

## Transcript

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CONOR: I'm Conor Bowden, my mob's Tagalaka and Gumatj, from North East Arnhem Land, and from Cape York. The degree I study at Swinburne is the Bachelor of Arts Education, and I chose this because I want to help Indigenous kids in communities learn and equip themselves with the skills they need to thrive.

So I'm originally from Darwin, and I have a very strong connection to Country. I grew up a lot out bush and a lot in remote areas where I go fishing and hunting and visiting a lot of remote Indigenous communities and Aboriginal communities. And MTC has helped me in one very specific way, and that's by enabling me to move back home and continue my degree while still providing me with the support that they provide anyone else that comes here as an on-campus student. So that has enabled me to be around my family, and to be able to go out bush and connect with Country and in the place that I love and that my family loves.

So one thing that's really helped me get through my course is the support that the MTC has provided in regards to mental health. They have kept me in touch with mental health professionals, and, you know, the counsellors here on campus. Seeing as I come to Melbourne at a pretty young age and lived pretty much by myself, and independently, I didn't really understand that support at the time, but they connected me with the right people at the right time and it really helped me get through my degree.

Getting an education degree helps me in many ways, especially by allowing me to understand how the curriculum works, first of all, giving me the skills to go out and actually run a classroom. But ultimately, where we see this westernised kind of model of education being presented across Australia, we're not seeing it really mould with what Indigenous kids need. And I want to make it more accessible and way more applicable to the lives and realities of Indigenous kids in communities.

I plan on going out to Gunyangara and teaching in the middle school there where my family is and helping to equip those communities with the skills that they need to move forward.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]