

GOOD NEWS STORY

## Indigenous graduate **Malama Gray**



Malama Gray is a proud Torres Strait Islander woman who grew up in Inala in Brisbane. Seeking a new challenge at the end of Year 12, she left her home and moved to Cairns to study at James Cook University. Here, Malama studied part-time for four years to acquire her Bachelor of Business degree majoring in management, because she says tongue-in-cheek "I like to be in control."

Because IBA's yearly intake is relatively small, the select group of graduates are able to co-design their development program to individually complement their studies. It was for this reason, the private and public sector experience to be gained and the size of IBA that Malama accepted her offer this June. "I also support their vision, and what they are trying to achieve for Indigenous Australians," she says.

Adjusting to the increased distance from family and the colder weather living in Canberra brings challenges Malama's feels positive about.

Of her new environment Malama says. "I'm surrounded by good people and have made quality friends who support and look out for me and ultimately I know the move will help my career and create opportunities that otherwise may not have been available to me."

Working with the Human Resources team, Malama prepares, among other things, information for other graduates who may be interested in working with IBA. Malama finds it easy to recommend IBA's Graduate Program to others because she really is enjoying her own experience, "I love that I have the ability to apply and develop my professional knowledge and skills within a work environment and there is a sense of reward, knowing I am doing something positive for my people," she says.

Asked for any advice she would give to incoming graduates, Malama says "Take advantage of all the opportunities presented to you throughout your program as they are there for your benefit."

She also recommends considering smaller organisations like IBA because Malama says "In a smaller organisations like IBA there is more focus on the individual: what path you want to take, what skills you would like and what work interests you."

If you think a graduate position with IBA might be for you or someone you know read more about IBA's Graduate Opportunities at [www.iba.gov.au/aboutus/workingatiba](http://www.iba.gov.au/aboutus/workingatiba)