The University of Canberra’s Collaborative Indigenous Research Initiative is delighted to welcome Professor Peter Radoll, Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education & Research, and Director of the Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle.
The Wollotuka Institute

What does Indigenous success look like?

Professor Peter Radoll
PhD ANU
Dean of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Research
Director Wollotuka Institute
University of Newcastle
The Wollotuka Institute’s Footprint

Acknowledging where we work

The Wollotuka Institute acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands within our footprint areas:
- Awabakal Nation
- Darkinung Nation
- Biripai Nation
- Worimi Nation
- Wonnarua Nation
And pay respect to the wisdom of our Elders past and present
Our Cultural Standards

- **Country/Place**
- **Heritage**
- **Culture**
- **Identity**

- **Ngarralin marrung** (Respect and Honouring)
- **Bula Wiyawiyelli** (Inter-Institutional Relationships)
- **Ngiyang nganggalidhi** (Community Responsiveness)
- **Djuwal Ngarrayu** (Academic and Research)
- **Guthi Wangga** (Cultural Celebration)
Where we fit in the Academy

Our Space

We define Wollotuka as a ‘community’ as opposed to a centre or unit, as we together share our successes and challenges with the values and principles of a strong Aboriginal community. Our community (Nguraki, knowledge holders, students, staff, and visitors) relate to Wollotuka as a home, a family, a place they feel grounded and safe.

Wollotuka plays two significant roles within the University firstly, one in which we share our knowledges to enable the enhancement of the western environment and secondly, building on the foundations of our ancestors to further grow our knowledges for future generations.

Reclaiming, respecting and building on our knowledges is integral to the knowledge space we hold within the academy. It is our responsibility to create a space that can be informed by our own epistemologies (way of knowing) and ontologies (way of doing) within our whole community, inclusive of research, learning and teaching, student, staff and community engagement. This strongly relates to our mantra ‘knowledge… our way’

Our achievements are recognised nationally with the 2008 Australian Universities Quality Agency Report noting that we are an Australian leader in Indigenous education and collaboration and the 2012 Federal Government’s Report on the ‘Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People’ (Behrendt review) giving testament to our leadership within Indigenous education.
The Numbers

- 951 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students enrolled across all programs and faculty areas
- 44 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Staff employed by Wollotuka
- 76 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander employed across the University (including Wollotuka)

Manage 5 programs
- Yapug Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Enabling Program
- Bachelor of Aboriginal Professional Practice
- Bachelor of Aboriginal Studies (Honours)
- Research High Degree – 33 enrolments
- Manage 29 courses (subjects) – 1,825 enrolments

Table 1 – Access data represents Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander commencing enrolments within the total of domestic commencing enrolments (Source: University MIS, 31 March 2014)

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Governance and Leadership

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Vice-Chancellor

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Division)

Head (School of Medicine & Public Health)

BATSIEI

Wollotuka staff and students

Indigenous Health staff and students

University staff & students

Community

NGURAKI

NGURAKI

NGURAKI

NGURAKI

NGURAKI

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

AUSTRALIA
Wollotuka’s unique management structure

Based on a traditional collaborative leadership perspective forms a dynamic decision making process that is achieving outstanding results in Indigenous education locally, nationally and internationally. The Directors share responsibility for strategic planning, evaluating, budgeting and managing resources. Each Director drives a specific portfolio within their areas of expertise actively negotiating and engaging with staff, students and community both inside and outside of the University to achieve outstanding results.

Professor Peter Radoll– Dean Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Research, Director Wollotuka

Leanne Holt – Director, Indigenous Student Engagement, Employment and Collaboration

Associate Professor Peter O’Mara – Director, Indigenous Health

Professor John Maynard – Director and Chair of Indigenous History
Sharing the Space

Wollotuka believes that the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is achieved through a holistic approach that recognises the cultural differences and values the diversity of cultural backgrounds and experiences of those students accessing higher education. An all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff with strong educational and personal qualifications ensure a culturally affirming, positive academic environment that encourages and inspires students to continually grow academically, personally and culturally.

Since Wollotuka’s inception in 1983 engaging and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is our core focus area. The University (an alien learning environment for many of our people) can seem daunting and overwhelming. Over the years the quest to ensure a culturally safe environment has seen many developments and initiatives.
Indigenisation of Curriculum

An Aboriginal Curriculum Development senior academic has worked with Schools and Faculties across the University to develop an integrated approach to curriculum development. A range of models are being used to ensure Indigenous perspectives are incorporated in a way that is responsive to the needs and constraints of different program and discipline structures. Indigenous perspectives are included in Health, Education, Law, Social Work, and Environmental Science programs.
Thank you.