

Canberra  
Grammar  
School



READY FOR  
THE WORLD

# INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

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Programme Outline



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

CANBERRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL ACKNOWLEDGES  
THE NGUNNAWAL PEOPLE, TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS  
OF THE LANDS WHERE THE SCHOOL IS SITUATED.

WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT THEIR  
CONTINUING CULTURE AND CONTRIBUTION THEY  
MAKE TO THE LIFE OF CANBERRA AND THE REGION.

WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OTHER FIRST NATIONS  
PEOPLES ON WHOSE LAND WE GATHER.

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# INVITATION FROM THE HEAD OF CANBERRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## FROM THE INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS PROGRAMME COORDINATOR

Thank you for your interest in the CGS Indigenous Scholars Programme.

As a leading school for Australia's national capital, Canberra Grammar School is proudly committed to educating a generation of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who will create a future of justice and equality for all Australians together.

Backed by the School community, the CGS Foundation, the Podmore Foundation and many others, our scholarships provide extraordinary opportunities for students of talent and character to realise their potential in an environment that nurtures excellence in learning, sport, the arts, community service and leadership.

Our School is large and diverse. It brings together more than 2,000 girls and boys from Pre-School to Year 12 and from over forty nationalities as boarders and as day students. In that range is the opportunity for students to learn both together and from each other.

That is one of the greatest values of our CGS Indigenous Scholars Programme: the chance for all students to grow together in personal and cultural understanding, in friendship, in recognition of our country's heritage and with shared commitment to the future.

Our CGS Indigenous Scholars are ambassadors for our School, our country and the legacy of millennia. In the heart of Australia's capital, we hope that our access to many of the leading intellectual, cultural and political institutions of our nation will fuel their aspirations and give strength to their capacity as leaders of their generation.

It is our aim, in all that we do, to educate young men and women who are curious, creative, confident and compassionate citizens of the world. We hope that you might join us in that, and we warmly invite you to read the accompanying information about our Indigenous Scholars Programme. Please be in touch if you have questions.

We look forward to it.

Thank you once again, sincerely,

**Justin Garrick**  
Head of School

In 2019 Canberra Grammar School commenced the Indigenous Scholars Programme, inviting families from the South Coast of NSW to apply for boarding scholarships. This brought together students from Kiama, Ulladulla, Nowra and Wreck Bay to join Indigenous students from the local Canberra region.

In 2022, the programme includes nineteen students from each year level of the Senior School. Although a small group, the students have made a significant impact on their new school and helped to raise awareness, understanding and appreciation of Indigenous culture.

I firmly believe that our Indigenous students have made us a better community and a better school.

Canberra Grammar School has greatly benefitted from the contributions of inspirational and proud young Indigenous students. With such a positive start, I can only see the programme growing in strength; offering Indigenous students the chance to enjoy attending Canberra Grammar School and helping to shape our community towards a more positive and inclusive culture.

**Stuart McNeill**  
Director of Active Education (Senior School)  
and Indigenous Scholars Programme Coordinator

# ABOUT CANBERRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Established in 1929, Canberra Grammar School (CGS) is a co-educational Independent Anglican school offering outstanding academic education, co-curricular opportunities and pastoral care to day and boarding students of all backgrounds and faiths within a community guided by Christian values.

CGS is the only co-educational boarding school in the ACT, and the only school in the ACT to offer the NSW Higher School Certificate. In 2011 CGS also became an International Baccalaureate World School, and now offers the Diploma Programme (Year 11 and 12) and Primary Years Programme (Early Years to Year 6).

We provide a dynamic, future-focussed international education with access to world-class opportunities, grounded in social awareness and responsibility. As we look to the century ahead, we aspire for our students to be leaders of their generation and ready for the world.

Building on the professional expertise of its staff, the commitment of its community and the resources of the nation's capital, Canberra Grammar School aspires to be the most dynamic and distinctive centre of learning in Australia.

THE SCHOOL RESPECTS AND NURTURES ALL STUDENTS AS INDIVIDUALS, SEEKING TO INSPIRE, SUPPORT AND CELEBRATE THE EFFORTS OF ALL IN REALISING THEIR INTELLECTUAL, SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ASPIRATIONS.

At Canberra Grammar School, we ready our students for the challenges and excitement of a truly global future. Through a varied curriculum, diverse learning opportunities, and complementary co-curricular activities, our students are encouraged to develop critical-thinking capacities, to find creative solutions and the confidence to lead in an increasingly complex world.



## WHY DOES CGS OFFER AN INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS PROGRAMME?

Canberra Grammar School envisions a possible future in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the same chances and opportunities as non-Indigenous children. The School recognises our position in being able to affect equity and equal opportunity by welcoming Indigenous Scholars to the School community each year through the Indigenous Scholars Programme.

Our Indigenous Scholars have the opportunity to be ambassadors for their cultural heritage, to take pride in their Aboriginal identity and to share their knowledge with other students in the hope of reconciling the past with an optimistic future. We recognise the transformative power of a world-class education and the impact this can have on the community and societal outcomes across Indigenous and non-Indigenous settings.

The School seeks to reconcile our young history with the ancient cultural heritage of the Ngunnawal people on whose land our School stands. We seek to do this through recognition and understanding of history and through the integration of traditional culture and knowledge of Country in pursuit of a collaborative and equitable future for Australia.

We acknowledge that it is not possible to alter the past, and we pay respect to the trauma inflicted upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We seek to reconcile ourselves with the past so that history is not repeated. Not everything can be resolved overnight. However, education is the key to enacting change, and Canberra Grammar School is in a position to enable change through its role as an educational facility and pillar of the community.





# HOW THE SCHOOL SUPPORTS ITS SCHOLARS

Scholarship recipients will be supported to achieve in school, and to create pathways to further education and employment through:

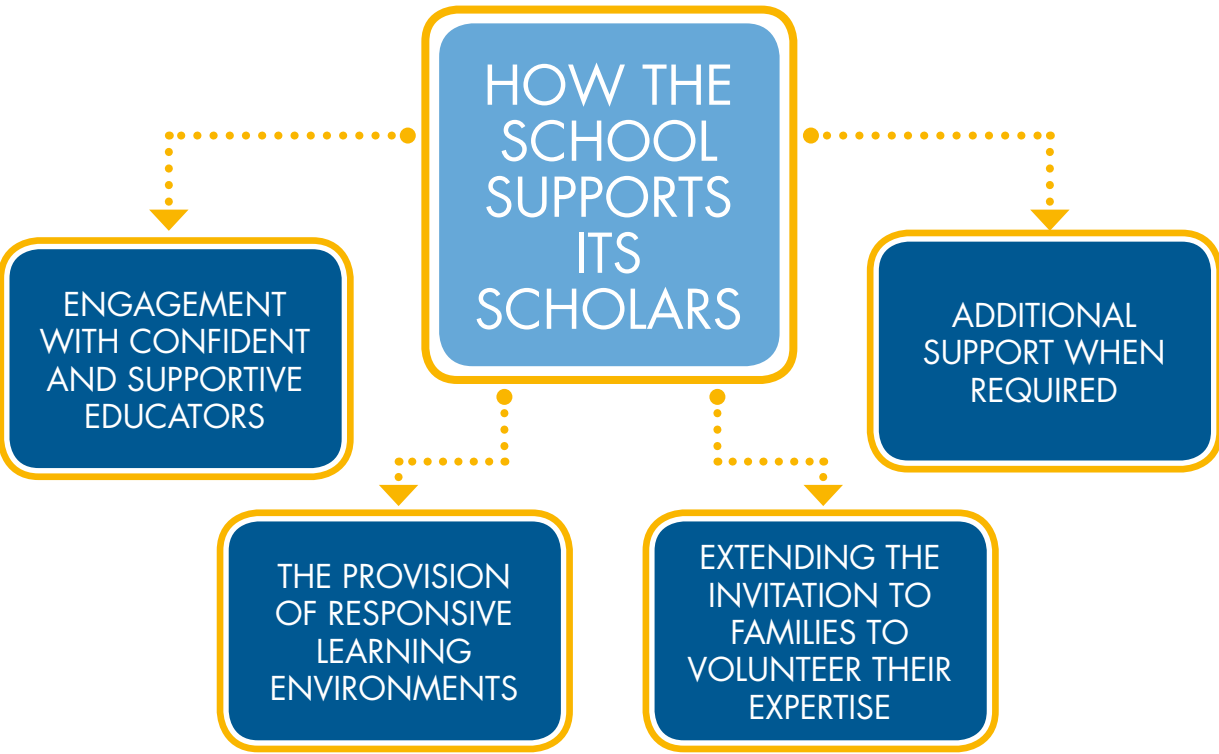
- **Engagement with confident and supportive educators.** Staff provide a high level of support to students and their families, ensuring they feel safe and included in school life. Staff consider the holistic needs of the child, with high expectation of success, wellbeing and cultural needs a priority. Students develop leadership skills and are supported to be passionate advocates for and educators of their Indigenous culture and identity
- **The provision of responsive learning environments.** Mindful that individual needs are diverse and change over time, continuous monitoring is an integral component of the CGS Student Development Programme, ensuring that learning requirements are recognised and responded to
- **Additional support when required.** Students are provided increased access to learning and development programmes through the implementation of individualised learning plans, when necessary, that identify personalised support needed to participate fully in the learning programme. Families are invited to contribute to the development of individualised learning plans; and
- **Extending the invitation to families to volunteer their expertise.** Utilising the expertise of our community in the teaching and delivery of Aboriginal cultural knowledge and languages.

## CULTIVATING AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Canberra Grammar School aims to cultivate an inclusive community where students and staff of all backgrounds and faiths can learn together. As educators, we continue to seek guidance from our local Indigenous elders to develop mutually respectful relationships with the local community. We work with young people, and our commitment is to ignite a sense of hope and imagination in all our students to imagine a future in which they have agency to affect positive change.

The Indigenous Scholars Support Team encourages the students to fully participate in the life of the School by immersing themselves in the comprehensive range of academic and active learning opportunities. Students are supported by a full-time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mentor and are encouraged to identify a secondary personal mentor to assist in their pastoral care. Through focussed tutoring and the mentorship process, students build confidence and find their voice. By sharing and speaking about their culture, they find their place and in so doing play an essential part in helping to cultivate broader understanding.

CGS is dedicated to creating a welcoming environment for our Indigenous Scholars, promoting anti-racism campaigns in the student body, taking part in cultural awareness training for staff, and implementing knowledge of traditional practices and histories into the curriculum. We work alongside parents of our Indigenous Scholars as partners, building positive connections with families by fostering mutually respectful relationships.





# ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION

Canberra Grammar School invites scholarship applications from Indigenous students who believe they would thrive in our environment. We envision these scholarships to be mutually beneficial, learning with and from one another.

Scholarships are awarded to students who show the potential to succeed, who demonstrate care and concern for the broader community, have a range of talents and interests, and are eager and ready to participate in and contribute to the CGS community. Those who have shown leadership ability and commitment to their education are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must be proud of their culture and have a desire to give back to the communities they are involved in.

## Criteria

**To be eligible for the Indigenous Scholars Programme, students should be:**

- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage and eligible to receive ABSTUDY
- Receiving encouragement and support for their scholarship application
- Committed to making some financial contribution towards expenses
- Connected to community through sports, leadership or cultural programmes; and
- Respectful of the Christian ethos of the School Community.

**Academic commitment must be demonstrated either in the application or interview process, including:**

- Good homework habits
- Sufficient literacy and numeracy skills to allow the student to cope with the study load
- Outstanding achievement in at least one area, including sport, drama, music, leadership and/or academic studies
- A commitment to staying at CGS until the end of Year 12
- A positive attitude to learning
- An ability to adjust to a new learning environment and high academic standards; and
- An ability to relate well with people from many different backgrounds.

**Successful students will be expected to:**

- Maintain a high effort rating (above 80% based on CGS effort scoring)
- Maintain an excellent attendance record (above 90% based on CGS records)
- Maintain high behavioural standards
- Participate fully in a summer and winter co-curricular programme
- Attend all School carnivals and relevant in-School events; and
- If boarding, live full-time in the boarding house, including weekends.

# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

In 2016 Canberra Grammar School partnered with the Podmore Trust to support the placement of our first Indigenous Scholar. In late 2018 administration of the Podmore Trust was handed over to the Canberra Grammar School Foundation – the philanthropic branch of the School – to continue its work in providing equitable opportunities for Indigenous students.

With the Podmore Trust established, it allowed the shared values, common interests and synergies of the two Foundations to work in parallel with the CGS Indigenous Scholars Programme. The CGS Foundation will continue the spirit of Podmore by returning opportunity to Indigenous children in the Canberra region by providing educational scholarships and access to leadership and sporting opportunities.

Two of the Indigenous Scholarships awarded are directly funded by the CGS Podmore Trust, and are named the ‘CGS Podmore Warawitcha Scholarship’ and the ‘CGS Podmore Brigadier Damian Roche Memorial Scholarship’. You can read more about the CGS Podmore Trust (previously Podmore Foundation) at: [CGSFUNDATION.ORG.AU/PODMORE-FOUNDATION](https://CGSFUNDATION.ORG.AU/PODMORE-FOUNDATION)

The CGS Foundation facilitates the endowment of educational scholarships and access to leadership and sporting opportunities at our Red Hill campus for Indigenous students by subsidising academic and boarding fees for the full period of enrolment.

All selected scholarship recipients must be eligible for a full or part ABSTUDY allowance. Payment of the allowance is directed to the School to further cover tuition and boarding fees, with the remainder to be financed by a parental contribution. This financial obligation is a requirement of the programme as a demonstration of commitment to and support of the student’s education at CGS.

The amount of the parental financial contribution is set by crosschecking the tax return from the previous year against the Scale of Parental Financial Contribution Schedule. The tax return must be provided to the School by 1 December before the start of the academic year.

Additional costs may be incurred by the parents for items such as social activities, musical instrument hire, and non-compulsory events and trips. A statement of account is sent each term via email detailing any fees and charges owing. A direct debit is required to be established and maintained with the School to cover these costs. Other personal costs, such as spending money, toiletries, hair-cuts, and phone bills, are to be covered by the family.

Applications for ABSTUDY are made through Services Australia and forms can be accessed at: [SERVICESAUSTRALIA.GOV.AU/ABSTUDY](https://SERVICESAUSTRALIA.GOV.AU/ABSTUDY)

Administration of payment management is required to be authorised to the School when the Scholar starts at CGS.





# FINANCIAL INFORMATION & SUPPORT

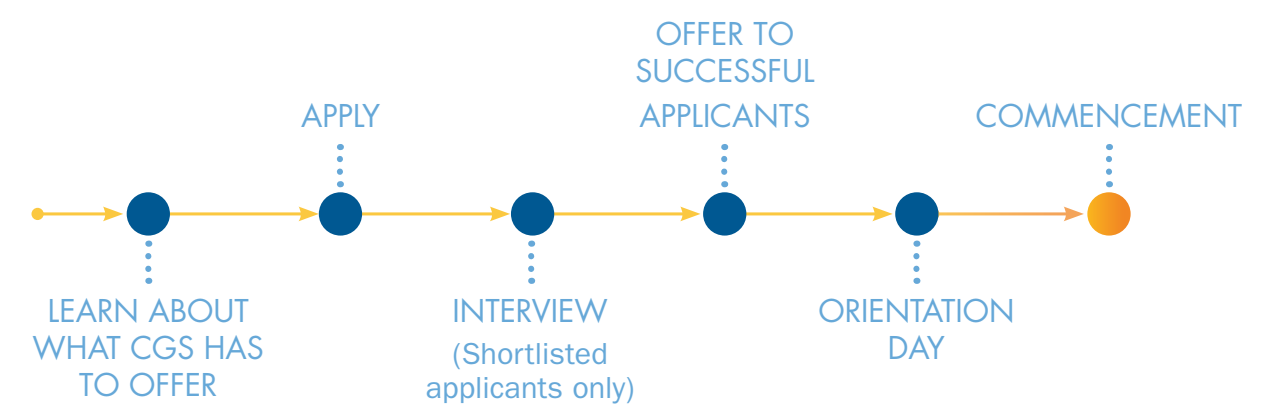
## Scale of Parental Financial Contribution

As a part of the Indigenous Scholars Programme, it is expected that families will make a financial contribution based on their ability to contribute. A suggested scale of parental financial contribution will be provided to applicants as a part of the application process. If you require more information, please contact the Business Office at [cgs.fees@cgs.act.edu.au](mailto:cgs.fees@cgs.act.edu.au) or on +61 (2) 6260 9755.

## What does CGS provide?

<b>BOARDING FEES</b>	Regular fees associated with boarding (less parental financial contribution)
<b>TUITION FEES</b>	Regular CGS tuition fees (less parental financial contribution)
<b>UNIFORMS</b>	A basic summer, winter and sport uniform package
<b>TEXTBOOKS &amp; SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	Purchase or hire of required textbooks and subscriptions
<b>CO-CURRICULAR FEES</b>	Summer and winter co-curricular activities covered up to \$500 each
<b>BASIC STATIONERY</b>	As identified in the list released by the School each year
<b>SCHOOL CAMP FEES</b>	All camp participation fees (not including clothing and toiletry costs)
<b>TECHNOLOGY</b>	One Notebook device (not including insurance)

# IMPORTANT DATES FOR APPLICANTS



TIMELINE	
1 June 2022	Applications open
8 August 2022	Applications close
15 August 2022	Applicants informed of initial outcomes
Week of 29 August 2022	Shortlisted applicants interviewed
5 September 2022	First round offers
TBC	Orientation Day – Subject selection and Academic Placement Testing

# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applications must include the following information:

- 1. A completed Scholarship Application Form
- 2. Copies of the student’s two most recent school reports
- 3. A copy of the student’s most recent NAPLAN results
- 4. One personal reference which includes the referee’s address and contact details
- 5. One reference from a member of the student’s Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island community which includes the referee’s address and contact details
- 6. A copy of the student’s birth certificate; and
- 7. Evidence of application for ABSTUDY.

Application and supporting documents can be sent to:

[admissions@cgs.act.edu.au](mailto:admissions@cgs.act.edu.au), with the subject line ‘Indigenous Scholars Programme Application’.

Or sent via mail to:

Head of Admissions  
Canberra Grammar School  
40 Monaro Crescent,  
Red Hill ACT 2603

If providing hard copies, please ensure documents included are not originals as they will not be returned.

# INDIGENOUS SCHOLARS SUPPORT TEAM

POSITION	NAME	RESPONSIBILITY
Indigenous Scholars Programme Coordinator and Director of Active Education (Senior School)	Mr Stuart McNeill	Oversight of the Indigenous Scholars Programme including Finance and Community Outreach
Indigenous Student Coordinator	Ms Louise Dwyer	Pastoral, academic, administrative and cultural support of Indigenous students
Careers Advisor Indigenous Student Mentor	Ms Verity Beman	Assistance with choosing post-school pathways and access to additional support and mentoring of Indigenous students
Head of Boys’ Boarding	Mr Kiel Brown	Residential issues including pastoral support, leave, behavioural management and health
Head of Girls’ Boarding	Mrs Jenny Hunter	Residential issues including pastoral support, leave, behavioural management and health
Head of Admissions	Ms Huma Cheema	Initial point of contact and support during application and orientation
Head of Student House (HoSH)	Various	Pastoral support and day to day academic and behavioural monitoring and management
House Tutor	Various	In conjunction with the HoSH – Pastoral support and day to day academic and behavioural monitoring and management
Health Clinic	Ms Heather White and nursing staff	Coordination of health management. Delivery of minor treatments and medications



# Canberra Grammar School



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