

ECU Foundation Impact Report



Creative
thinkers
made here.

2024



Chancellor's foreword

As Chancellor of ECU and Chair of the Foundation Board, I am continually heartened by the generosity of our donor community. Your support is helping students achieve their goals and enabling research that delivers real benefits to our society.

Through one-off donations, bequests, regular giving and staff contributions, your commitment is opening doors to education and fostering innovation across the University. Every gift, no matter its size, contributes to meaningful outcomes, changing lives and strengthening ECU's impact across the community.

The Foundation Impact Report offers a glimpse into what your support makes possible. It shares stories of students whose futures have been transformed, and of research that's addressing complex challenges with insight and creativity.

As we look ahead to the opening of our new City campus in early 2026, we do so with genuine excitement. This next chapter will not only expand ECU's presence in the heart of Perth, but it will also enhance the opportunities we can offer for generations to come.

Thank you for your generosity, belief in our vision, and continued support. It truly makes a difference.

Warm regards,

Gaye McMath
Chancellor, Edith Cowan University



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Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

I am delighted to share this year's ECU Foundation Impact Report with you.

As Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University, I feel privileged to lead a university committed to excellence in education, research, and community engagement. Over the past year, we've made significant progress in improving student outcomes, driving innovative research, and deepening our partnerships with industry and community.

I am proud of all we've achieved - together.

From scholarships that ease financial pressures to funding that supports groundbreaking research, your generosity is making a meaningful difference. It goes beyond financial assistance; it empowers dreams, changes lives, and helps shape a brighter future.

At ECU, we believe in the power of education to inspire change. Your support fuels innovation, creativity, and ambition, giving our students the opportunity to thrive and our communities the chance to grow.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are nurturing the leaders, thinkers, and changemakers of tomorrow.

I hope you feel as proud as I do of the incredible impact you've made in helping ECU become the vibrant, future-focused institution it is today.

With heartfelt thanks and best wishes,

Professor Clare Pollock

Vice-Chancellor, Edith Cowan University



Writing in a digital age



Until recently, there's been limited research into how children develop the handwriting and keyboarding skills essential for effective writing, or whether schools are striking the right balance in teaching both.

A large-scale study led by ECU's Dr Anabela Malpique, in collaboration with researchers across Australia and overseas, is helping to close that gap. The project is equipping teachers with evidence-based insights to better support students in becoming confident, capable writers, both on paper and on screen.

Funded by The Ian Potter Foundation and part of the State Library of Western Australia's Literacy Strategy (2017–2027), the Writing for All research project explored how writing is taught and learned in WA classrooms. Its aim is to broaden understanding of early writing development and ensure that all children receive the instructional support and tools they need to express their ideas through written language.

The impact has been far-reaching. Participation and knowledge-sharing exceeded expectations, with findings already influencing curriculum in Western Australia and contributing to global discussions on writing education.

Building on this momentum, researchers are planning a national longitudinal study to examine how handwriting and keyboarding skills develop over time in children from Years 1 to 3. The study will consider student, classroom, and home environments, guided by input from an International Advisory Panel. ECU will also expand its partnership with the University of Canberra and its Affiliated Schools Program, involving 25 primary schools as research and teacher development sites.

Writing for all - the outcomes

A key achievement of the project has been strengthening teachers' capacity to deliver effective writing instruction. A total of 326 Western Australian teachers have already participated in professional learning sessions focused on evidence-based strategies for teaching handwriting, keyboarding, and composition.

Additional educators are being reached through the Writing and Reading for All website, which shares research findings in both peer-reviewed formats and plain English, ensuring best practices are accessible and applicable in the classroom.

The research has also helped shape the WA Handwriting Continuum, a resource that outlines stages of handwriting development from Pre-primary to Year 10. Ongoing partnerships with the WA School Curriculum and Standards Authority and the State Library of Western Australia will ensure the research continues to inform curriculum and teaching practices across the state.

With more than 100 media mentions and an estimated global reach of 65 million, the Writing for All project is not only informing local education, but also influencing national and international conversations on writing instruction - ensuring its impact continues to grow.

The study followed

544

Year 2 students across 17 primary schools in WA, assessing: handwriting, keyboarding, spelling, writing quality, productivity, reading, and executive functioning skills.

47

Year 2 teachers shared insights into their classroom practices, providing a clearer picture of how writing is taught at this critical stage.



Investigated children's confidence, attitudes, writing paper and computer-based texts.

326

Western Australian teachers have benefited through professional learning sessions.



Informed the WA Handwriting Continuum to support teachers from Pre-primary to Year 10.

100

Media mentions and a global reach of 65 million.



One-quarter of WA children aged 5–12 and one-third of 16–17-year-olds are overweight or obese.





Feeding the future

Feeding the Future is an innovative program that is already making significant strides in improving the dietary health of young Western Australians. Funded by the Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and led by ECU Professor Gina Trapp, the five-year program addresses two of the state's most pressing public health issues—childhood obesity and poor dietary habits

One-quarter of WA children aged 5–12 and one-third of 16–17-year-olds are overweight or obese, increasing their risk for physical and mental health issues. Poor diet plays a major role, with less than 10% of WA children eating enough vegetables and 38% of their daily calories coming from junk food. This puts them at higher risk for conditions such as asthma, depression, Type-2 diabetes, and heart disease.

Developing a strategy for change

Professor Trapp's work explores how children's diets and long-term health are influenced by food access and availability, advertising, and the environments where children live, play, and go to school.

These insights provide the evidence necessary to drive meaningful changes in public health and urban planning policy, shaping effective strategies for improving children's nutritional health.

A key research area has been food access and availability. Professor Trapp's vision to develop a WA Food Atlas has provided crucial data on areas with limited healthy options and an overabundance of unhealthy food. This tool is now expanding to a national scale with the creation of the Australian Food Atlas, further broadening its impact on public health policy.

Food advertising is another focus. Through discussions with ten to sixteen year olds, researchers found children are concerned about how their food choices are influenced by the prevalence of junk-food and alcohol ads on school commutes and the density of fast-food outlets near schools. This research has contributed to a toolkit for local governments and supported an advocacy campaign to restrict junk food and alcohol ads on government property.

The research on consumer food environments reveals growing concern among WA parents about the lack of healthy options on children's menus at cafes, restaurants, and other dining venues. Feeding the Future is focusing on improving these offerings by developing and evaluating a 'Healthy Kids Menu' program with the potential to expand nationally.

Addressing cultural food environments, Feeding the Future has implemented a pioneering initiative in two WA regional towns with a voluntary restriction on the sale of energy drinks to children. This approach tackles the rise of high-caffeine energy drinks linked to severe health issues such as heart palpitations, insomnia, and cardiac arrest, and aims to serve as a model for potential government policies to protect children's health. The success of the trial has led to sustained community support and sparked interest from other towns, with plans to expand the initiative.

Feeding the Future's comprehensive approach is laying the groundwork for long-term improvements in children's health, with future efforts focused on expanding successful interventions, such as the energy drink sales restrictions and the nationwide rollout of the Food Atlas. The program is already serving as a model for public health initiatives across Australia, driving innovation and setting the stage for lasting change in how we address children's health and well-being.



Photo: Kalbarri SES rescue with Corporeal Health Scholarship recipient, Jordan

Crucial services for our community

ECU donors play a vital role in ensuring Western Australia can meet the growing demands for critical care workers. Thanks to your generosity, students are empowered to build careers in fields that directly strengthen and transform communities across the state and beyond.

Supporting regional health careers

Access to healthcare in regional areas depends on skilled professionals who understand the unique needs of these communities. The Corporeal Health Scholarship, which awards \$10,000 to students from

rural backgrounds, is helping to shape the future of regional healthcare. The scholarship supports students like Jordan, a Paramedicine student from mid-west Australia, who plans to give back to her local community through her education.

“Receiving this scholarship was the biggest wake-up call that I am doing what I’m meant to be doing. I am going to become an incredible paramedic and give back tenfold what has been invested in me,” says Jordan. “Your support and faith in me mean more than I can ever express. Knowing that I have someone who believes in me made the biggest impact on my belief in myself.”

"I am going to become an incredible paramedic and give back tenfold what has been invested in me."

Jordan

Corporeal Health Scholarship recipient

Through these transformative initiatives, ECU and its supporters are not only investing in students but in the future of Western Australia. By helping to build a more skilled, inclusive, and diverse workforce, they are ensuring that vital services—such as healthcare, education, and social work—continue to strengthen communities across the state for years to come.

Opportunity comes from removing barriers

The inaugural Bendat Family Foundation Equity Scholarships are making a profound impact on students' lives and their broader community. The scholarships provide crucial support in fields such as nursing, social work, and teaching. First awarded in 2024, these scholarships provide vital financial support, enabling students like Pepper from the Pilbara and Hannah from Esperance to overcome the challenges of relocating for university.

"Moving out of home at 18 has been challenging, but with the help of the Bendat scholarship, I am able to pay my fees and afford necessities. It has allowed me to continue studying my passion without having to worry about finances," says Pepper, a Bachelor of Education student.

Hannah, a nursing student, adds, "Not only do I have a chronic illness, but I am also a country student, moving away from my home for the first time ever to study in Perth. This scholarship gives me the best opportunity for university to be accessible for me in this challenging transition."

The impact of these scholarships reaches beyond financial support—they provide recipients with the confidence and encouragement to achieve their academic and professional goals. "Knowing that there are good people out there rallying for me has often been what pushes me over the finish line," says Erin, a Secondary Education student.

Honouring a legacy

The Fiona Lavelle and Tinesh Tamilkodi Memorial Scholarship, funded by St John Ambulance WA, continues the legacy of two respected St John paramedics by supporting the next generation of Indigenous healthcare professionals.

Paramedicine student Kaitlyn and nursing student Amber each received a \$20,000 scholarship, helping them pursue their studies and serve their communities.

"I am inspired by the stories of Fiona and Tinesh. Their commitment and passion for helping others are the principles I strive to uphold through my own career," says Amber.

"Helping someone in a health crisis or trauma and providing reassurance and treatment as an Aboriginal paramedic is my dream—it's my way of giving back to my community."

Kaitlyn

Fiona Lavelle and Tinesh Tamilkodi Memorial Scholarship recipient

Photo: Amber and Kaitlyn with St John Ambulance WA





AWARD: Recognising excellence in performing arts.

Recognising extraordinary talent

Talent flourishes at WAAPA with the assistance of prizes and awards. Recognising excellence inspires students to refine their skills and feel supported as they grow towards their full potential. The Taryn Fiebig and Bill Warnock Awards exemplify this—honouring excellence and supporting life-changing experiences.



Photo: Michelle and Hanna at the 2024 Taryn Fiebig Award Ceremony

Two rising stars take home the Taryn Fiebig award

The Taryn Fiebig Award celebrates extraordinary talent in the performing arts, honouring the legacy of one of Australia's most beloved sopranos. Thanks to the generosity of The Humanity Foundation, award recipients get the opportunity to refine their craft through travel and study, later sharing their insights with peers.

At the 2024 awards, the six finalists were so exceptional that The Humanity Foundation Director and WAAPA alumna Talya Masel made a surprise announcement—two prizes would be awarded for the first time. ECU students Hanna (Music Theatre) and Michelle (Music) each received \$10,000 for their artistic development.

"I can't wait to use this gift to further develop as a performer," said Michelle.

Michelle will travel to Florence for vocal training and a four-week intensive Italian course to refine her language skills, essential for classical singing. She plans to share her experiences with WAAPA colleagues through a workshop on Italian diction.

"It has been such a privilege to perform in Taryn's honour. I was taken aback by her versatility and beauty. She is so inspiring, and I hope to take some of that talent forward."

Hanna

2024 Taryn Fiebig Award recipient

2023 recipient Ellen knows firsthand the award's impact, using the funding to immerse herself in London's West End, experiencing world-class performances and training with top coaches. She will share her journal of insights, industry contacts, and advice with fellow students.

"The entire trip opened my eyes to the level of talent and skill, and it helped me set the bar on the standard I want to reach," she said.

Golden Billy in perpetuity

Affectionately known as the Golden Billy, the Bill Warnock Award has reached a significant milestone, with the Warnock family now ensuring its future in perpetuity. Established in 2001 to honour playwright Bill Warnock, it is one of WAAPA's most anticipated honours, with past recipients forging successful industry careers.

Second-year Musical Theatre student Anabel is the 2024 recipient.

"To be recognised out of such a talented group of performers means so much to me. Receiving this award truly confirms that I am in the right place and doing the right thing. It will be immensely helpful in furthering my training and my career," she said.

Craig Dalton, Coordinator of Musical Theatre, highlighted the award's role in shaping careers.

"The Golden Billy provides WAAPA with an opportunity to recognise a student who has shown they are developing the discipline and attitude that often supports a sustained career in a competitive industry," he said.

With WAAPA's move to the City campus in 2026—bringing more than 300 public performances to Perth each year—Bill Warnock's vision of a thriving arts scene is stronger than ever.

Photo: Anabel, 2024 Bill Warnock Award recipient





A lasting legacy for future business leaders

"I believe that it's important to help students become future leaders in their industry through scholarships. My gift is intended to help provide better results for future economies."

Raymond Gordon



A thriving economy doesn't just happen: it's built by bold thinkers with the skills and insight to lead.

ECU's top-ranked School of Business and Law has earned a reputation for shaping the minds that will drive tomorrow's success. A generous bequest will support this transformative mission.

Long-time ECU supporter and alumnus Raymond Gordon has made a provision in his Will to establish a scholarship for students in business and legal studies, ensuring they have the resources and support to thrive. His decision will help future ECU students contribute positively to a rapidly changing global economy.

ECU's School of Business and Law is delivering the kind of innovative, high-quality learning that truly transforms futures. In 2024, it was ranked Australia's top business school for teaching in the Australian Financial Review (AFR) BOSS Best Business Schools list.

The highly regarded list ranks Australian business schools on teaching, research, reputation, and career impact. It uses publicly available data, including student satisfaction, research excellence and impact, graduate salaries, and full-time employment. The ranking also considers international metrics from Times Higher Education and Academic Ranking of World Universities, along with accreditation from EQUIS and AACSB International, which is held by less than 6% of Business Schools in the world.

"This reflects our commitment to delivering an enriching, high-quality educational experience that empowers our students," said Executive Dean for SBL, Professor Maryam Omari. "At SBL, we place immense value on transformative learning experiences with a global perspective—ones that not only deepen students' academic knowledge but also open doors to meaningful careers where they can make a real difference."

Raymond's gift in his Will ensures that more students have the opportunity to succeed in their chosen fields, and he hopes others will be inspired to make a difference in the same way.

"None of us know when we may lose the ability to think clearly about who should benefit from our gifts. Completing a Will early benefits both the giver and the recipients," said Raymond.



Photo: L-R: Dr Jeremy Farr-Warton, Yvette and Raymond Gordon and Prof. Maryam Omari



Photo: L-R Hon John Carey MLA, Minister for Planning and Lands; Housing and Works; Health Infrastructure; Mr David Templeman, former Minister for Culture and the Arts; Sport and Recreation; International Education; Heritage; Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia; Professor Clare Pollock, Vice-Chancellor, ECU, Mr John Hartman, CEO, Minderoo Foundation.

A bold new stage for the performing arts



Performing arts in Western Australia is set to soar to new heights with the announcement of Minderoo's \$30m gift to WAAPA, one of the largest philanthropic gifts made to the arts in Australia's history. Announced in October 2024, the \$30 million partnership between ECU and Minderoo Foundation is designed to support excellence, internationalisation and the long-term sustainability of WAAPA for generations to come.

As WAAPA's Principal Partner, Minderoo Foundation's gift has supported the state-of-the-art specialist fit-out of WAAPA's six public performance venues and two performance-capable rehearsal spaces with best-in-class technology, acoustics and engineering to create a bold new stage for students to hone their craft. This, coupled with the establishment of a \$7m new Premier Visiting Artists Fund that will foster deep, sustained training for WAAPA students across residency programs, teaching and other high-impact formats, led by world-renowned artists, will position WAAPA as one of the premier performance training academies in the world.

"By enabling new generations to experience the transformative power of performance, we can harness the extraordinary ability of the arts to inspire, unite and uplift communities."

Nicola Forrest AO
Minderoo Foundation

"This unprecedented partnership will unlock extraordinary opportunities that will impact generations of young people from Western Australia and the region more broadly," said Professor Clare Pollock, ECU Vice-Chancellor.

Minderoo Foundations' partnership with ECU and WAAPA builds on the \$853 million City Deal between ECU, the Western Australian Government and Australian Government to deliver Perth's first comprehensive, inner city university campus. Opening in semester one of 2026, the world-class ECU City brings together creative industries, business and law, and emerging technologies in a state-of-the-art campus in the heart of Perth.

"ECU City and WAAPA will transform the face and very fabric of Perth's CBD," said the Hon Roger Cook MLA, Premier of Western Australia.

As the curtain rises on a new chapter for WAAPA, this historic and transformational partnership will leave a lasting legacy for the performing arts, and for the many students who will take their craft to the world stage.

McCusker Recital Hall

The stunning new feature venue for WAAPA's renowned music program will be named in recognition of the generosity of the McCusker Charitable Foundation. The significant gift contributes to an ambitious endowment fund that is designed to support long-term programmatic excellence and sustainability across all performance disciplines at WAAPA. It helps strengthen ECU and WAAPA's unwavering commitment to world-leading performance training and education whilst fostering community enrichment through creative expression.



Photo: Composer Joey Eng

Chrysalis

A powerful symbol of transformation and new beginnings, *Chrysalis* is a new orchestral work by ECU alumnus Joey Eng, created in recognition of the Minderoo Foundation's history-making gift to WAAPA and in celebration of our transition to ECU City.

The work takes its name from the chrysalis, the stage of metamorphosis in which a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, reflecting ECU's own journey of growth and renewal as we move into our bold new home in the heart of Perth.

Commissioned by ECU, *Chrysalis* honours the visionary support of the Minderoo Foundation, WAAPA's Principal Partner, whose generosity is helping to shape the future of performing arts education in Western Australia.

This piece stands as a tribute not only to a new chapter for WAAPA, but to the transformational impact of philanthropy in bringing ambitious visions to life.

You can view the orchestra performing the piece at bit.ly/ChrysalisECU

"This will be the birthplace of ideas that motivate people, companies and governments to act, reassess their behaviours or start a movement."

Dr Andrew Forrest AO
Minderoo Foundation



“Your commitment to supporting students like me ensures we have the means to chase our dreams. Receiving this scholarship symbolises recognition of my hard work and encourages me to push my boundaries further.”

Lillian

ECU Bachelor of Primary Education student and
2024 Inspiring Minds Scholarship recipient

Inspiring minds

When Bachelor of Psychology and Counselling student, Sarah, opened the email confirming she had received an Inspiring Minds Scholarship, she cried. It meant being able to invest in her studies in ways that had been out of reach—upgrading equipment, improving her study space, and covering the cost of textbooks.

“I felt so proud of myself and so happy. Knowing that there are others who have faith validates my determination to succeed and gives me enormous pride,” Sarah said.

Honours student Delaney was able to complete her postgraduate thesis in Performing Arts thanks to the support of an Inspiring Minds Scholarship.

“As the first person in my family to go to university, I feel very privileged to be able to study at a world class academy such as WAAPA.”

“I am so grateful for the support that WAAPA, ECU, and its donors have for students. It makes such a difference in making education accessible for rural students like me.”

The Inspiring Minds Scholarship has been supporting students since 2015, with 131 scholarships awarded to date. Sarah and Delaney are among many students whose academic experience is transformed by the generosity of ECU staff, alumni, and wider community who support this fund.

The one-off \$3,000 payment supports undergraduate students facing financial difficulties, personal hardships, or underrepresentation in higher education.

“This scholarship afforded me the opportunity to study hard and complete my Honours to the best of my ability, and I am proud of what I’ve been able to achieve.”

ECU staff making a difference

ECU staff are at the heart of the Inspiring Minds Scholarships program, with many contributing through payroll giving. Among them is Janelle, a Scholarships Coordinator who not only donates, but also has the privilege of calling recipients to deliver the life-changing news that they've been awarded an Inspiring Minds Scholarship.

"I am so grateful to experience the joy and raw emotion that comes after sharing the news with them," Janelle said. "It reinforces just how important my gift is and inspires me to keep giving. It is so rewarding knowing I'm helping these phenomenal students reach their full potential."

In recognition of her exceptional dedication to ECU's students and her personal commitment to giving, Janelle was one of eight outstanding staff members honoured with an Inspirational Staff Award in the 2024 Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Awards.

"Being recognised in these awards is a testament to the hard work, dedication and passion that our staff bring to their roles every day," said ECU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clare Pollock. "To win showcases the commitment that results in outstanding benefits for our students, colleagues and the broader community."

"Hearing firsthand the incredible stories of our scholarship recipients inspires me to do everything I can to support as many students as possible."

Janelle

Scholarships Coordinator



Photo: Inspiring Minds staff giver, Janelle, with scholarship recipients



Enriching society through cultural leadership



Photo: Sara, Mineral Resources Scholarship recipient

At ECU, supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students doesn't just translate to individual success—it strengthens communities and creates lasting change.

"By empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to succeed, we help cultivate future leaders, educators, and professionals who drive positive change in their families, workplaces, and communities. This impact extends across generations, strengthening our local, national, and global community," Professor Braden Hill, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students, Equity and Indigenous).

Championing cultural leadership

Nyungamarta woman, Tiahni is learning how to create, direct, and produce original works through a Bachelor of Performing Arts, specialising in Performance Making.

Originally from Karratha, Tiahni is the recipient of the 2024 Hanrine Foundation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship, which prioritises students from Western Australia's most remote areas. By investing in the next generation of performers and storytellers, ECU and the Hanrine Foundation are supporting the future of creative arts in Western Australia.

50% of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are the first in their family to attend university, and many face additional challenges, including living with a disability.

"Tiahni embodies what this scholarship is all about. She's not just preparing to be an actor, but also a cultural leader who can drive new works and tell stories that resonate deeply with our society," said Danielle van Kampen, Hanrine Foundation Community Development Manager.

"Beyond the financial support, being a recipient of the Hanrine Foundation Scholarship fills me with a monumental sense of validation, support, and encouragement," said Tiahni. "Your belief in me motivates me to strive for excellence in all aspects of my life, both inside and outside the classroom."



“This scholarship reinforces my belief that hard work and dedication can lead to opportunities that might otherwise seem out of reach. I am passionate about gaining the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute meaningfully to my community.”

Sara
Mineral Resources Scholarship recipient

The scholarship, however, provides more than just financial relief. It has served as a powerful motivator, reaffirming Sara’s belief that hard work and dedication can create opportunities that might otherwise seem out of reach. She expressed, “Receiving this scholarship is incredibly important to me—not just for the financial relief it provides, but also for the encouragement it offers.” Through this scholarship, Sara’s educational journey has become not only more feasible but also more inspiring, reinforcing her commitment to making a meaningful impact on her community.

Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Psychology student, Griffin, the 2024 Western Power Scholarship recipient, is using his scholarship to move into student accommodation, reducing his long commute and gaining better access to university resources.

“Not only will studying in Joondalup be more efficient and grant me access to events such as in-person legal writing workshops, but it will allow me to participate in ECU’s wonderful social clubs and events, including events run by the Kurongkurl Katitjin team,” he said.

The 2024 Wood Carey Scholarship is helping Kirby fulfill a long-held ambition—pursuing a Master of Human Resource Management to lead innovation in workforce development.

“Receiving this scholarship is a step towards realising my aspirations of driving meaningful change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce development. It will empower me to embed culturally responsive HR strategies and facilitate equitable employment opportunities. It represents a collective effort to building more inclusive workplaces.”

As Professor Hill reminds us, “scholarships do more than support individual students, they help empower entire families and communities. Financial barriers present the greatest challenges our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students face, so targeted financial support is perhaps the most powerful driver of academic and future success.”

Scholarships making it possible

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships provide vital support to students who face financial and cultural barriers in their pursuit of higher education. One such recipient, Sara, an Occupational Therapy student, recently expressed her profound gratitude for being selected for the Mineral Resources Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship.

In her heartfelt message, Sara wrote, “I am writing to express my gratitude for selecting me as the recipient of the scholarship. I am both honoured and humbled to receive this support, which will make a significant difference in my academic journey.”

Sara’s journey into higher education has been driven by a strong commitment to her community and career aspirations. She shared that she applied for the scholarship to overcome the financial challenges of tuition, books, and other essential educational expenses. “This scholarship will allow me to focus more on my studies and less on how to finance them, which in turn will enable me to perform at my best,” she explained.



Building belonging through performance

The 2024 Aboriginal WAAPA Graduate Professional Development Award, funded by the Bass Family Foundation, gave Marlanie Haerewa the opportunity to work as Assistant Director on *Black Medea* alongside Rick Brayford, Coordinator of the Aboriginal Theatre program at WAAPA. A graduate of the Certificate IV Aboriginal Performance (2017) and Bachelor of Performing Arts (2021), she made a lasting impact in the role. WAAPA is now funding her Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, paving the way for her to make the transition from student to teacher in the Aboriginal Performance course as a casual lecturer.

For students like Brodie, recipient of the 2024 Crow Books Scholarship in Aboriginal Performance, the course is a chance to reconnect with their roots and embrace their full identity.

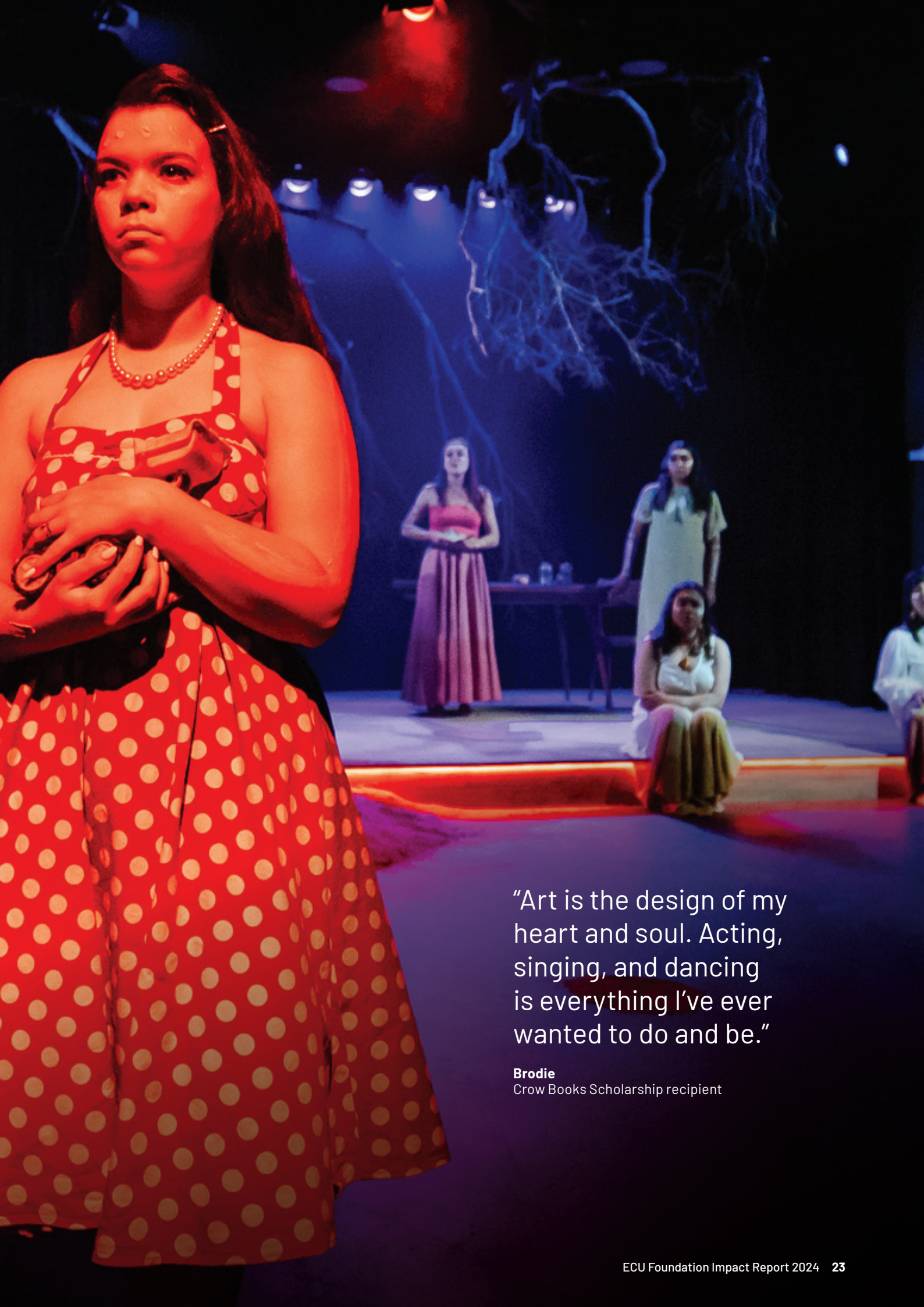
The financial support provided by her scholarship has allowed Brodie to pursue this dream without the burden of financial stress, which she describes as “beyond any definition of the word ‘relieved.’”

“I have missed out on so much cultural knowledge through generations, as my great-grandmother was stolen from her parents. This absence of an Indigenous presence in my everyday life has truly disallowed me from being me, and this course has let me be who I am fully while doing the thing I love.”

Brodie’s experience highlights the importance of this course in supporting Aboriginal students. As she shared, she has often faced challenges in finding a sense of belonging. The Aboriginal Performance course has provided her with the opportunity to connect and strengthen her community of other passionate artists. It has also helped her navigate the complexities of her background, giving her the space to fully embrace her identity.

The course not only nurtures the development of students as artists, but also supports their personal growth, helping them feel empowered to celebrate their heritage and contribute to the wider community.

Photo: Brodie, 2024 Crow Books Scholarship recipient, performing in *Black Medea*



"Art is the design of my heart and soul. Acting, singing, and dancing is everything I've ever wanted to do and be."

Brodie

Crow Books Scholarship recipient



AWARD: Outstanding international recognition.

Engineering victory: ECU Racing triumphs on the global stage



"Going to the UK was the absolute pinnacle of my experience with ECU Racing, and being involved with both the team's first national and international wins is something I'm eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to do."

Cian

2024 recipient of the Petar Dragovic Excellence in Motorsports Award

In a landmark achievement for Edith Cowan University, ECU Racing has claimed first place at the prestigious 2024 Formula Student UK competition, outperforming 55 teams from across Europe and earning an impressive 915 out of 1,000 points. This victory underscores the team's exceptional engineering capability, relentless determination, and ability to translate academic knowledge into real-world success.

For Cian, a standout member of the winning team, the experience was made even more meaningful with the honour of receiving the 2024 Petar Dragovic Excellence in Motorsports Award.

"I'm truly honoured to have been chosen," Cian says. "It really is the cherry on top of the incredible experiences I've gained as part of ECU Racing."

More than a competition, Formula Student UK offered Cian a transformative journey, one that pushed his technical abilities while shaping invaluable life skills.

"I've made lifelong friendships, achieved incredible things alongside my teammates, and learned so much through applying the concepts I've studied in class and explored independently," he reflects.

ECU Racing's success was hard-won. The international contest presented intense engineering challenges, tight deadlines, and high-stakes teamwork, testing not only their mechanical designs but also their ability to collaborate, solve complex problems, and perform under pressure.

Cian's passion for motorsport runs deep. "For me, it's not just a hobby - it's a way to apply my engineering knowledge in a practical setting," he explains. "None of this would've been possible without the support of the university, our amazing faculty advisors, and the legacy left by those like Petar Dragovic."

The team's win is a powerful example of what's possible when dedication, talent and support converge. It reflects ECU's commitment to nurturing student success beyond the classroom - empowering future engineers to innovate, lead and thrive on the world stage.





Graduates shine bright at Aluminate

From musical theatre on London's West End to game-changing tech pioneered in Joondalup, the depth of talent among ECU's alumni was on full display at our annual celebration of excellence.

Now reimagined as Aluminate, the 2024 event brought together trailblazers, creative minds, and industry leaders to honour ECU graduates making a difference across diverse fields.

Internationally acclaimed performer, composer, and WAAPA graduate Eddie Perfect headlined the evening, sharing the stage with first-year WAAPA students before a captivating solo performance. In a powerful keynote, Eddie reflected on his career journey and the importance of resilience in achieving creative excellence.

Communications and Broadcasting graduate and former 7 News journalist Rebecca Marsh hosted the evening, wearing a gown by former student and Perth designer, Simone Parker.

"We are remarkably proud to celebrate the ECU graduates who have gone on to do such wonderful things in their lives and careers."

Professor Clare Pollock

Photo: Eddie Perfect performing at Aluminate 2024



Photo: L-R 2024 Alumni Award winners: Shenelle Rodrigo, Jody Broun, Sallie-Anne and Michael Manford accepting the award for Amy Manford, Sharon and Grant Grosser

As ECU Vice-Chancellor Professor Clare Pollock noted, this year's Alumni Award winners exemplify the power of an ECU education—from Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Grant and Sharon Grosser, who have transformed education technology, to Jody Broun, a Yindjibarndi woman dedicated to Indigenous advocacy, Shenelle Rodrigo, a global voice for Sri Lankan tourism, and internationally acclaimed soprano Amy Manford.

Adding to the night's significance, Aluminate Presenting Partner Dentons announced the Dentons Aspire Law Scholarship, providing vital support to a student pursuing a Bachelor of Laws at ECU in 2025.

From inspiring success stories to world-class entertainment, Aluminate 2024 was more than a celebration, it recognised the power of university education and the creativity, leadership and innovation it nurtures.



Photo: Rebecca Marsh as emcee of Aluminate 2024



Shaping the next generation of filmmakers

Master of Screen Studies graduate Alana says the generosity of donors has made an immediate difference to her future.

"This support has allowed me to purchase my first professional mirrorless camera. I've always borrowed cameras from wherever and whoever would let me. Now, I can pursue my creative vision more freely."

As the recipient of the 2024 Evie Rogers-Elgar Memorial Award, Alana's journey demonstrates the impact of awards and prizes.

Created in memory of Evie Margot Rogers-Elgar, who was just eleven years old when she passed away, the Evie Rogers-Elgar Memorial Award celebrates Evie's love of film. Her parents, Michelle and Alison, created the award to recognise excellence and honour brave little Evie, who passed after a long battle with cancer. The award is presented to the graduating WA Screen Academy student with the highest weighted average mark, as well as the student with the highest mark in Clinical Exercise Physiology: Cancer and Metabolic Conditions.

The WA Screen and Media Academy brings together all of ECU's screen and media production courses, research programs, and partnerships, ensuring that students like Alana are prepared for the rapidly evolving industry and emerging career opportunities.

"This expanded Academy reflects ECU's commitment to staying at the forefront of professional partnerships in WA. It strengthens ECU's capacity in screen and media production by encouraging collaboration and co-design," said Professor Matthew Allen, Executive Dean of ECU's School of Arts and Humanities.

Industry leaders such as the West Australian Motion Picture Benevolent Fund (WAMPBF) are key partners in the Academy's initiatives, including the On Location Health, Safety, and Wellbeing program. This initiative equips production students with essential on-set safety skills, giving graduates the confidence and knowledge they need to excel on professional sets from day one.

The generosity of ECU supporters and donors plays a vital role in helping students launch their careers.



"Your generosity isn't just an investment in students; it's an investment in stories waiting to be told."

Alana

2024 Evie-Rogers Elgar Memorial Award recipient





Changing lives in regional communities



15 percent of ECU students are based in a remote or regional location, where limited access to resources can make higher education a challenge.



Photo: ECU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Clare Pollock, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Regional Futures), Professor Cobie Rudd, with the 2024 Destination Australia Scholarship recipients

The Destination Australia Scholarships, awarded at ECU for the last time in 2024, had a lasting, positive impact on students and regional communities alike. With generous funding of \$4.2 million from the Australian Government, the program provided 88 students with \$7,500 per semester to support them throughout their degrees.

Its aim was not only to ease financial barriers, but also to help students from regional and remote areas access quality tertiary education while addressing critical skills shortages in key sectors. Over five years, 35 students graduated with the support of the program, completing degrees in fields vital to Australia's future workforce, such as healthcare, education, and technology.

The program's impact has rippled throughout regional Australia. By encouraging students to study in areas experiencing skills shortages, such as nursing, education, and cybersecurity, the program contributed to building a skilled workforce that helps support local communities. Many graduates have chosen to remain in these regions, using their newly acquired skills to benefit their local communities and work with local employers.

The Destination Australia Scholarships helped to level the playing field and ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, had the opportunity to succeed. The scholarships were offered to students from underrepresented groups—including those from low socio-economic backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and those with disabilities—contributing to a more inclusive and diverse culture in regional locations.

"A big part of me realised if Destination Australia believed in me and my ability to complete this degree, I should too," says Stephanie, a first-year nursing student. "This scholarship has truly eased some of the financial burden I was facing and has allowed me to focus on my studies. From the moment I received the scholarship my confidence and passion for my degree grew."

This program will leave a lasting impact not only on the scholarship recipients but also on the broader community. It has directly transformed lives, supported regional growth, and developed a skilled workforce ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.



Happy kids through connected parenting

"This program really helped to build my confidence and trust in my capacity as a parent."

Program participant



Parenting in the digital age can be complex and challenging. It's why research such as the Happy Parenting Program is vital to find ways to support parents in the early years of childhood. With the support of The Channel 7 Telethon Trust, ECU researchers are working with parents to explore how fostering respectful, cooperative relations can reduce parental stress, strengthen family connections and aid child development.

The Happy Parenting Program offers free, interactive workshops for families with babies and toddlers, equipping parents with strategies to create a secure, responsive environment using the Respectful Approach. This research-based method encourages parents to slow down, observe, and engage with their children in ways that build trust and connection.

"Supporting families early in their parenting journey may help parents develop a respectful and dependable relationship with their children from infancy, giving children the best foundation to grow from," says Associate Professor Therese O'Sullivan.

To date, 180 families have taken part in the Happy Parenting Program, with many from low-income households and some living below the poverty line. This is significant, as research shows that children in financially stressed households face a higher risk of poorer emotional and physical health. Helping children develop healthy stress responses begins with supporting their parents.

By the end of the eight weeks, parents reported a stronger bond with their children, reduced stress around milestones, and greater confidence in their parenting skills. Mealtimes became less stressful for families: 89 percent reported they enjoyed feeding times with their child, up from 66 percent at the start of the program. Overall, many parents said they felt more attuned to their child.

"Doing this program really helped to build my confidence, trust in my capacity as a parent and trust in him as a child. And that led our relationship to bloom to what it is now," says Ana, a Happy Parenting Program participant.

Many participants found these sessions more beneficial than traditional parenting groups, describing them as less clinical and more holistic. Families also shared what they learned with friends and extended the program's benefits into the community.

"Having a different topic each session made learning manageable, as we didn't have to take it all in at once. The fun tasks gave me practical ideas I could easily use at home with my bub. It was wonderful to connect with like-minded families and watch our kids grow together," says Drisana, a Happy Parenting Program participant.

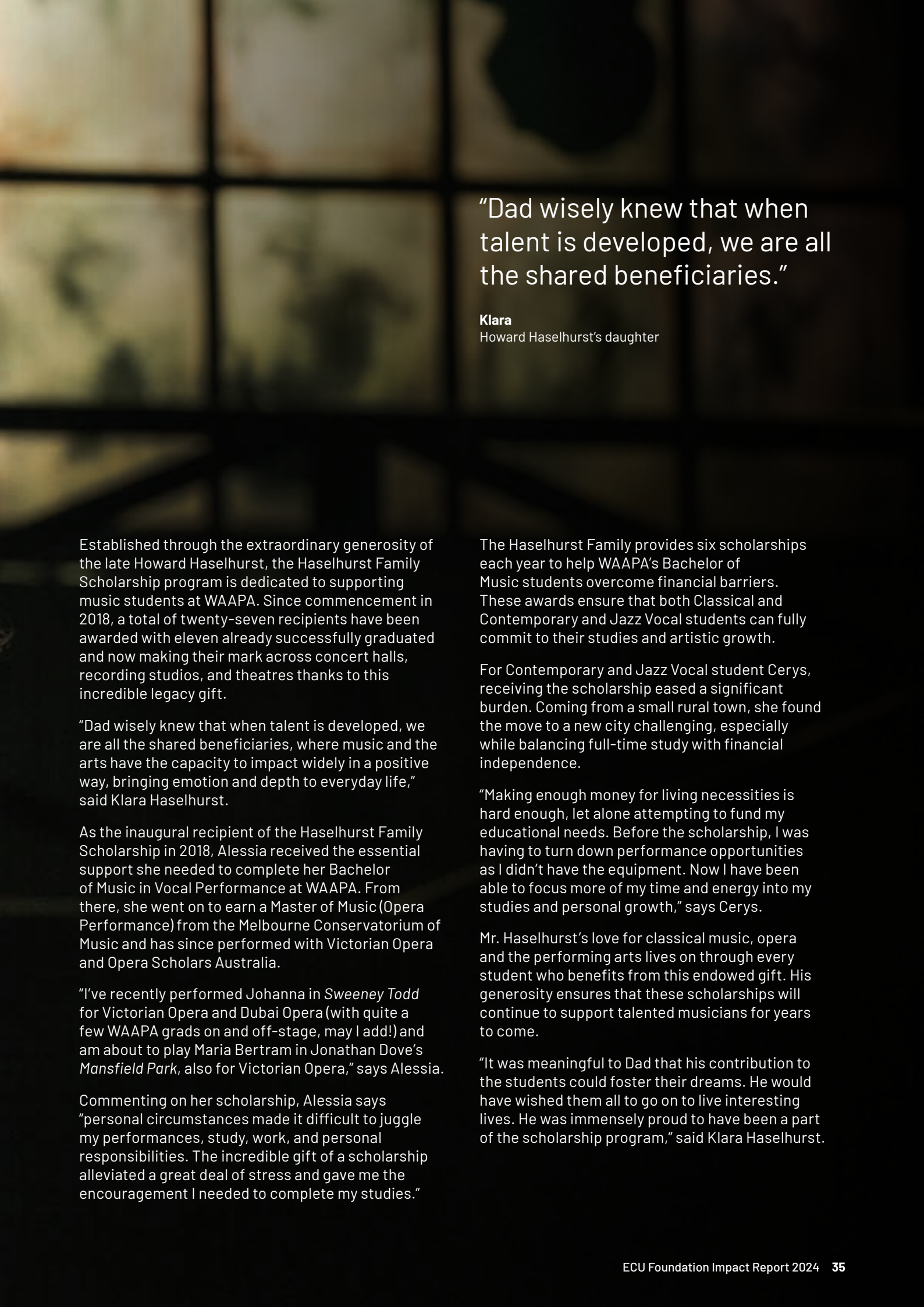


A gift that echoes through generations



Photo: Alessia, Haselhurst Family Scholarship recipient and WAAPA graduate performing as Johanna in Sweeney Todd for Victorian Opera

Photography: Charlie Kinross



“Dad wisely knew that when talent is developed, we are all the shared beneficiaries.”

Klara

Howard Haselhurst's daughter

Established through the extraordinary generosity of the late Howard Haselhurst, the Haselhurst Family Scholarship program is dedicated to supporting music students at WAAPA. Since commencement in 2018, a total of twenty-seven recipients have been awarded with eleven already successfully graduated and now making their mark across concert halls, recording studios, and theatres thanks to this incredible legacy gift.

“Dad wisely knew that when talent is developed, we are all the shared beneficiaries, where music and the arts have the capacity to impact widely in a positive way, bringing emotion and depth to everyday life,” said Klara Haselhurst.

As the inaugural recipient of the Haselhurst Family Scholarship in 2018, Alessia received the essential support she needed to complete her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance at WAAPA. From there, she went on to earn a Master of Music (Opera Performance) from the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music and has since performed with Victorian Opera and Opera Scholars Australia.

“I’ve recently performed Johanna in *Sweeney Todd* for Victorian Opera and Dubai Opera (with quite a few WAAPA grads on and off-stage, may I add!) and am about to play Maria Bertram in Jonathan Dove’s *Mansfield Park*, also for Victorian Opera,” says Alessia.

Commenting on her scholarship, Alessia says “personal circumstances made it difficult to juggle my performances, study, work, and personal responsibilities. The incredible gift of a scholarship alleviated a great deal of stress and gave me the encouragement I needed to complete my studies.”

The Haselhurst Family provides six scholarships each year to help WAAPA’s Bachelor of Music students overcome financial barriers. These awards ensure that both Classical and Contemporary and Jazz Vocal students can fully commit to their studies and artistic growth.

For Contemporary and Jazz Vocal student Cerys, receiving the scholarship eased a significant burden. Coming from a small rural town, she found the move to a new city challenging, especially while balancing full-time study with financial independence.

“Making enough money for living necessities is hard enough, let alone attempting to fund my educational needs. Before the scholarship, I was having to turn down performance opportunities as I didn’t have the equipment. Now I have been able to focus more of my time and energy into my studies and personal growth,” says Cerys.

Mr. Haselhurst’s love for classical music, opera and the performing arts lives on through every student who benefits from this endowed gift. His generosity ensures that these scholarships will continue to support talented musicians for years to come.

“It was meaningful to Dad that his contribution to the students could foster their dreams. He would have wished them all to go on to live interesting lives. He was immensely proud to have been a part of the scholarship program,” said Klara Haselhurst.



“Mental health challenges are a leading reason why students leave university early.”

Loretta

Manager of Student Success at ECU





Supporting wellbeing on campus

Supporting students takes both innovative thinking and the dedication of people like long-standing ECU friends and supporters, Dr Ronald W. Woss AM and his wife Brigid.

After losing their teenage daughter to suicide, Ron and Brigid became passionate advocates for youth mental health. Dr Woss co-founded Youth Focus, a charity that has helped thousands of young people and led to the opening of The Living Room at ECU—a welcoming drop-in space where students access support, easily and without stigma.

Students don't need to book a formal counselling appointment—instead, they can just turn up for a relaxed conversation with a Peer Support Advisor (PSA). As fellow ECU students from diverse backgrounds and academic stages, PSAs understand the pressures of university life and are trained to engage in empathetic, supportive conversations, helping to address immediate concerns while also guiding students toward additional resources if needed.

Mental health challenges are a leading reason why students leave university early. By providing early intervention and a sense of community, The Living Room supports students through academic stress, social pressures, and personal struggles. Students who have used the service say it makes a real difference.

Feedback in an anonymous student survey said “I wish more universities adopted this service because I can't recommend it highly enough to my peers. It is hard to work myself up to bring myself here or to reach out, but it is so worthwhile, and I feel so much better after having my concerns heard while also being offered options for further support services.”

“I have seen many student guests who initially were guarded and uncomfortable but once I informed them I am a student at ECU, they quickly realise that I understand their journey and can empathise with their struggles. They feel empowered because the recommendations we make are super useful,” says Jamie, an ECU Peer Support Advisor in The Living Room.

The Living Room has already supported well over a hundred students at Joondalup. The service was expanded to Mount Lawley campus in 2025, and will also open at the new ECU City campus in 2026, ensuring more students have access to this vital peer-led service.

Dr Woss' vision, in partnership with other universities and ECU, is to expand the living room concept to various locations across the state, including ECU's South West campus.

Find out more about The Living Room at bit.ly/ECULivingRoom



ECU: A place to call home

Edith Cowan University is a truly global learning community, with just under 9,500 international students representing 104 nationalities and speaking more than 90 languages. ECU is a gateway to opportunity, yet, for many, financial and social barriers still stand in the way. Thanks to philanthropic support, initiatives like the Humanitarian Scholarship and the Rainbow Migrants Living Lab (RaMiLab) are breaking down those barriers, ensuring that all students, regardless of background or identity, have the chance to thrive.

Empowering futures

For students who have come to Australia as refugees or are first-generation descendants of refugees, the Humanitarian Scholarships provide vital support, with a one-off payment of \$4,000 helping students to focus on their studies rather than on financial stress.

"It means recognition for the hardship that so many families went through. It means being able to support my mother and make her proud for all that she has sacrificed to live here. This has given me further motivation to continue in my life goal of serving the country and volunteering with people like me, refugees, immigrants and the less fortunate," says Saja, who is undertaking a Bachelor of Counter Terrorism Security and Intelligence.

For Kholoud, a first-year nursing student, a scholarship has helped ease the challenges of study.

"I am passionate about nursing and have always aimed for excellence in this field. However, the expenses of higher education can be overwhelming. This scholarship will be very instrumental in my academic and personal journey."

"Knowing that you are contributing to my educational goals means the world to me, it has made me more motivated and dedicated, not only to make myself and my family proud but also to make you proud. I look forward to giving back to the community and helping others, as you have helped me."

Building inclusive communities

Education is about more than academics—it's also about creating a sense of belonging. This is especially important for students who have relocated from their home to study.

That's why ECU has launched the Rainbow Migrants Living Lab, a pioneering initiative aimed at improving the lives of LGBTIQ+ migrants through innovative research, professional development, and community engagement.

RaMiLab's projects include a longitudinal study tracking the experiences of Rainbow Migrants over time, leadership programs that equip migrants with skills to drive community initiatives, and creative projects that blend storytelling with therapeutic art. Other initiatives focus on developing inclusive care models for aged care, exploring intergenerational housing solutions, and providing peer-led support for LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum seekers.

The projects connect ECU students with hands-on research and industry opportunities.

"We're not just studying social change—we're driving it," says Dr Lukasz Krzyzowski. Lukasz is a Vice Chancellor's Research Fellow within the School of Arts and Humanities, specialising in migration, LGBTIQ+ studies, and intergenerational relations, bridging research with policy development and community impact.

"Through partnerships with over 40 organisations—including community legal centres, government agencies, and service providers supporting refugees, people seeking asylum, students, older people, and LGBTIQ+ communities (with a particular focus on Rainbow Migrants)—we ensure our research translates into meaningful impact," Dr Krzyzowski continued.

Beyond informing and strengthening essential services through research, the project actively contributes to systemic change by providing professional development opportunities and advocating for evidence-based policy reform. Dr Krzyzowski's work focuses on co-designing and delivering inclusive community services, ensuring that those most vulnerable are heard, supported, and empowered.

With the support of generous donors like Pride Foundation Australia, ECU is transforming lives on a global level. Together, we are building a future where every student—regardless of background, identity, or circumstance—has the opportunity to thrive.

"I had never seen this type of generosity for refugees, it came as a surprise to me that people like me had opportunities like this. Receiving the scholarship means recognition for the hardship that, not only my own but so many other families went through. This support means being able to support my mother and make her proud for all that she has sacrificed. To be able to acknowledge the refugees of today means to understand empathy and have compassion for another, communicating a language deeper and stronger than words."

Saja

Humanitarian Scholarship recipient



Thank you

This report is more than a summary of achievements; it's a testament to the power of generosity and to the remarkable impact made possible by your support. Within these pages, you've read stories of perseverance, creativity, and discovery. Behind every achievement is a person whose life has been transformed because someone believed in them.

Sarah, a 2024 Inspiring Minds Scholarship recipient, captured this beautifully when she shared: "I've been able to set up a study space, buy all of my textbooks, and upgrade my keyboard. It might seem like a small thing, but... the relief that I felt, I'm not sure I can adequately express it."

Her words are a powerful reminder: philanthropy is not just a gift, it's a message. A message of belief, of encouragement, and of hope.

"Knowing that there are others out there who have faith in you validates my determination to succeed... It's a reminder that adversity and circumstance do not define your worth - and that sometimes, a little bit of help can make all the difference."

To every one of you who has chosen to support ECU, thank you.

Your belief in what's possible is changing lives - and your impact reaches further than you may ever know.





A bold ambition

During 2024, your generosity allowed us to award 100 scholarships to talented and deserving students.

These went to people that represent our student DNA: those that are first in their family to be pursuing a tertiary education, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, those with parental and other significant caring responsibilities, those with a disability and those from regional and remote communities.

For these people, scholarship support can be the difference between them receiving a transformational education or not. It can also be the lifeline that prevents these talented and deserving students from withdrawing never to fulfil their full potential.

500 life changing scholarships
available by 2030

At ECU, we believe that everyone with the drive and determination deserves the opportunity to pursue a higher education. We know that the world will be a better place with more people from diverse backgrounds armed with tertiary qualifications to become the changemakers and leaders in our communities.

That's why we are setting out a bold ambition. We aim to monumentally scale up our scholarship program adding **an additional 100 new scholarships each year until 2030**. Our goal is to give 500 students per year the opportunity of a life changing education by the end of the decade.

As we embark on this challenge, we look forward to continuing to share the many success stories with you that show the remarkable difference a scholarship can make in transforming lives and enriching society.

Rankings and awards



**World University
Rankings
Young
2024 TOP 100**

ECU has been ranked in the world's top 100 universities under 50 years old.



QILT

Quality Indicators for
Learning and Teaching

ECU received the highest rating of all Australian public universities for undergraduate teaching quality in the 2023 QILT survey.



The Good Universities Guide has given us a 5-star rating for teaching quality for 18 years in a row.

That's how university should be.



**Athena
Swan**
Silver Award

ECU has received the world-recognised Athena SWAN Silver Award for commitment to gender equality, diversity and inclusion for staff and students.



**Athena
SWAN**
Member

Proud to be a member of the Athena SWAN Charter in Australia, a program focused on improving the recruitment, retention and promotion of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine.



ECU has been ranked sixth in Australia in the inaugural AFR list, the only WA university to make the top 10.

Your support is transforming lives



Creative
thinkers
made here.

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TEQSA ID PRV12160, Australian University

ECU Development and Alumni Relations

+61 8 6304 2761

development@ecu.edu.au

For more information visit
ecu.edu.au/giving-to-ecu

**Edith Cowan University Foundation
Financial Report
Year ending 31 December 2024**

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Edith Cowan University Foundation
Income Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024			2023		
	\$			\$		
	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Revenue						
Bequests	5,701	-	5,701	75,000	-	75,000
Donations	7,100,459	83,880	7,184,339	2,957,765	46,134	3,003,899
Sponsorships/contributions	14,886,975	21,000	14,907,975	1,005,708	-	1,005,708
Interest income	978,064	69,635	1,047,699	601,985	68,831	670,816
Total Revenue	22,971,199	174,515	23,145,714	4,640,458	114,965	4,755,423
Expenses by Function						
Prizes	176,161	7,500	183,661	188,208	17,500	205,708
Scholarships	1,284,834	51,000	1,335,834	1,135,047	2,700	1,137,747
Teaching and Learning related expenses	(36,802)	-	(36,802)	388,669	-	388,669
Research related expenses	1,124,333	-	1,124,333	601,947	-	601,947
Sponsorship related expenses	35,173	-	35,173	49,220	-	49,220
Other	7,608,546	26,500	7,635,046	163,864	-	163,864
Total Expenses	10,192,245	85,000	10,277,245	2,526,955	20,200	2,547,155
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	12,778,954	89,515	12,868,469	2,113,503	94,765	2,208,268

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2024

	2024 \$			2023 \$		
	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	29,227,272	1,677,877	30,905,149	16,756,859	1,586,849	18,343,708
Receivables	268,005	-	268,005	171,377	1,513	172,890
Total Assets	29,495,277	1,677,877	31,173,154	16,928,236	1,588,362	18,516,598
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accrued Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred Income	575,205	-	575,205	787,118	-	787,118
Total Liabilities	575,205	-	575,205	787,118	-	787,118
Net Assets	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949	16,141,118	1,588,362	17,729,480
Total Equity	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949	16,141,118	1,588,362	17,729,480

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024			2023		
	\$			\$		
	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Opening Balance	16,141,118	1,588,362	17,729,480	14,027,615	1,493,597	15,521,212
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	12,778,954	89,515	12,868,469	2,113,503	94,765	2,208,268
Closing Balance	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949	16,141,118	1,588,362	17,729,480

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$			2023 \$		
	Non- Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non- Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
Receipts from contributions	21,684,594	106,394	21,790,988	4,426,169	49,594	4,475,763
Interest received	978,064	69,634	1,047,698	601,985	68,831	670,816
Payments to beneficiaries and suppliers	(10,192,245)	(85,000)	(10,277,245)	(2,540,989)	(20,200)	(2,561,189)
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>12,470,413</u>	<u>91,028</u>	<u>12,561,441</u>	<u>2,487,165</u>	<u>98,225</u>	<u>2,585,390</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	12,470,413	91,028	12,561,441	2,487,165	98,225	2,585,390
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of Period	<u>16,756,859</u>	<u>1,586,849</u>	<u>18,343,708</u>	<u>14,269,694</u>	<u>1,488,624</u>	<u>15,758,318</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of Period	<u>29,227,272</u>	<u>1,677,877</u>	<u>30,905,149</u>	<u>16,756,859</u>	<u>1,586,849</u>	<u>18,343,708</u>

Note 1. Material Accounting Policy Information

Management have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Edith Cowan University Foundation ("the Foundation") is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of Board of the Foundation.

The Foundation is a component of Edith Cowan University and is not an independent legal entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Revenue recognition

Donation and bequest income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt except where invoices for payment is generated as per donor requests.

Interest revenue is accrued to the relevant ECU Foundation projects where applicable. Funding from the Minderoo Foundation Limited Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Premier Visiting Artists Fund attracts an interest of 5% per annum.

Other revenue (including sponsorships) is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In this case, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represent funds at call which are held by Edith Cowan University on behalf of the Foundation.

Fund accounting

The Foundation may receive contributions restricted for particular purposes or activities. To facilitate observance of these limitations, the financial statements list separately those funds which are non-discretionary and those funds which are discretionary.

Non-discretionary funds are available for use, but expendable only for purposes specified by the contributor or by statute.

Discretionary funds are available for use by the Foundation at the discretion of the Board.

Events occurring after the reporting date

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2024, which significantly affects, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Foundation in subsequent years.

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Board of Directors Declaration
31 December 2024

As described in the basis of preparation accounting policy included in Note 1 to the Financial Statements, the Foundation is not a reporting entity, and these are special purpose financial statements.

The Board of the Foundation declares that the financial statements and notes:

- (a) comply with the accounting policies as detailed in Note 1 to the Financial Statements; and
- (b) present fairly the Foundation's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

Signed on behalf of the officers



Ms Gaye McMath
Chairperson and Chancellor

Date:
Perth, WA

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Board Report
For the year ending 31 December 2024

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1. Engagement

We have undertaken an audit of the financial report of Edith Cowan University Foundation ("the Foundation") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards applicable to audit engagements.

This report has been prepared for the Board of the Foundation.

2. Disclaimer

This report is prepared on the basis of the limitations set out below.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of the Board and is not intended for any other purposes. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

The matters raised in this report are only those that came to our attention during the course of our audit and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or improvements that might be made.

We cannot, in practice, examine every activity and procedure, nor can we be a substitute for management's responsibility to maintain adequate controls over all levels of operations and their responsibility to prevent and detect irregularities, including fraud.

Accordingly, management should not rely on our report to identify all weaknesses that may exist in the systems and procedures reviewed, or potential instances of fraud that may exist. Our comments should be read in the context of the scope of our work. Findings within this report may have been prepared on the basis of management representations.

Suggestions for improvement should be assessed by the Foundation for their full commercial impact before they are implemented.

This report has been prepared solely for your use as management of the Foundation and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose.

3. Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsibility for producing the financial report and ensuring adequate internal controls and sound business practices is the responsibility of the management and is a part of management's overall responsibility for the ongoing activities of the Foundation. Policies and procedures developed by the Foundation to safeguard its assets and to provide reasonable assurance that errors and irregularities or illegal acts are promptly identified, must be properly monitored to ensure that all staff are complying with the guidelines provided.

4. Appreciation for Assistance

We would like to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance which we received during the course of our audit from Andrew Kong, Mehul Gandhi, and other staff members.

We shall be pleased to discuss with you further any matters mentioned in this report at your convenience.

5. Audit Report

Based on our audit work we plan to issue an unmodified audit opinion.

6. Independence

The engagement team and others in the firm as appropriate, the firm and network firms are independent in accordance with relevant ethical requirements and any regulatory requirements that apply to the audit engagements.

Details of relationships that may reasonably have a bearing on auditor independence, as outlined in relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements have been requested and may have been identified; however, the related safeguards have been applied to eliminate threats to independence or reduce them to an acceptable level.

7. Summary of Unadjusted Audit Differences

During the audit, we noted two unadjusted audit differences which have not been factored into the accounts and financial report. The two unadjusted audit differences are below the materiality threshold of our audit.

Details	Debit \$	Credit \$
Dr. Acc 0680 Deferred Income – Other	55,756	
Cr. Acc 1843 Allocation Current Year Income Ad Hoc It		55,756
To reverse revenue from Minderoo Foundation which should not be deferred as there are no specific performance obligations tied to revenue.		
Dr. Acc AUDIT1 Unallocated cash funds	50,255	
Cr. Acc 0212 Trade Debtors Control		50,255
To reallocate payment to invoice 814671 and allocate payment to invoice 815432 as per the donor's intention. We note that the excess cash funds are currently recorded in ECU despite the cash belonging to the Foundation.		

8. Audit Risk Areas

During the audit, we identified the following risk areas within the financial report. We have summarised the significant risk areas, our planned approach, and the summary of results in each of these areas.

Audit risk area	Approach	Summary of results
Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — We confirmed our understanding of the revenue system procedures for non-interest monies received. — We tested controls and conducted a test of detail over revenue; — We tested the classification of income as either discretionary or non-discretionary; — We performed a substantive analytical review on interest income; and — We tested a sample of transactions to assess if revenue had been recognised in the correct period — We read the terms and conditions of major funding contracts entered into during the year and checked amounts recognised as income to the contracts. 	Satisfactory
Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — We confirmed our understanding of the basis of identifying the portion of the Foundation's cash balance in ECU's bank accounts — We have obtained the external ECU bank confirmation as at 31 December 2024 directly from the Office of the Auditor General who are ECU's auditors. — We have also obtained cash reports to determine the allocation of cash balances to ECU Foundation; and — We checked the balance to internal reports and the restricted cash amounts disclosed in ECU's annual report for 31 December 2024. 	Satisfactory
Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — We confirmed our understanding of the expenditure system procedures; — We tested controls and conducted a test of details over a sample of expenses; — We tested the classification of expenditure as either discretionary or non-discretionary; and — We conducted a cut-off test. 	Satisfactory

9. Detailed Observations, Suggested Areas for Improvement

As part of the audit, we test internal controls to check whether we can rely on them for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the financial report. While we do not express an opinion over the effectiveness and operation of internal controls, we did not identify any control improvements during the audit.

10. Going Concern Observations

During the audit there have been no material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern and require further consideration or disclosure within the financial report.

11. Disagreements with Management

There have been no disagreements with Management during the audit.

12. Fraud

During the audit we have not identified or been notified by your office of any circumstances of fraud.

13. Laws and Regulations

During the audit, there has been no evidence that the Foundation has not complied with laws and regulations applicable to the amounts disclosed in the financial report.

14. Use of Other Auditors

William Buck did not require the assistance of another Audit Firm in performing the audit of the Foundation.

15. Conclusion

Our audit was performed in accordance with the scope set in our engagement letter and Australian Auditing Standards with the objective of our expressing an opinion on the financial report.

We have issued an unmodified audit opinion.

Thank You

We look forward to working with you.

Amar Nathwani – Audit Director

Amar.Nathwani@williambuck.com

Grace Ng – Audit Manager

Grace.Ng@williambuck.com

Office

Level 3, 15 Labouchere Road
South Perth
WA 6151

Telephone +61 8 6436 2888
williambuck.com

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