



Indigenous Youth Mobility Program

Case Study



Rebecca Richards

At 24, Rebecca Richards has joined the ranks of Prime Ministers, poet laureates, researchers, and other notable academics.

Home town:
Berry, SA

IYMP Location:
Adelaide, SA

Studies:
Bachelor of Arts
(Psychology and
Anthropology),
Bachelor of Honours in
Anthropology, recipient
of Rhodes Scholarship
to Oxford University.

IYMP Provider:
Aboriginal Hostels
Limited

In 2010, Rebecca became the first Aboriginal person to be awarded a prestigious Rhodes scholarship, due to her passion, hard work and the Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP). Rebecca is an Andyamathanha and Banggarla woman who grew up near Berry in the Riverland region of South Australia.

Rebecca became interested in anthropology when, at 14, she joined her father and South Australian Museum anthropology head Philip Jones on a fieldwork project in her native Andyamathanha lands in the Flinders Ranges. This fieldwork was later used in determining native title of the lands.

Rebecca applied for the IYMP when she moved from Berry to Adelaide to complete a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology and Anthropology). With support from the IYMP, Rebecca moved to Canberra to take up an Indigenous Cadet Project Officer position at the National Museum of Australia.

Rebecca is passionate about Aboriginal history and culture. 'It was fantastic to be able to reconnect with who I am and my culture, and my heritage through the IYMP,' Rebecca said at the

IYMP Provider Conference in Adelaide in late 2010.

At Oxford, Rebecca will undertake a two-year Masters of Philosophy in Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography. Rebecca will also be conducting research at the British Museum for an exhibition of Aboriginal art.

The Rhodes scholarship program was established in 1902 and is considered the most prestigious award of its kind in the world. Scholarships are awarded to top students from the Commonwealth, the US and a few other countries and provides tuition, fees and living expense.

Notable Rhodes scholars include former US President Bill Clinton and former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke. Rebecca hopes to set a precedent, and be the first of many Indigenous Australian Rhodes Scholars to come.

The IYMP helps Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 24 move away from home to gain the skills they need to get a job in their community or elsewhere. IYMP provides costs with accommodation, education and training and focuses on assisting participants to obtain Certificate III qualifications and above. Participants can choose from 16 IYMP host locations.

**To apply and find out more visit
www.deewr.gov.au/IYMP.**