



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations

# Indigenous Youth Mobility Program

## Case Study



Home town:  
Moree, NSW

IYMP Location:  
Coffs Harbour, NSW

Studying Bachelor  
of Business

IYMP Provider:  
Aboriginal Hostels  
Limited

## Walter Toney

**Moving away from home for the first time for many young people is exciting. But not knowing anyone in a new town can be daunting. Having to support yourself financially and study without family support can be even tougher.**

Walter Toney first left Moree for the 'big smoke' in 2009 to start his three year Bachelor of Business degree at Southern Cross University in Coffs Harbour.

'When I first moved to Coffs it was overwhelming. I didn't know anyone at all. Coming straight from home to uni, I found it really hard to try and balance study with normal day-to-day life,' Walter said.

'I lived at the uni campus for the first year but it was so expensive, I just couldn't afford it. My aunt told me I should look into IYMP, so I did.'

The Indigenous Youth Mobility Program, delivered by Aboriginal Hostels Limited in Coffs Harbour, helped Walter move to group accommodation.

'It makes studying at uni so much easier and I don't have to worry about money as much. It's also really good to be in an environment with other kids studying because the support is excellent. It's like being in a big family and I have found it really easy to make friends,' Walter said.

When not studying himself, Walter helps mentor other students.

'I know what it's like to be a first year. It's so different to high school, the way you have to study, so if I can help other students I do. I'd definitely recommend the program to other students, especially if they have to move away from home to study,' Walter said.

'My family are much happier now because they know I am settled and happy here.'

Walter hopes it won't be long before he's sitting beneath the coconut palms on a sandy white beach starting the first day of his dream job, working in resorts and hotel management. Now that he's found his study-life balance, along with new friends and 'family' at the hostel, his last year of uni should be a lot easier.

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](http://www.deewr.gov.au/IYMP).