

Nih Manjaree and Notre Dame

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The University of Notre Dame Australia's commitment to reconciliation values the importance of a whole of University approach that recognises and builds on existing commitments to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout Australia. It is committed to providing further support in the process of Reconciliation.

On the Fremantle campus, one of many initiatives that has been introduced to address a culturally safe learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students has been the production of the promotional film, *Nih Manjaree*.

Nih Manjaree is about increasing cultural knowledge capacity for non-Aboriginal staff and to make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students feel welcome and supported during their studies. The film attains a community outcome to ensure Aboriginal students are connected strongly to one other, and to feel less isolated in a tertiary setting due to their Aboriginality and cultural diversity.

The aim of this workshop is to introduce participants, through the film resource *Nih Manjaree*, to how universities can encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to university life, along with developing the following:

- course specific study skills
- their preparedness for the many courses on offer
- relationships and support networks with their peers and staff who will teach them; and
- the opportunity to meet Aboriginal staff and their colleagues in a culturally safe place like Notre Dame.

Such a film can become a valuable resource that is used in a range of settings to assist with enhancing a culturally safe teaching, learning and working environment. It can be used during Cultural Awareness training for staff, at student Open Days and Aboriginal high school visits to the campus. Providing all staff with the skills, the resources and the ability to engage with students, increases a culturally safe learning space and appropriate support structures enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to thrive and complete their studies.