



Department of
Health

Aboriginal cadets embracing a rewarding work experience in WA Health

University students Dana Bonson and Raheen Williams are Aboriginal university students who are thriving as part of the WA Health Aboriginal Cadetship Program.

Dana Bonson is currently working with the Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate at the Department of Health while also studying a Bachelor of Social Work.

'I've enjoyed working while studying, I get to work one day a week with 3 days on campus and one day at home. I feel like I have a great work, university, and personal life balance,' Dana said.

Working within the directorate, Dana has been able to create a range of materials and publications, while having the opportunity to take part in meetings with external stakeholders and working groups, building collaborative relationships across the WA health system.

'It's been a great experience to come to work each day and learn a new skill, take part in something meaningful and continuously work towards improving my career development,' she said.

Dana has gained meaningful insight into the different strategies, policies and programs that WA Health offers Aboriginal people to improve health outcomes, while providing a cultural perspective to her projects.

'I've had the opportunity to learn about the range of programs and services designed for Aboriginal people, families and community. I was amazed by the different opportunities the health system has to offer.'



Dana Bonson

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Raheen Williams has been working within the Centre for Clinical Interventions at the QEII Medical Centre and is studying a Bachelor of Psychology. He has benefited from the clinical perspectives and knowledge the program has offered him.

'I have had the opportunity to observe how research is transitioned into practice to improve health outcomes. I've enjoyed viewing the field of psychology from a practical perspective that generally begins in post graduate studies,' Raheen said.

Raheen hopes the experience and networks he has formed through the cadet program provides further opportunities for him to work within the health system after completing the program and transitioning to employment.

'I would love to work in the mental health sector of WA Health, and I hope I get the opportunity to give back to the community that I have been a part of and shape positive change.'

Reflecting on their time in the program so far, Dana and Raheen are excited by the connections they've made and the skills they've gained along the way.

'I've met a number of new people and made some important connections along the way. It's been such a rewarding experience so far,' Dana said.

'I've been able to develop and fast-track the skills I'm learning at university and also build a network of colleagues for support,' Raheen said.



Raheen Williams

**Applications for the
2024 WA Health
Aboriginal Cadetship
Program will open
in September 2023.**

For more information on the program, contact the Aboriginal Health Policy Directorate via email (Royal St, PHD - Aboriginal Health PHD - Aboriginal.Health@health.wa.gov.au) or on 08 6376 0519.

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