Monash University launches generous scholarship for Indigenous students

Indigenous graduates aiming for a professional qualification in law have the unique opportunity to further their education at Monash University in 2014 with the introduction of a generous new scholarship package.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Monash Law School, the Law School Foundation, together with the Faculty of Law, has announced the Dodson Indigenous Juris Doctor Scholarship.

This valuable package, to be awarded on academic merit for entry into the Master of Laws (Juris Doctor) in 2014 will offer a tuition fee waiver and living stipend of up to $162,000 for the duration of the degree.

Faculty General Manager, Ms Janet White said the scholarship was part of the Faculty’s commitment to expanding higher education opportunities available to Indigenous Australians who wish to study law.

“There are a number of initiatives offered by Monash at undergraduate level and so we decided to open a pathway to a postgraduate qualification for those who have already acquired a first degree,” Ms White said.

The scholarship was named after Distinguished Monash Alumnus Professor Michael Dodson AM and his daughter Inala (Dodson) Cooper, as the first Aboriginal parent and child to graduate from the Monash Law School and in recognition of their contribution to the Indigenous community and to Indigenous affairs over many years.

An Indigenous education advocate, Inala Cooper graduated from Monash University this year with a Master of Human Rights Law.

Inala is currently the Senior Adviser, Indigenous Policy and Strategy at Monash University’s Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit. She is dedicated to the advancement of the rights of Indigenous Australians and is passionate about lifting Indigenous education aspirations.

“I think the introduction of this very generous scholarship is a reflection of the University’s commitment to ensuring more Indigenous people have access to a quality education,” Ms Cooper said.

“I have had that opportunity, and through my work at Monash I am helping to create those opportunities for other Indigenous people.”

The new scholarship complements a range of existing programs at Monash University available to Indigenous Australians, assisting them to study at one of the most prestigious higher education institutions in the world.

Applications for commencement in 2014 close on December 11. Any Indigenous student hoping to enrol in the 2014 intake is encouraged to apply for the scholarship.