



# Kaya wandjoo nidja Dandjoo Darbalung moort

## Dandjoo Darbalung Program Guide



Centre for Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait  
Islander Excellence

Powered by St Catherine's College



# Welcome to Dandjoo Darbalung

Dandjoo Darbalung is a unique program at St Catherine's College that provides comprehensive support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. It is a wrap-around program that nurtures your academic journey while empowering you to embrace and celebrate your cultural identity.

Even before you begin your journey at St Catherine's College, you are likely to encounter the members of the Dandjoo Darbalung team as we make it a priority to visit the communities that our students are from.

Our reach extends across Western Australia, and with the invaluable support of our program partners, we strive to visit as many communities as possible. In past years, we had the privilege of visiting the South West, Goldfields, Midwest and Pilbara regions, engaging with hundreds of students. Perhaps you were one of them.

The name "Dandjoo Darbalung" was bestowed upon the program by Elder Noel Nannup. It derives its meaning from the mixing of the salt water and fresh water of the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), which flows near the College.

Today, a committed and dedicated group comprising representatives from the local community, UWA, Curtin University, The University of Notre Dame, Edith Cowan University, Murdoch University, Dandjoo Darbalung alumni and current students actively contribute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and voices to the program.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Dandjoo Darbalung program.

Sincerely,

Maxine Brahim  
Director of Dandjoo Darbalung



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## Cultural support

Dandjoo Darbalung is here to help you have a more enriched educational experience as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student. The program offers exceptional cultural support, fostering a strong sense of belonging and empowerment among its students.

Here, we have a vibrant community of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students currently pursuing their studies at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts or any of the five universities in Perth.

We also have established strong partnerships with the Clontarf Foundation, the Polly Farmer Foundation, Shooting Stars and the Aurora Foundation. These partnerships provide additional support and open doors to exciting opportunities, ensuring that your educational journey has a solid cultural foundation.

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## Academic support

At Dandjoo Darbalung, we prioritise your academic success. Our Dean of Academic Programs and Employability and Associate Dean of Academic Programs and Student Engagement are dedicated to supporting you throughout your studies, and providing assistance tailored to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

We can provide guidance in selecting Course and Units that align with your unique interests and goals. Engaging workshops are also available to enhance your study and organisation skills, empowering you to excel academically.

Through our connections with UWA's School of Indigenous Studies, Curtin University's Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Notre Dame's Nulungu Research Institute, ECU's Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research, and Murdoch's Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre, we provide opportunities for you to expand your knowledge and access additional resources. We can also assist you in utilising the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme, which offers further support for your learning journey.



## What can you expect?

The program is strongly based in culture and includes participation from senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mentors, families and communities.

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### Program Inclusions:

- Regular family meetings around the fire pit on the Banksia building rooftop to discuss the program and catchup with other members.
- Support from an assigned mentor who will be a second or third year Dandjoo Darbalung student.
- Men's and Women's Yarning Circles with local Elders and respected community members who teach about the local Wadjuk Noongar community.
- Engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander industry professionals to learn more about their personal journeys and commitment to social justice.
- Connecting with the local community by attending significant Art and Cultural events in Perth.
- Cultural leadership workshops.
- Healing Circles led by members and leaders of the Aboriginal community.

### Outcomes:

- Closing the gap on educational outcomes.
- Supporting you in knowing who you are, and where you come from while meeting your personal and community aspirations.
- Developing the ability to navigate 'both worlds' confidently.
- Building leadership skills.
- Offering opportunities for the broader St Catherine's College community to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through our Cultural Perspectives Program.



## Balancing your life at college

University isn't just about attending classes. As a part of the Dandjoo Darbalung Program, we encourage you to get involved in College life to broaden your horizons, make lifelong friends, explore your culture and have fun!



Get support from a dedicated team of **Residential Advisers** (young people just like you).



Hang out with our **College pets**.



Compete in Inter-College sports and enjoy **free gym membership**.



Make lifelong friends from all corners of the globe.



Get involved in a full and busy **social calendar**.



Practice and share your talent in our **Arts and Music Program** (including didge playing).



A range of generous **scholarships** and fee assistance opportunities.



**Networking opportunities** to get you job-ready before you graduate.



Jam as loudly as you want to in our **soundproof music rooms**.



Relax in our **rooftop gardens**.



Single Rooms

## Where will you live?

If you're coming to St Catherine's College, it's comforting to know there is a place you can call home.

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### Your Room

We have two different room types—a Single Room primarily for first year students and a Studio Room for second year and above students who would like to live more independently.



Studio Rooms



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## General Support

- A positive living environment and a nurturing community where you will feel supported to pursue your studies.
- We have a direct line to ABSTUDY and can assist with the complexities around organising your payments.
- We can help with scholarship applications to provide support to those experiencing financial hardship and educational barriers.



Fire Pit

## State of the art facilities

A contemporary living and learning environment on an intimate scale.

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### The Tower and Fire Pit

The design of the tower with the fire pit at the crown, is open to the elements, suffused with natural light and connected to key symbolic features. It emphasises the relationship Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the land, with nature, and the importance of birds and animals to their songs, dances and belief systems.





Cultural Centre



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## Other Facilities

- The Cultural Centre is a dynamic connection point with the wider community and includes mentoring, tutoring and cultural celebration, surrounded by beautiful tranquil gardens.
- The rooftop garden at the Cultural Centre provides a quiet space for small groups to gather in much the same way as the meeting and ceremonial spaces provided in the native gardens and the tower.
- Native gardens which allows students to study outdoors, soak up the sun and commune in an informal way.

# How to apply

Applications are accepted 12 months prior to beginning your studies. It is advisable to apply early in the year (even before you receive a university offer) to ensure you secure a place.

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## 1 Research

Visit our website ([stcats.com.au](http://stcats.com.au)) to learn more about life at St Catherine's College, our programs, services and our range of scholarships. You can also book a tour with us to explore our facilities and learn about College life.

## 2 Apply Now

Email the Director of Dandjoo Darbalung at [maxine.brahim@stcats.com.au](mailto:maxine.brahim@stcats.com.au)

## 3 Offer

We will contact you for an interview, and a staff member will guide you through the process. Within two weeks, we will let you know if you have secured your place at the College.

## Scholarships and Fee Assistance

### Residential Costs Option

We can assist eligible students to manage the costs of living away from home to study. Costs can cover accommodation, meals, laundry and all compulsory fees.

### Scholarships

We believe in you and will support you to achieve your very best, that's why we invest over \$800,000 a year in scholarships so a life-changing residential living experience is possible.

For more information on our Scholarships, please scan the QR code below.





## Hear from Simon and Rebekah

“What I love most about living on campus is the community. There is always someone that you can talk to, have a laugh with and go out for beach trips, basketball games, movies, shopping, and so on.

Living on campus has honestly been the best part of my life so far. It’s a great space and a lot of fun activities are facilitated here to bring the community together and be as one”

**Simon, studying a Master of Teaching Katanning | Wagyl Kaip and Southern Noongar**

“My time so far living on campus has been an enriching experience. The student life is vibrant and welcoming; I appreciate having the chance to network and learn with my new friends and chosen family from different universities, states, and even countries, which is a rare opportunity.

I have also enjoyed workshops where I can learn my own Noongar language and traditional weaving techniques which allows me to connect with my culture and give back to my community.

Living on campus gives me the chance to do more, such as participate in UWA’s basketball competition, go on cultural trips to places such as Nowanup and Esperance and I recently had the opportunity to become co-chair of the WASC committee with the School of Indigenous Studies.

I’m able to focus better, with quiet study spaces and tutoring options at College, plus UWA’s libraries and student services are right across the road. The stress of bills, food choices and transport are taken away so that education can become my first priority.”

**Rebekah, studying a Bachelor of Arts and majoring in Anthropology, Sociology and Indigenous Studies  
Perth | Whadjuk Noongar**

## Our Partners

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| Synergy | Telethon Institute | Venues West |  
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