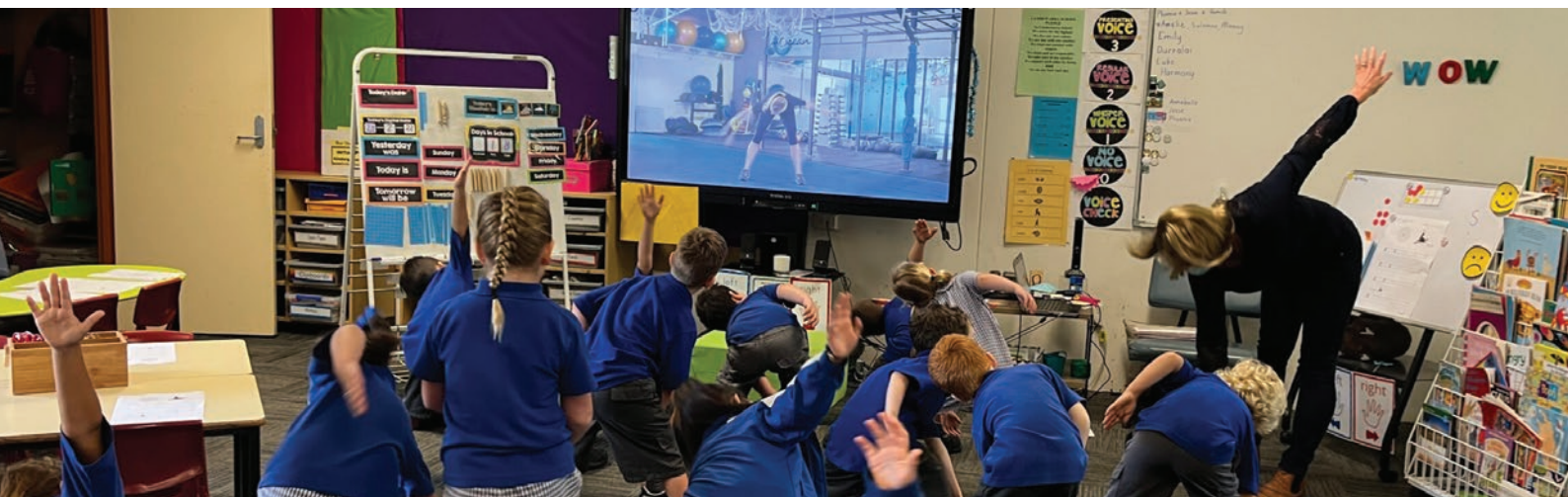
Western Sydney University's School of Nursing and Midwifery is home to a large cohort of Indigenous students, with approximately 100 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students enrolling each year since 2020.

Caitlyn Laws, a recipient of The Goodridge Foundation Indigenous Scholarship in Nursing, spoke to us about the impact the scholarship has had on her life.

"Nursing has always been my passion," Caitlyn said. "If I didn't have the support of the scholarship I probably wouldn't be doing well in university. I wouldn't be reaching the high standards in the course that I want to get. A massive thank you to The Goodridge Foundation because they've supported me so much and it's just easier for me doing my course not worrying about the financial side of it."

Western is thankful for this generous support of scholarships that will help the University achieve its goal of providing opportunities for Indigenous Australian students to learn and succeed in an environment promoting Indigenous excellence.

DEVELOPING RESILIENCE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT WELLBEING



The Phillips Foundation has partnered with Western Sydney University's Young and Resilient Research Centre which provides the research behind its Living Ripples program.

Established in 2017 by Anthony and Liz Phillips, The Phillips Foundation works with charitable organisations and projects around the world to deliver holistic education opportunities to remote or disadvantaged communities. A key area of focus is on programs that help young people build skills, confidence and resilience through participation in a combination of education, sport and social activities.

Living Ripples is a collaborative partnership between schools, The Phillips Foundation, Western Sydney University, and a range of program providers which aims to develop and deliver resilience education for school children.

Currently at five schools in New South Wales and Queensland, the aim is for this number to grow to 100 schools over the next five years, with a focus on remote and complex schools.

At Western, The Phillips Foundation has funded a program of research for Living Ripples with gifts totalling more than \$364,000 since 2021.

Professor Amanda Third, Co-Director of the Young and Resilient Research Centre at Western and Chief Investigator for Living Ripples observes, *"resilience is both an individual and a community capacity. Recent research defines resilience not just as the capacity to survive*

or adapt to change, but the ability to harness individual and collective resources to take measured risks to confront adversity, to learn from this process and, ultimately, to work with or transform the circumstances that produce adversity in the first place. In this respect, resilience is not a state of being; rather, it is a process".

Western Sydney University is grateful to The Phillips Foundation for their commitment to building resilience in children and youth and looks forward to continuing to provide the vital research ensuring the evidence-based development of resilience education for Australian kids.

From left to right are: Srs Lynne Crilley (Team Member and WSU Liaison), Bernadette Pattison (Assistant Leader), Margaret Barclay (Leader) and Susan Miller (Team Member).



LOVE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE SPURS SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

Western Sydney University and the Presentation Sisters share a commitment to equity, social justice, and the advancement of an individual's right to good health and wellbeing. Determinants of which are access to quality education, economic equity and employment.

The Presentation Sisters have been generous supporters of the University for more than 17 years, making significant contributions to Indigenous student excellence through academic prizes, Indigenous research through research/lecturer positions, and most recently the support of refugee students through donations to scholarships.

Their generous support has led to the appointment of two academic positions in the School of Social Sciences in Indigenous research.

Associate Professor Corrinne Sullivan is an Aboriginal scholar from the Wiradjuri Nation in Central-West New South Wales. Her research interests are multi-disciplinary and focus broadly on experiences and effects of body and identity in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The outcomes of her research will inform law-making and policy as well as access and delivery of culturally-appropriate support services. Associate Professor Sullivan's knowledge stems from the disciplines of Indigenous Studies and Human Geography, and she utilises both to understand the ways in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are affected by their experiences of space and place.

The University saw the important benefits of Associate Professor Sullivan's work leading to the establishment of a permanent position, Associate Dean (Indigenous Education), and her appointment to the role.

The second position supported by the Presentation Sisters was taken up by Kaiya Aboagye.

Kaiya commenced her role as Lecturer and Unit Coordinator (Anthropology & Sociology) in the School of Social Sciences in July 2021. Kaiya is of Ghanaian, Aboriginal, South Sea and Torres Strait Islander heritage and her research unpacks some of the substantial and significant connections between First Nations and African diasporic peoples in Australia and throughout the Pacific. With her research she aims to disrupt common assumptions about the "Black experience" in Australia and decolonise the ways we have come to teach, learn and engage with African histories in the Global South.

Support from the Presentation Sisters has made a substantial impact on the content and delivery of curricula in the Social Sciences, supporting research that has a systemic impact and implements Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues into the Social Work and Community Welfare curriculum.

Over the years, the Sisters' work has involved rural outreach services, ecology and working for the environment, Indigenous reconciliation, family support, youth camps, supporting a "no interest" loan scheme in Western Sydney, and caring for ageing members of their Congregation. Their work reflects a deep commitment to justice for the earth and providing opportunities for those less privileged.

Western Sydney University thanks the Presentation Sisters for their long-term and generous partnership with the University and their incredible contribution to our shared goals in supporting Indigenous excellence.



“These are people with enormous resilience and drive to survive and succeed, and I believe Australia can only benefit from their educated contributions to our community.”

Dr Margaret Mackisack

DONOR'S GENEROSITY EMPOWERING STUDENTS FROM ASYLUM SEEKER BACKGROUNDS DR MARGARET MACKISACK – STILLMAN AND MACKISACK ASYLUM SEEKER SCHOLARSHIPS

Refugee and asylum seeker students embody the spirit of Western Sydney University. Upholding our values of boldness, fairness, integrity and excellence, these students overcome adversity with outstanding resilience despite the odds being stacked against them.

Students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds exemplify the core values of our University, and show remarkable resilience despite facing considerable challenges in their pursuit of success.

These students are often ineligible for the Commonwealth support that is available to permanent residents. Seeing a great need and motivated by a desire to balance some of the inequity people were facing

accessing education, Dr Margaret Mackisack decided to endow an undergraduate scholarship, donating \$600,000 to establish in perpetuity the Stillman and Mackisack Asylum Seeker Scholarships.

“This scholarship is the key that will unlock all my potential. This scholarship means everything to me.”

Lamisa, Bachelor of Science,
Stillman & Mackisack Asylum
Seeker Scholarship



“I am privileged to be in a position to help, and wish also for my gift to remember my late husband, Dr R.H. ‘Ron’ Stillman, whose parents were themselves refugees in England before the First World War,” Margaret said.

“His enormous enthusiasm for learning, advancing his profession of electrical power engineering, and supporting those coming after him were an inspiration to many. I am sure that he would have been happy for this scholarship to be part of his legacy to the future.”

The scholarship's first recipient, Lamisa, arrived in Australia at age 11 from Bangladesh. She had always dreamed of becoming a nurse and volunteering in international aid. Lamisa has a great respect for her parents, who have worked tirelessly to be able to provide for her and her sister, but due to family illnesses and then the pandemic, saving for university was a struggle.

Lamisa had almost put aside her study aspirations and was working in a fruit shop to help her family pay bills before she received an offer of a scholarship.

“I remember the day I got the call informing me I had received an offer from Western Sydney University for the Bachelor of Nursing... I cried tears of joy.

Then came the realisation that my joy was too premature, as I wouldn't be able to afford it.”

Heartbroken, but undeterred by another major setback, Lamisa deferred her offer for a year in the hope of being able to save enough money. Knowing she would still fall short, she waited, checking the University website every day to see if scholarship applications had opened. She applied, and despite much competition, was joyfully awarded a Stillman and Mackisack Asylum Seeker Scholarship. Finally, her hard work in pursuit of her ambitions are paying off and Lamisa's dream of becoming a nurse and helping others is closer to realisation.

“All my life I've been surrounded by uncertainty, but there has been one thing that I've been certain of since day one: I want to make a difference,” Lamisa said. “This scholarship is the key that will unlock all my potential. This scholarship means everything to me.”

The donation continues a family legacy of philanthropy - Dr Stillman left a gift in his Will to the University to assist financially disadvantaged students in the School of Law, the “Reuben Herbert Stillman Fund”. Margaret's mother, the late Mrs Joan Mackisack had also been a donor to the University.

Western Sydney University thanks Dr Margaret Mackisack for making Lamisa's dreams a reality, and for the future refugee students who will also benefit from the overwhelming generosity of this gift.

“These are people with enormous resilience and drive to survive and succeed,” Margaret said, “and I believe Australia can only benefit from their educated contributions to our community”.



From left to right are: Madison,
Dr Jennifer Fraser, Sharidan

HONOURING A MOTHER'S LOVE OF EDUCATION

“I wanted to be a teacher from the time I was about seven or eight. I would line up all my money, march my siblings into the bedroom and teach them their tables,” Dr Jennifer Fraser

Dr Jennifer Fraser knows a thing or two about childhood education. A mother to five children and grandmother to seventeen, she dedicated 56 years to a career in education, teaching in primary schools across NSW, the United Kingdom, Canada and Singapore.

With a career spanning several decades, Dr Fraser got to witness a great amount of change.

“In those days female teachers were paid 85% of the male wage and most of the executive positions in schools like the headmaster or the deputy, were male,” she tells us.

Before she reached retirement, this would no longer be the case. Dr Fraser served as Principal in three different NSW schools from 1981 until 2012, studying concurrently until she reached the highest level attainable for teaching – a Doctor of Education from the University of Sydney.

One of the biggest changes in education she witnessed was that now *“you need to cater for the individual, rather than mass produce, because when I first started teaching, everything was rote. You gave your lessons to the whole class, irrespective of whether they understood you or not,”* she said.

Inspired by his mother’s hard work and dedication to the field of Education, Hugh Fraser contacted Western Sydney University in 2022 to dedicate two scholarships in honour of his mother. This kind and generous gesture was inspired by a desire to give back to Indigenous Australians and his respect for his mother’s strong work ethic.

“My mother has always been a champion of education. She is a very strong woman and worked very hard over her life to achieve her calling of becoming a Doctor of Education. She is a very caring person and never ever judges anyone,” he said.

This wonderful gift came as both a surprise and honour for Dr Fraser. As a firm believer in the power of education to bring success in life and lead to greater happiness, Dr Fraser and her son Hugh Fraser hope these scholarships will make a real difference in the lives of the recipients.

For the two students who have received scholarships, the support is already making a difference.

Undergraduate student Sharidan commenced university this year and wants to work to help support children in Indigenous communities.

“I want to express how sincerely honoured I am to have been selected for the Dr Jennifer Fraser Undergraduate Scholarship - to receive a scholarship from a woman who is highly educated and a role model for children. Thank you for seeing potential in me and wanting me to achieve all my educational goals,” said Sharidan.

Postgraduate student Madison is conducting research which aims to assess the effects of urbanisation on the biological and ecological health of platypus populations in Western Sydney, through an integrative and comprehensive approach targeting water quality, riparian habitat structure, dietary composition, physical body condition and population ratios.

Thank you to Dr Jennifer Fraser and Hugh Fraser for making these scholarships possible.




“I hope to personify the inspiring legacy of this scholarship, and encourage others to do the same, irrespective of their socioeconomic status, gender, age or cultural heritage, in order to bridge the divide and allow appropriate yet sensitive understanding, cooperation and forgiveness to bloom openly within community spaces.”

Madison, Bachelor of Research Studies/Master of Research, Dr Jennifer Fraser Indigenous Postgraduate Scholarship



From left to right are:
Samuel Morris, Penny Clarke.



The Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship is awarded to talented and ambitious high school graduates entering university who are passionate about technology and are eager to explore its potential for good.

An initiative of the Westpac Scholars Trust, providing 100 scholarships a year to students across Australia, forever, the Young Technologists Scholarship provides undergraduate students with \$15,000 over three years to support their technology-related studies.

Importantly, recipients are invited to take part in a Disruptive Leaders program which includes attending a five-day conference in Asia as part of an international learning experience. In completing the program, students become members of the Westpac 100 Scholars Network (W100), providing them with a range of experiences including internships, mentoring, leadership development and networking opportunities.

Thirty-four Western students have received a Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship to date. Samuel Morris was awarded the scholarship in 2020 and is close to the completion of his degree in Bachelor of Cyber Security and Behaviour. Samuel attributes his experience in the Westpac Young Technologists Scholarship program with helping him build business networking and relationship skills, something that has also led to his success in securing a sought-after graduate position at Westpac.

“The Westpac Scholars network empowered me to do something great, now as a Westpac Graduate I get to thrive within technology every day,” says Samuel.

WESTPAC SCHOLARS

STAFF GIVING IN ACTION

SCHOLARSHIP HELPS YOUNG AFGHANI WOMAN HEAL FROM HER PAST AND REALISE HER POTENTIAL

Orphaned at a young age and living in Afghanistan, Makiza endured many hardships.

The trauma she experienced led to feelings of depression and anxiety that further entrenched her isolation. Suffering this way and living in a country where any kind of mental illness was seen as taboo, her future was uncertain. Fortunately, with the chance of a new life in Australia, she has come to view her early days living in a war-torn country as a story of survival – the foundation from which her resolve to use her past to help others has grown.

“The tribulation that I have gone through in my life is the main motivation for me to continue my study. It’s the only way that I could help myself and help others,” said Makiza.

Makiza chose to study psychology in the hope that she could understand her past and then use her knowledge and experience to help other people going through difficult circumstances.

Overcoming trauma was not the only challenge of living in a new country – there were new customs to learn as well as a whole new language. *“It was really difficult not knowing the language. While other students would have taken maybe one hour to study for an assignment, it would take me sometimes three or four hours at least,”* she says.

Finances created another barrier to study. Makiza explained how difficult it was migrating from a third world country without any financial support. Thankfully, a Western Sydney University Community Scholarship helped make Makiza’s aspiration for a university education a reality.

WSU Community Scholarships are funded through the generous donations of the University community, in particular by Western Sydney University staff through the Staff Giving program. These scholarships are awarded to students who embody the spirit of Western – overcoming adversity and demonstrating a commitment to furthering themselves through education.

Makiza hopes to return the gift that was once given to her. *“As an orphan myself and facing lots of tribulations in my life, I dream to make orphanages around the world for children who have lost their parents,”* she says. Being inspired by the work of Mother Teresa with orphan children, she hopes that one day she will be able to make a difference in the lives of people who have experienced war or other significant traumas.

Makiza is grateful for the opportunity a university education provides in helping her create a future for herself. Migrating from a country where women do not always get to attend school, the immensity of this is felt deeply. *“The positive impact the scholarship has had on my life is unimaginable. Had I not received this scholarship it would have been impossible for me to achieve my goals in my life,”* she said. *“Because I know the value of receiving things from others, I know the value of everything that I have in my life. I haven’t taken it for granted. It really has helped me a lot – with my journey and with my dreams and achievements.”*

“Had I not received this scholarship it would have been impossible for me to achieve my goals in my life.”

Makiza, Bachelor of Psychology (Honours), WSU Community Scholarship recipient



GIVING DAY

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT OF PHILANTHROPY AT WESTERN

Giving Day at Western Sydney University is a 24-hour campaign bringing together students, staff, alumni and our donor community to raise funds and make a difference for the University's teaching, research and student programs.

Western's last Giving Day was held in December 2021, raising over \$2.64 million for scholarships, student programs and research.

More than 180 participants laced up their walking shoes in the first ever Giving Day Walk, in support for what they are most passionate about at the University. Walkers enjoyed the sights of Lake Parramatta, Parramatta Park, CommBank Stadium, and Western's Parramatta CBD campuses, before a celebratory finish at the Parramatta South campus.

The Chancellor's Challenge raised more than \$536,000 with Team Chancellor led by Professor Peter Shergold AC and Team Vice-Chancellor captained by Professor Barney Glover AO taking part in a suspenseful soccer penalty shoot-out competition at CommBank Stadium. Luke Hodge, student representative for Team Chancellor, scored the winning goal unlocking a generous \$150,000 donation from Bartier Perry Lawyers for Indigenous scholarships. Team Vice-Chancellor raised the highest amount which unlocked a further \$150,000 for Integrative Health Research from Charter Hall.

"Giving Day is a wonderful opportunity to showcase Western Sydney University as a world-class teaching and research institution and its long and proud history serving the people of Greater Western Sydney," said Professor Shergold.

Giving Day 2023 on Wednesday, 6 September will see a now proud biennial tradition of the Western Sydney University community joining together to make a difference for our students and research. Western's new Chancellor, Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, will lead Team Chancellor against Professor Glover's Team Vice-Chancellor in the Chancellor's Challenge, which will once again be the highlight of Giving Day with a highly anticipated golf challenge at our Parramatta South campus.

Whether you walk, volunteer, donate or tee-off in the Chancellor's Challenge, Western warmly invites you to support our talented and ambitious students and our world-class research on Giving Day. Together, let's make a difference.

Western thanks our Giving Day 2021 leadership gift donors whose generosity has provided significant support for student scholarships and programs as well as vital research projects.

- Dr Margaret Mackisack
- Ms Katie Page
- Charter Hall
- The Goodridge Foundation
- Bartier Perry Lawyers
- Mental Health Commission of NSW
- LEE Ming Tee Foundation
- Dr Peter Brennan AM
- AMEX Australia
- Dr Wayne Wong and Mrs Louisa Wong
- Better Rehab
- Abergeldie
- Hawkesbury City Council
- Hunt & Hunt Lawyers
- Penrith City Council
- Baxter Healthcare

THANK YOU

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