

A young Aboriginal boy with dark, wavy hair is smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark grey school suit jacket over a white collared shirt and a yellow and blue striped tie. The background is a soft, out-of-focus indoor setting with warm lighting. The text 'Enriching lives' is in red at the top right, and 'Making a profound difference in the lives of Aboriginal boys' is in black below it. A decorative graphic of red and yellow wavy lines is at the bottom. The logo for 'Indigenous Education The Scots College' is in the bottom right corner.

Enriching lives

Making a
profound
difference in
the lives of
Aboriginal
boys

The logo consists of a series of colored dots in red, orange, and yellow, arranged in a wave-like pattern that suggests a rising sun or a stylized mountain range.

Indigenous Education
The Scots College



Indigenous Education at The Scots College aims to make a profound difference in boys' lives with the opportunity to be a fine Scots boy.

Research shows that the inability to access long-term quality education is one of the major contributing factors to the self-perpetuating cycle of unemployment, poverty and ill health experienced by some of Australia's Indigenous communities today.

The Scots College Indigenous Bursary Fund was established to provide top quality secondary educational opportunities for young Aboriginal men.

The Program offers an education to boys who demonstrate leadership potential and are committed, with the support of their families, to achieving excellence in their lives.

“We have two main aims:

Firstly, to have Aboriginal boys as an everyday part of College life, to enrich the lives of all the students and the College community, so that they understand and appreciate Indigenous culture, have Indigenous friends and break the cycle of inequality and cultural separation.

The second aim is for their education to benefit their communities in some way, not just themselves.”

Dr Ian PM Lambert, Principal.



Program objectives

- To nurture fine young Indigenous men of Brave Hearts and Bold Minds.
- To enrich the lives of all Scots boys educationally and personally through the presence of Indigenous students.
- For graduates of Indigenous Education to make a strong and positive contribution to their family, community and nation as citizens and leaders.
- To educate a minimum of three students per cohort from Years 7 to 12, all as boarders.

Funding

Most of the Indigenous students funding is made up of three components:

- Private funding from either a generous Scots family or private business
- The AIEF (Australian Indigenous Education Foundation)
- Abstudy (Federal Government Funding)
- We also have four boys on Yalari scholarships

Fundraising events are used to build our corpus. Our aim is to build this to \$10million in ten years, which will eventually lead to the Program being funded in perpetuity by the interest generated by the corpus.

All donations to the The Scots College Indigenous Bursary Fund are tax deductible.

Mentoring

The Mentoring Program is pivotal in helping the Indigenous boys succeed at Scots. As fathers of current Scots boys, all Mentors provide the boys with someone who knows the College well, who can provide them with help, guidance and support throughout their time at Scots and beyond. Mentors and their families also provide an important link between the boys' families and the College by accompanying parents to parent teacher meetings, or going to them on their behalf if parents are unable to attend themselves. Mentors are also encouraged to accompany their mentee on one of the parent hikes at Glengarry. As the years go by, the Mentors and their families and the Indigenous boys and their families become a close cohesive group who all share a focus: the wellbeing and future of the boy on the Program.

"As a parent of two boys who have thrived at Scots, I try to provide some support to my mentee both during his time at Scots and in his subsequent career. I have been so impressed with his desire to embrace and engage with Scots and to take opportunities to spend time with my family. My family and I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity which will be of benefit to us all." **Current Mentor**

"My Mentor is the coolest guy around. I don't have a Dad to talk to and he really helps me out like my Dad would. He knows so much stuff and always seems to know the right things to say. His family is awesome and I love hanging out there, they really feel like family. Mum talks to him often and she is really happy that I have someone who can guide me to make the best use of the education I am getting here. I know other boys think they have the best Mentor, but I know I do really." **Current mentee**



Sponsorship

Each student's place is underpinned by a private sponsor alongside the AIEF and ABSTUDY. Sponsors take on a commitment to sponsor an Indigenous boy throughout his time at Scots. The boy is known to the sponsor, but the sponsor is not known to the boy. Sponsors are both individuals, businesses and family trusts, both inside and outside the Scots community.

"Under the leadership of Dr Lambert and the program director, Jonny Samengo, we have seen the Indigenous Program evolve from five or six boys to around 20 today. It is professionally managed, caring, inclusive and incredibly gratifying when you see both Indigenous and non-Indigenous boys living together for their mutual benefit. We endorse the Indigenous Program as long-term sponsors and sincerely encourage others to do the same." **Current sponsor**

"We approached Jonny Samengo to support the Indigenous Program as we recognised that it was a wonderful opportunity to make a significant difference in a young man's life. The recipient of the scholarship we fund is progressing very well. We are kept informed of his progress and have even had the opportunity to meet him a few times, albeit that he has no idea that we are his sponsors." **Current sponsor**

"By supporting the Program, my wife and I feel that we have not only helped a young man navigate towards a better life, but also helped our son learn to celebrate diversity and understand that our individual differences are what make us unique and special." **Current sponsor**

"I would urge anyone that is thinking about sponsoring to just do it! It won't just provide a young man with a bright, new future, it will also bring you the deep joy that comes from making a real difference to the lives of others." **Current sponsor**

Finding the most suitable students

We do not look for either outstanding sportsmen or academics. We look for two things: Boys with a positive attitude who will make best use of every opportunity available to them at Scots and also the back up of a family member that has a very strong commitment to the power of education.

We expect our Indigenous boys to work hard to find an area of schooling that they love and to give it their all to succeed, whether this be Music, Sport, Performing Arts, Drama, Academic or Pipes and Drums.

We have Indigenous boys who have graduated from Scots who have been Prefects, heads of Houses, academic and performing arts prize winners, 1st XV team members and won their colours for outstanding achievement in many areas. We look to all applicants to carry on this tradition and find an area they too can excel in with pride.

We provide a very high level of support for the Indigenous boys and encourage the parents and families to have a very close relationship with the College. We see an education at Scots as a journey that affects families just as much it does the boys. These close relationships help the boys to be happy, proud, successful Aboriginal men – young men who will become leaders both at Scots, in their communities and in their chosen field of work.

We also aim to take on boys with a degree of vulnerability in their lives, whether this is due to family, economic or geographical circumstances. We want a place at Scots to be a life changing opportunity for the boy and their family, not simply a nice-to-have.

We visit all shortlisted boys and their families no matter how far away they live. These boys then come to Scots for a ten day sample stay. This gives us all a good chance to get to know each other, before a place is offered.

Mr Jonathan Samengo, Executive Officer, Indigenous Education.



Academic Mentoring

Research tells us there is often a large gap between the learning experiences of Indigenous young people and their non-Indigenous peers. If an Indigenous boy is to grow through opportunity in an environment such as Scots, supporting him to improve his capacity to participate in the academic life of the College to the full extent is critical.

We begin by undertaking a thorough assessment of each boy's specific learning ability, which enables us to determine what each boy needs to thrive in the College's learning environment. One such test has been developed specifically for Indigenous people whose first language is not English. This is a non-numeric, non-linguistic test, which gives an indication of future learning ability. We follow this up with a tailored approach for each boy, which is monitored and evaluated regularly.

In 2013, the role of Academic Mentor was created, dedicated to supporting and nurturing the academic needs of the Indigenous boys. The Academic Mentor is responsible for working with the boys on the implementation of a specific approach to support their academic needs. He supports the boys in one on one sessions throughout the week. During these sessions, the Academic Mentor supports boys to get organised, complete homework tasks and prepare for assessment tasks. During these sessions, the Academic Mentor also supports boys whose first language is a traditional Aboriginal language to improve their English proficiency. A specific program for this has been designed in collaboration with the College's ESL specialists.

As all our Indigenous boys are boarders, the Academic Mentor also supports boys during evening homework sessions. This may involve one on one support, or group work. Ultimately, boys build the skills and confidence to carry them beyond Scots and become active participants in the social, economic and civic life of the broader community.

Do you want to contribute?

Whether it is sponsorship of a boy or a one-off donation, enrolment of an Indigenous student, an offer to help with Mentoring or if you just want to learn more about the Program, please contact:

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Did you know?

455,028
2.3%

50%

3

20

100%

0%

230

8.7%

(Source: ABS data)

Number of Indigenous Australians

Percentage of total population made up of Indigenous Australians

Percentage of the Indigenous population that is 21 or under

Number of Indigenous students in Scots in 2008

Number of Indigenous students in 2014

The percentage of donated funds that go directly towards education and support costs

The amount that is taken out of donations to pay salaries, overheads and administration costs

Number of boarders at Scots

Percentage of boarders that are Indigenous

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