

Indigenous scholar

Alan Holt



BACHELOR OF BUSINESS STUDENT
ALAN HOLT.

IBA Scholarship Fund recipient Alan Holt is passionate about education and knowledge, believing it leads to self-empowerment and self-determination. After receiving a scholarship in 2011, Alan said: 'I am a great believer that education brings knowledge, understanding and empowerment in the 'big bad world', so that you can make a contribution and self direct your vision in making a difference in society today'.

The IBA Scholarship Fund assists mature-age Indigenous students to complete tertiary qualifications, and attain skills and knowledge that will enhance their community's future economic and financial development.

The Fund recognises that mature-age students are often required to make great personal and financial sacrifices in completing their qualifications. The Fund provides financial assistance to help with study-related expenses, and ease some of the financial burdens on students and their families.

Since 2009 Alan has been studying towards his Bachelor of Business, at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education in the Northern Territory. He says that being awarded an IBA Scholarship in 2011 has made a key difference in enabling him to complete those studies in 2011. He said: 'If I hadn't received the scholarship I'm unsure whether I would have continued my studies due to not having financial support...'

Alan believes his business qualification will allow him to expand on his current work within local Indigenous communities. He said: 'My degree will allow me to provide sound advice and assist these communities in business development and possibly some form of a mentoring role'.

Meanwhile Alan continues to juggle family and work commitments with study. He said: 'It's hard; great dedication and discipline is required and most importantly so is the support and understanding you receive from your family and peers'. However he believes the rewards of study are worth the effort, and encourages anyone who is interested in returning to study to give it a go. 'Do not let anyone tell you who you are or what you can achieve', he said. 'Have a go and hang in there. Experience life to the fullest. Create your own destiny'.

If you think an IBA Scholarship might be for you or someone you know, you can find out more at www.iba.gov.au/scholarships. Otherwise contact IBA by email at scholarships@iba.gov.au or Freecall 1800 107 107.