

# BRIDGING THE GAP

FOUNDATION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND EDUCATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

29 November 2018

### INAUGURAL WINNER OF INDIGENOUS HOSPITALITY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Today, the Bridging the Gap Foundation in partnership with International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) and AccorHotels, announces Kenneth Abrook as the first recipient of the inaugural Indigenous scholarship, which was created with the Bridging The Gap Foundation for Indigenous students to study a three year Bachelor of Business (Hospitality Management) at ICHM.

Kenneth is a proud Kaurna man, ascending from country he and his family remain on in Adelaide. Kenneth graduated from Warriappendi High School in Adelaide, and has worked in hospitality throughout his time at school, sparking his passion for the industry.

Kenneth currently works with AccorHotels as a Food and Beverage Attendant at ibis Adelaide, and is looking forward to building his skills at ICHM.

“I believe this scholarship will arm me with the tools as well as the industry-specific knowledge and qualifications that I need to help achieve my goals in hospitality,” said Kenneth.

Kenneth is passionate about customer service and hospitality, as he has been working in cafes since he was 12 years old. His advice to others looking for a career in the industry is to be genuine and smile and say hello to everyone you meet.

“Always go that extra mile and be part of a team, make yourself known and work from the heart,” said Kenneth.

This is the first hospitality scholarship to be offered by the Bridging the Gap Foundation and the first of many to come.

“The Bridging the Gap Foundation aims to address the urgent issue of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians’ health and education opportunities and outcomes,” said Richard Ryan AO, Chair of both the Bridging the Gap Foundation and ICHM. “We are very happy to announce Kenneth as the deserving recipient of this scholarship today.”

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In addition to the partnership with ICHM and AccorHotels, the Foundation has other significant community projects and partnerships that seek to address the gap including its work with HealthLAB,

“We are pleased to partner with ICHM and Bridging the Gap Foundation, and this scholarship aligns with our aspirations to build leadership and opportunities within our Indigenous workforce of over 600 employees,” said Simon McGrath, Chief Operating Officer Pacific, AccorHotels. “We are very proud of Kenneth and the contribution he has made to AccorHotels and we wish him the best of luck in his studies,” said McGrath.

Kenneth will officially start as a student at ICHM in January 2019.

**ENDS**

## **For all media enquiries contact:**

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## **About us**

*Bridging the Gap Foundation has been established through the Menzies School of Health Research and Charles Darwin University. Its objective is to fund research into health and education and undertake projects in these fields in order to address one of Australia's most urgent issues: the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' health and education opportunities and outcomes.*

*You can help bridge the gap by contributing to the work of the Foundation. Donations can be made online or by cheque. All donations are tax deductible. If you wish to discuss a donation, please contact:*

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