



Elders Testimonials

Purkarnintha in Residence



University of
South Australia





"To achieve in life, you have a greater chance if you are educated."

–Dr Uncle Lewis Yarlupurka O'Brien, AO, UniSA
Kurna Elder



"One of the most important things you can do in life is to learn to know yourself. Who you are culturally; where you come from; and what's your passion and purpose."

–Auntie Lynette A Crocker
Senior Kurna Woman



"Learn as much as you possibly can because it puts you in a position to compete with anyone. We need Aboriginal people in all professions."

–Uncle Kym Kropinyeri
Ngarrindjeri Elder



"Have a vision; stay focused; and be committed and courageous. You'll gain confidence in your capabilities. Education is the key that will open doors for our people."

–Uncle Frank Wanganeen
Kurna and Narungga Elder



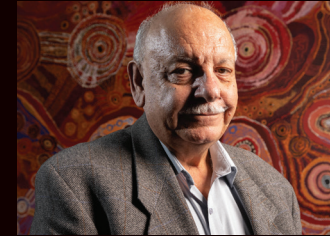
"Education is the key; fill your dilly bag with the experience, knowledge and skills you need to navigate the system and come out the other end."

–Auntie Roslyn Weetra
Narungga, Ngadjuri, Eastern Arrernte and Kurna Elder



"We can't change the past, but we can change the future. Education is the key to success – to get our mob out in the general population."

–Dr Uncle Kevin (Dookie) O'Loughlin, OAM
Narungga and Kurna Elder



"Learning is a journey that provides opportunities to open up new career options but more importantly builds resilience and belief in your abilities as an Aboriginal person; allowing for your strength of character to shine through on your life journey."

–Uncle David Rathman
Arrernte Elder

Purkarninhi

"Purkarninhi is a Kurna word and when yarning with Uncle Lewis O'Brien he advised that it was an appropriate name for our UniSA Elders in Residence group. Purkarninhi translates to mean 'becoming an elder', and our Elders in Residence has since its early gatherings in 2017 grown the space, an important one for engagement between First Nations and the University of South Australia community. Respectful relationships and reciprocity are core to growing Aboriginal engagement across UniSA."

Our Elders in Residence in their testimonials tell us that education is essential to First Nations futures, and Elders should be valued as a gift to future students, so they might know the stories of our past and how we might positively grow the present and the future."

–Professor Irene Watson
Pro Vice Chancellor: Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy, University of South Australia

Purkarnintha in Residence is an Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy initiative, assisted by the Samstag Museum of Art, launched September 2021.

University of South Australia respectfully acknowledges the Kurna, Boandik and Barngarla First Nations Peoples and their Elders past and present, who are the First Nations' traditional owners of the land that are now home to the University of South Australia's campuses in Adelaide, Mount Gambier and Whyalla. We are honoured to recognise our connection to the Kurna, the Boandik and the Barngarla lands, and their history, culture and spirituality through these locations, and we strive to ensure that we operate in a manner which respects their Elders and ancestors. We also acknowledge the other First Nations of lands across Australia with which we conduct business, their Elders, ancestors, cultures and heritage.



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Front cover Caption: APY Art Centre Collective, *Seven Sisters*, 2018, Acrylic on linen, Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia Art Collection, 2019.01

Senior Artists: Wawiriya Burton, Mona Mitakiki, Sylvia Ken, Tjungkara Ken and emerging artist Sharon Adamson.

Contributing Artists: Nyurpaya Kaika Burton, Wanatura Lewis, Sally Scales, Tjimpayie Prestley, Kathy Maringka, Gladys Roberts, Rita Rolley, Celine Tunkin, Madeline Curley (Kaltjiti Arts), Emily Paddy, Nyanyu Watson, Jennifer Mungee, Joyleen Roberts (Ninuku Arts).

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