

# SCHOOL GRADUATE STORIES

**Name:** Karen Fairman (nee Hill)  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Education (Primary – AREP)  
**Year of degree:** 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Campus:** Bankstown  
**High School:** Wyong High School  
**Completed Year 12 in:** 1996  
**Scholarships held:** Commonwealth Education Cost Scholarship,  
Indigenous Access Scholarship



**Is the degree or course structure what you expected?**

Yes, the format is supportive of Indigenous students who live locally and also those who live in rural areas. The five year structure allows for work and study to be combined.

**How is university different from school?**

The workload requires self-discipline for completion, whereas in school the teacher supports and directs you to complete the work. The amount of research is much greater.

**How did high school help you in preparing for university?**

Developing essay writing skills and practising presentations to your peers helps to build your confidence for university assignments and presentations. Doing homework helped to prepare me for the hours of research needed for each subject outside of lectures.

**What is the most interesting thing you've done at university this year?**

I completed a role play to my peers to demonstrate my ability as a future teacher and how to implement classroom strategies. Also, being marked on my acting skills as an 8-year-old disruptive child, diagnosed with ADHD, who builds a castle out of chairs!

**What are some of your achievements since you started university?**

A week of prac when I was able to teach a year 2 class and have the students engaged successfully in the activities I had prepared for them.

**Have your career aspirations changed since you began studying?**

Yes, as my focus in the beginning was simply to teach and now it is to support and develop Indigenous students to achieve in life-long learning at the same level as non-Indigenous students.

**What advice would you give to students at your high school about pursuing university study?**

I began studying straight out of high school and dropped out six months into my study. I wanted to 'experience life' and ten years later discovered my desire was to do what I had given up on. Don't give up on what you want to achieve, even if your peers don't understand or support you.

**Why did you choose to study at UWS?**

The Indigenous program is enriched with knowledge and experiences of the Aboriginal culture. The lecturers are incredibly encouraging and present the Indigenous culture throughout the course content. In comparison to mainstream teaching degrees, the AREP structure has allowed for the inclusion of culture within a workload I can successfully manage.

**Any other comments or observations about university study?**

The skills developed in studying at university, including the ability to research independently, manage group work and presentations, and the depth of content acquired, helps to provide a foundation for future developments in the business and educational worlds. It broadens perspectives and opens the mind to unfathomable realms of information which can be used to positively build the individual's concept of the world as well as productively engage in new communities and enriched relationships...or simply, it brings knowledge to life!

# Course Information



## Bachelor of Education (Primary - AREP mode)

The AREP Mode is only available to Australian Indigenous Students.

Where is it held (campus)?

Bankstown

How long is it?

5 years full time

Recommended studies:

Any two units of English and any two units of mathematics (Band 4)

Career opportunities:

Examples include primary school teaching (K-6) in government and non-government sectors, education field officers in a variety of industries, including sport, welfare, community education and also in training and development facilities in industry.

Subjects include:

A core program of curriculum, pedagogy, educational psychology and diversity studies, as well as Indigenous cultural studies and the role of the teacher and education in the community.

UAI (2009)

63.40

Additional information:

The course is offered at the Bankstown campus in a block release mode which requires students to attend four residential schools per year, each lasting approximately two weeks. The practical component is undertaken in schools in students' home communities and in Sydney. Travel, accommodation and meal costs to attend workshops are funded for ABSTUDY approved students. Students may also be eligible for ITAS tutorial assistance.

For more information:

Visit the UWS website course information at <http://future.uws.edu.au/>