



# FLINDERS STUDENT TEACHER WINS PRESTIGIOUS INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIP

A Flinders student teacher has won a prestigious Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship, the second time a Flinders undergraduate has received the award in the two years since it was established.

Stacey Fyfe-Savage, (pictured) who is studying for a double degree in Early Childhood and Special Education, said even after hearing the good news she couldn't quite believe she had won because she had approached her interview in Canberra with complete candour.

"I was completely honest and the panel thanked me for that," Ms Fyfe-Savage said.

She told the selection panel that she had overcome considerable odds to study at Flinders and is now a mother of three, juggling work as a Community Education Officer at a primary school in Victor Harbour, and full-time study.

Ms Fyfe-Savage also talked about her passion for reviving the almost forgotten language of her people, the Ngarrindjeri from the lower Murray River, western Fleurieu Peninsula and the Coorong, and about her dream of becoming a teacher in a system where there needs to be more examples of Indigenous achievers.

"Receiving the award is a great privilege and it shows that dreams can come true," Ms Fyfe-Savage said.

The Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarships are awarded each year to help one Indigenous student in every State and Territory to undertake Education studies at university. It is part of a raft of Government initiatives aimed at closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

For the winners it is worth \$25,000 a year for the life of the teaching degree, an award Ms Fyfe-Savage says gives her enormous relief and will help out with the difficulties she has fitting in studies with her other commitments.

Flinders' Yunggoorendi First Nations Centre supports Indigenous students in higher education and Associate Professor Tracey Bunda said the Centre was very proud that for the second consecutive year an Aboriginal student of Flinders University had won the Governor-General's Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship.

"Following in the footsteps of Angelina Parfitt in 2010, Stacey Fyfe-Savage is a most worthy recipient for 2011. A Ngarrindjeri woman, mother and mature aged student, Stacey has taken an important step for herself, her family and her community in working towards her Degrees in Education," Associate Professor Bunda said.

"She has a wonderful bubbly personality that is attractive to children and adults alike and this will stand her in good stead for her chosen career," she added.



Advertorial



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Australian Volunteers  
for International Development

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tollfree 1800 331 292 [www.australianvolunteers.com](http://www.australianvolunteers.com)

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## Koori Employment Strategy - Koori Prison Officer Program

**The Department of Justice has a comprehensive Koori Employment Strategy and prides itself on its commitment and achievements in increasing Koori employment across all divisions and all business units. The department recognises the importance of diversity in the workplace and the value that Koori staff bring to the Justice Portfolio.**

The department's Koori Employment Strategy has a range of initiatives, which focus on:

- active promotion of employment and training opportunities with Justice;
- supporting career pathways and retention of staff;
- developing a Koori friendly workplace; and
- being an employer of choice



The department now has over 100 Koori workers in a range of diverse business units, across all levels of the department working in both Koori and non-Koori positions and Program areas.

As of May 2011, the department's Koori workforce represented 1.2% of the department. Building further on its success, the department has set an ambitious target of employing Koories to 2.5% of the department's workforce by 2015. The department will continue to grow, develop and retain its Koori workforce.

There are various staff support networks in the department, including a Koori Staff Network, Koori Youth Network and Regional Koori Staff Networks. These networks aim to retain Koori staff over the long term by promoting peer support and personal

development, establishing networks with other Koories in the department and ensuring that Koori staff have access to career development and training opportunities.

There are a broad range of exciting employment opportunities across all levels of the Department of Justice working in both Koori and non-Koori roles and Program areas. In addition, there is an emphasis on increasing the number of regional employment opportunities across Victoria. The department strongly encourages applications from Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

The Koori Prison Officer Program is a new initiative of the Koori Employment Strategy and aims to increase the number of Koori Prison Officers working across Corrections Victoria. A number of Prison Officer roles have been exempted by VCAT to be filled by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people only. The Program has a Koori specific attraction campaign and a member of the Koori Employment Team participates and provides support to candidates throughout the recruitment and selection process.

Additional support and networking opportunities are provided to recruits through the departments various Koori Staff Networks, the Koori Employment Team and Corrections Victoria's, Indigenous Policy and Services Unit.

To find out more about the department's Koori Employment Strategy, including the Koori Prison Officer Program and upcoming Prison Officer employment opportunities, please visit [www.cvcareers.com.au](http://www.cvcareers.com.au) or contact:

Koori Employment Team  
People and Culture  
Department of Justice  
Tel: (03) 8684 1753  
Email: [koori.employment@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:koori.employment@justice.vic.gov.au)



## KOORI PRISON OFFICERS

### Make a Difference in Your Community

Valuing workplace diversity, the Department of Justice has a growing number of Koori staff working across Victoria, including Koori Prison Officers. This career step will have you working with people and families from different backgrounds and communities. Your work will make a real difference.

**Beechworth Prison, Dhurringile Prison and the Melbourne Assessment Prison** are recruiting now. To find out more information about these positions, please call the Department's Koori Employment Team on (03) 8684 1753. Alternatively, you can visit [www.cvcareers.com.au](http://www.cvcareers.com.au) for more information or to apply online.

Applications close Monday 25th July 2011.

**PRISON OFFICERS - OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE NOW**



Koori staff currently working in the Department of Justice

VCAT has ruled that these positions be filled by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people only (VCAT exemption number: A293/2010)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

