

Indigenous scholar

Janita Chapman



CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY
STUDENT JANITA CHAPMAN.

Janita Chapman is a proud Aboriginal woman from Bundaberg in Queensland who had a dream of undertaking a university degree to develop skills in economics and business to pass on to her community.

As an IBA Scholarship Fund recipient, Janita's decision to study for a double degree in Accounting and Business at Central Queensland University is now less of a financial worry. The Fund encourages mature age Indigenous Australians to achieve an educational qualification in a financial, business or economic management field.

Mature age students are often required to make great personal and financial sacrifices so they can complete qualifications that will help advance their personal and career goals. An IBA scholarship eases the pressure by providing tailored financial assistance.

Janita thinks this is great. She says that the scholarship "relieves financial burdens - I don't have to worry about extra educational costs and living costs whilst undertaking studying for a degree. My family don't have the pressures of buying study resources."

IBA seeks applicants for its scholarships who are able to give back to their community after study, and to apply their skills and knowledge for their community's economic benefit. Janita was particularly interested in the IBA scholarship because of this link to community. She believes that "the value of an Indigenous person working in communities with tertiary education gives people confidence. Qualified Indigenous people, diligent workers and volunteers can help produce better quality of life and better community services for people."

It is important to Janita to give back to her community as she wants to transfer the knowledge she gains from her formal education to other "good honest capable workers" who have a high understanding of business, but haven't had the opportunity to undertake formal study. She believes "there are some things that can't be taught in the field or in the office".

Janita values the support she receives from her family while studying. She says "it's brilliant to share my educational experience with family and in return I receive tremendous understanding and support from my family - as a wife, mum and student."

Janita has very practical advice to someone thinking about going back to study - "source all the facts, know the university lifestyle, and prepare for change and to be enlightened".

If you think an IBA scholarship might be for you or someone you know, you can read more about the IBA Scholarship Fund at www.iba.gov.au/scholarships or contact us by email at scholarships@iba.gov.au or by phone on 1800 107 107 for more information.