

ANU Advancement

Kambri Scholars Program

2023 Update



Australian
National
University



2020 Kambri Scholar
and 2022 graduate,
Thomson Fleming.
Photo by ANU.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and celebrate the First Australians on whose traditional lands we meet,
and whose cultures are among the oldest continuing cultures in human history.

A message of thanks from Thomson Fleming (BComm '22), 2020 Kambri Scholar at The Australian National University (ANU)

My name is Thomson Fleming. I am a Barkindji and Malayangapa man from the far west NSW town of Broken Hill.

I have the privilege of being a Kambri Scholarship recipient. It has had a profound impact on my life, providing me with networking opportunities, lifelong relationships, a globally recognised education, and opportunities to travel overseas. I would like to thank you on behalf of all Kambri Scholars for the support you have provided.

The Kambri Scholars Program provides life-changing possibilities that enable individuals, like me, to move from their community to a safe environment, overcome financial barriers, pursue higher education, and make a meaningful difference in our communities – giving us every opportunity to be a leader of tomorrow.

Growing up in a single mother household with five siblings, including a younger sister with cerebral palsy, I faced numerous challenges such as domestic violence, housing instability, and financial hardship. I had to work close to full-time hours during my Year 12 at Broken Hill High School to support my family. Despite these hardships, I remained connected to my culture, spending weekends connecting on Barkindji and Malayangapa Country, engaging in activities like fishing, hunting, motorbike riding and cattle mustering, as well as playing footy in my community.

My aspirations to attend university were seemingly out of reach due to family commitments and financial limitations. However, discovering the Kambri Scholars Program presented a life-changing opportunity. With my family unable to financially support my university education, I recognised the scholarship as a means to make my dreams a reality by allowing me to make the transition from Broken Hill to ANU.

With the support of the Kambri Scholars Program, I started at ANU in 2020, studying a Bachelor of Commerce with accounting, finance, and management; and graduated in 2022.

In the second and third years of my degree, I worked as a part-time consultant at Ernst & Young, where I now have a full-time position. I work in the Restructuring and Turnaround Practice and the Indigenous Sector Practice, where I deliver advice in areas such as financial management, restructuring and turnaround, and corporate governance for clients including government, ASX listed companies, and health and education providers. I focus on highly sensitivity engagements with deeply affected stakeholders, predominantly in the Indigenous, mining and the health sectors.

Kambri Scholars are encouraged to “pay it forward” and I am dedicated to give back to my community. I have served as a mentor for Aboriginal boys through the Clontarf Foundation and for students during the ANU Tjabal Centre’s Summer School. I have helped raise money for men’s mental health and youth homelessness, actively taking part in sleep-outs. I have made a conscious decision to be a role model and abstain from alcohol, given the damage I observed as a result of alcohol abuse growing up, and the effect that had on my family and community. I have sought out opportunities to speak as a survivor of domestic violence and youth facing housing issues, in the hope of contributing to promoting healthier outcomes for my people.

Once again, I would like to thank you for supporting the Kambri Scholars Program. I hope that through my message, you can see the difference it has made in my life, and the lives of others around me.

Thomson Fleming

About the Kambri Scholars Program

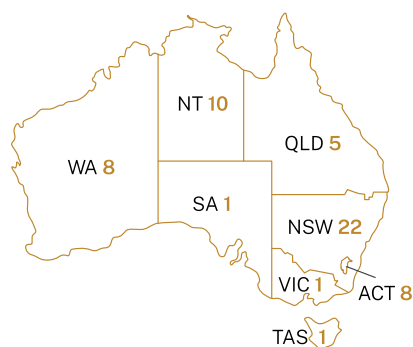
The Kambri Scholars Program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to study at ANU, and go on to fulfilling careers and lives. It ensures a range of holistic and culturally aware support programs are in place at ANU to respond to students' diverse and complex needs, and prioritises connections to Country, culture and community. Administered by the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre at ANU, the Kambri Scholars Program is led and designed by some of Australia's most experienced Indigenous educators. It is highly individualised, directing financial support where it is needed most, with each Kambri Scholar receiving up to \$30,000 per year, for a maximum of five years. This support includes:

- accommodation on campus for the first two years of study, with support to transition off campus in later years
- a stipend for living expenses
- access to an allowance for two return trips home per year
- ancillary support assessed on an individual basis

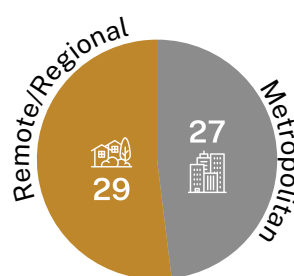
The Kambri Scholars Program has awarded 56 life-changing scholarships since its inception three years ago. With the ongoing support of donors, and the University matching donations dollar for dollar, ANU ultimately aims to establish a \$50 million endowment to fund at least 15 new Kambri Scholars every year, in perpetuity. The decision to create an endowment, where the capital remains permanently protected, is grounded in the unique and enduring difference this program hopes to make.

Kambri Scholars Program impact

Kambri Scholars origin by state



Kambri Scholars intake by year — Total 56



Kambri Scholars from metropolitan versus remote and regional Australia

Kambri Scholars across ANU Colleges*

Change in 2023

ANU College	Number of Scholars	Change in 2023
ANU College of Asia and the Pacific	3	-
ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences	27	+5
ANU College of Business and Economics	9	+3
ANU College of Engineering, Computing and Cybernetics	4	+3
ANU College of Health and Medicine	6	+4
ANU College of Law	12	+5
ANU College of Science	16	+3

*Accounting for double degrees

*as of September 2023

Thank you for supporting the Kambri Scholars Program

Your gift to the Kambri Scholars Program has been matched dollar for dollar by the University, helping more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars achieve their dreams. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this program.

Contact us

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