

Postgraduate research scholarship in preventing harm from alcohol among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth

Supervisors (tentative; to be confirmed): [A/Prof Lexine Stapinski](#), [A/Prof Michael Doyle](#), [Dr Kriscia Tapia](#)

A postgraduate scholarship, valued at \$42,440 per annum, is available to undertake a PhD or Masters by research in preventing alcohol harms among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth. The scholarship is funded by an NHMRC Investigator Grant to A/Prof Stapinski and will be available for up to 1.75 years for a successful Masters by Research student, or up to 3.5 years for a successful PhD student. This opportunity is open to people who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person as defined in the University of Sydney's [policy](#).

Background: Despite the ongoing impacts of colonization and inequity, strong cultural and community connections have persisted as sources of resilience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. Nonetheless, intergenerational trauma has contributed to poorer emotional and social well-being, with alcohol and other drug (AOD) use identified as both a risk factor for and a consequence of mental illness among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth. Over the past decade, encouraging trends have been observed with declines in binge drinking (≥ 5 standard drinks) and tobacco use reported among young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents. However, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth continue to experience disproportionate harm from AOD use. To reduce this inequity, it is critical that alcohol and drug prevention initiatives are implemented that are culturally relevant and empowering for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adolescents. [Strong & Deadly Futures](#) is a school-based, culturally-inclusive alcohol and drug prevention program that is currently being trialled in 22 schools across QLD, WA and NSW. The program was co-developed with Aboriginal creative agencies in collaboration Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous high-school students.

Research undertaken as part of this project could include:

- Identifying factors that protect against alcohol and other drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth,
- Secondary analysis of data collected as part of the ongoing trial to examine wellbeing benefits associated with the [Strong & Deadly Futures](#) school-based program,
- Conduct co-development sessions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth to explore their perspectives and inform adaptation of [Strong & Deadly Futures](#) for their local context.

Visit this [page](#) to submit your application, which will require a CV, cover letter outlining your interest, and two referees. For any questions about the opportunity or application process, please email lexine.stapinski@sydney.edu.au