

What's new in the **Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana** residential scholarship?

Currently, only 0.18% of doctors and 1.1% of medical students in Australia are Indigenous. There are relatively few Indigenous students enrolled in tertiary health studies, and only 120 enrolled in medicine across Australia. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) currently has 19 students, enrolling eight students into first year medicine this year, with half offered residential scholarships at Shalom College through the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana scholarship program. Shalom Gamarada runs in partnership with the UNSW's Shalom College, Nura Gili Indigenous Programs Unit and the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, and has done so from 2005. We have been able to assist 15 students to

study medicine, optometry and medical science. Each scholarship is valued at \$15000 per year and covers full board and tutoring support at the College on the university's Kensington campus. Conditional on passing their examinations, each student awarded a scholarship has tenure until they complete their degree. Currently, there are eight Indigenous students on scholarships residing at Shalom College — seven medical and one optometry, with four in first year, two in second year, one in third year and one in fourth year.

When it commenced in 2005, the program was initially funded solely by the annual Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Aboriginal Art Exhibition and sale, with proceeds from the first exhibition (in 2005) funding the initial intake of recipients.



Artist: Jan Billcan

Some of the paintings from the upcoming exhibition are featured in this issue (pages 555, 566, 575, 598 and 603). In 2006 and 2007, however, the program received considerable support from the corporate sector and from individuals providing named scholarships in honour of relatives, events or organisations. This year, we also announced our very first endowed scholarship, worth \$22000 per year — \$15000 for the residential component and an additional \$7000 to assist the scholarship holder with other expenses.

The 2008 exhibition will be held from 21 July to 27 July and will be officially opened by David Gonski AC, Chancellor of the UNSW and Dr Tamara MacKean, President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association. A panel discussion on Indigenous health and another on Aboriginal art will be held on the final day of the exhibition, from 2pm.

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