

**Flinders University
Graduation Ceremonies**

Darwin, December 2023

MON

The Crest

The Flinders University Council adopted a coat of arms for the University on 16 December 1966.

The coat of arms consists of a shield bearing a radiant sun at the base surmounted by an open book on a blue background, with an extract from page 176 of Volume 1 of Matthew Flinders' *A Voyage to Terra Australis* printed on the open pages.

The shield is surmounted by a crest comprising a reproduction of Flinders' ship *Investigator* fully rigged, on a wreath of the University's colours of dark blue, pale blue and white.

The Crest was designed by Kevyn Graham Whisson.

In 2022, the logo was reimagined. Inspired by the ambition of our namesake and the words of our founding Vice-Chancellor Peter Karmel – "*Experiment and experiment bravely*" – Flinders University has always been ready to step away from the security of the familiar and forge new ways forward. As our journey continues, we are evolving our brand and logo to reflect our progress while honouring our past.

Our new aesthetic is designed to capture our strengths as a modern, innovative, inclusive and student-centred organisation.

Flinders University logo evolution



Congratulations to our newest alumni

On behalf of Flinders University, I extend my warmest congratulations to you, our fearless new graduates.

As a fellow graduate and now Chancellor of Flinders University, I can say from personal experience that your time at Flinders will serve you well into the future, wherever your lives may lead.

Graduation from university is a mark of success that reflects the remarkable perseverance, dedication, and investment that you have shown over a sustained period. This has resulted in your success that we are here today to celebrate.

Your education journey has been particularly special, as you have chosen to undertake your studies in the unique and beautiful Northern Territory. You have seized the opportunity offered to you to undertake work-based study in a regional or remote area. This shows that you share our commitment to improving communities and the social fabric and health outcomes of this extraordinary part of Australia.

Equipped with a qualification that you have worked so hard for, there is no doubt in my mind that you will be valued and integral contributors to our society.

It is my honour to welcome you to the Flinders alumni network of visionaries, changemakers and achievers that reaches around the globe. I encourage you to stay connected and access a range of opportunities and benefits, including lifelong learning, professional support and being part of a community in which you can share and celebrate your achievements.

As you move into a new chapter of your lives, please keep in touch and let us know how your lives evolve – we will be watching your success and progress with great interest and pride.

You can be assured that Flinders University will continue to grow and improve to ensure you are always proud to call yourself a Flinders graduate.

I wish you all the best as you enter the next stage of your lives and go out into the world to leave your own unique mark.

My congratulations to you all.

John Hood
Chancellor



John Hood
Chancellor
Flinders University

Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located, these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

Our vision for Reconciliation

Flinders University's collective vision is to foster an environment that recognises and embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, knowledges and cultures. This vision for reconciliation is grounded in the concepts of togetherness, reciprocity, and respect.

We respect and recognise the long-held philosophies, knowledges, research, strengths and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in this country.

Flinders has committed to a second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan to more deeply embed the learnings from our inaugural RAP across our campuses and communities, building on two decades of incremental advances in prioritising Indigenous engagement in higher education. We continue to work across our staff, student and alumni community to increase respectful recognition, knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions.

Explore our Reconciliation Action Plan at:
[Flinders.edu.au/rap](https://flinders.edu.au/rap)

Tiles are designed by Dr. Ali Baker and painted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students during Orientation week at Flinders University.



Congratulations – you are now a Flinders University graduate

Today we celebrate not just the culmination of your hard work, but the spirit of fearlessness that carried you through this journey.

Your testamur tells the world that you are equipped with a body of advanced knowledge and skills that sets you apart, earned by your dedication, relentless hard work, and an unwavering commitment to your dreams.

The route to academic success is seldom simple or easy. Embarking on study is a big decision, and choosing what to study and where to study can set the course of one's life.

You've chosen wisely.

A Flinders degree is highly regarded, showing you've got what it takes to succeed at a university that is amongst the best in the world.

So, while your graduation from one of our Northern Territory programmes marks the end of an important chapter in your life, it also represents the beginning of the next and we here at Flinders University look forward to following your progress.

Alongside your personal dedication, it's important to acknowledge the invaluable support of your family, friends, fellow graduates, and our staff who have helped you along the way. I encourage you to maintain those connections you have made at Flinders; many of them will stay with you for life.

As you step out into the world, remember that your journey doesn't end with graduation. Lifelong learning is the key to continued success. Your time at Flinders University has equipped you with the foundation, but it's up to you to build upon it.

Be fearless in pursuing knowledge and adapting to an ever-changing world.

During your time with us, you will have felt the power of our deeply held values of courage, integrity, innovation, and excellence. These values guide everything we do, and they will serve you well into your future.

Congratulations, graduates. Flinders is immensely proud of your accomplishments.

As you turn the page to the next chapter in your life, remember that your Flinders family will always be here to support you on your journey.

Professor Colin Stirling

President and Vice-Chancellor



Professor Colin J Stirling

**President and Vice-Chancellor
Flinders University**

Academic dress

The history of academic dress spans a period of more than 600 years from the earliest days of universities to present. The tradition of wearing academic dress continues in universities around the world.

At Flinders University, the wearing of a hood by the graduate to indicate their College is the principal feature. The hood of Flinders' academic dress is a dark blue. The colours of the hood's lining and piping are prescribed by the University and distinguish the different award and College.

Graduates who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian are entitled to wear a stole of either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander colours, worn over the gown and under the hood.

List of hood piping colours

	Blue for College of Business, Government and Law
	Orange for College of Education, Psychology and Social Work
	Yellow for College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
	Green for College of Medicine and Public Health
	Red for College of Nursing and Health Sciences
	Purple for College of Science and Engineering

Academic dress colours

Academic dress is made up of three parts; the **gown**, the **hood** and the **cap**. The cap is a black mortarboard with black tassel, unless graduating with a doctorate, where a black velvet bonnet with a black cord is worn.



Higher Doctorate

Gown: Red with coloured trim
Hood: Red lined with the colour of the discipline



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Gown: Navy with red trim
Hood: Navy with red lining (no piping)



Doctorate (other than PhD and Doctor of Medicine)

Gown: Red with coloured trim
Hood: Navy with red lining and coloured piping



Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Clinical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine

Gown: Black with glove sleeves
Hood: Navy with light green lining (no piping)



Masters

Gown: Black with glove sleeves
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining and coloured piping



Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining (no piping)



Bachelor

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with white lining and coloured piping



Undergraduate, Associate Degrees and Associate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves
Hood: Navy with white lining (no piping)

Graduation ceremony

Tuesday 12 December 2023

3pm

Darwin Convention Centre

PROGRAM

Entry of Academic Procession

Australian National Anthem

Welcome to Country

Opening of Proceedings

Speeches

Presentation of Graduates

Closing of Proceedings

Afternoon Tea

Officers of the University

Chancellor

Mr John Hood

Deputy Chancellors

Ms Elizabeth Perry AM

Mr Douglas Gautier AM

President and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Colin J Stirling

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)

Professor Romy Lawson

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Professor Robert Saint AM

Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)

Mr Sebastian Raneskold

Vice-President (Corporate Services)

Mr Mark Gregory

General Counsel & University Secretary

Mr Marc Davies

College Vice-Presidents and Executive Deans

Business, Government and Law

Professor Michael Gilding

Education, Psychology and Social Work

Professor Deborah West

Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

Professor Peter Monteath

Medicine and Public Health

Professor Jonathan Craig

Nursing and Health Sciences

Professor Alison Kitson

Science and Engineering

Professor Alistair Rendell

Message from the Dean of Rural and Remote Health SA & NT

Congratulations to Graduates of the 2023 local Doctor of Medicine (NTMP) and Bachelor of Paramedicine and local students who have graduated from a range of Flinders University degrees.

You will join over 1200 proud alumni living and working in the Northern Territory that continue to connect with Flinders University.

Paramedicine graduates will be celebrated as the first to complete their entire degree in the Northern Territory and will become role models for potential and current students. Medical graduates will join a well-established cohort of graduates including 186 doctors, 18 identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Congratulations and we look forward to your continued participation in our Flinders community of practice.

Professor Robyn Aitken



Professor Robyn Aitken
Flinders University

Graduates - Doctor of Medicine

Flinders University is recognised globally as a leader in medical education and universities worldwide have adopted the curriculum of our medical program. The program integrates clinical medicine with a strong underpinning in the relevant biomedical sciences, while also providing students with a broader understanding of health in a range of social contexts, with a commitment to social justice and equity.

As a professional qualification, the Flinders University Doctor of Medicine (MD) is accredited by the Australian Medical Council to deliver outstanding clinical and academic training, ensuring students are well prepared for the challenges of internship and future professional training.

The Northern Territory Medical Program (NTMP), which commenced in 2011 in partnership with Charles Darwin University, the NT Government and the Australian Government, has enabled the full four years of the Flinders MD to be taught in the Northern Territory. Over the last decade, 24 Territorians each year can study to become a doctor without having to leave home. In 2023, the number of commencing students increased to 30, and in 2024 the number will increase again.

The MD provides high quality accredited medical education to local students. Curriculum delivery is innovative, using the latest technologies to ensure quality teaching across the Australian Central Corridor in a variety of settings, preparing a fit-for-context medical workforce for rural and remote Australia and Indigenous Australians. Building on almost 50 years of success, students learn on Flinders campuses and in partner health services in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Nhulunbuy, as well as some of the most remote primary health care centres in Australia. The NTMP taps into the deep vein of clinical and public health expertise of local practitioners who are national and international leaders in their field.

While graduates are skilled to practice anywhere in the world, the contextualised curriculum of the NTMP ensures that we produce graduates who are Territorians and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people trained in the Territory, for the Territory.

Congratulations to the 2023 graduates of the Northern Territory Medical Program.

College of Medicine and Public Health

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Jahan Barr

Max Bedward

Angela Davey

Madelyn Deigan

Moaz Hatem Mostafa Abdul Tawab Ibrahim

Emily Lauren Kowalewycz

Ellen Ann Monsi

Simona Peyrer

Michael Pham

Ranasinghage Senuri Divyani Pinto

Shari Brooke Mu Prasad

Eliza Violet Pridham

Adel Razi

Theofilos Nikolaos Rigas

Nelson Rossingh

Carly Sanford

John Kenneth Tigbao

Madusha Weeratunga

Janelle Sherilyn Wong

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE WITH DISTINCTION

Bianca Cottier

Carleigh Duke

Mietta Russell

Graduates - Bachelor of Paramedicine NT

Being a paramedic means being there for people when they need it most, and it means working in a career dedicated to helping others.

The Bachelor of Paramedicine at Flinders is one of the longest running paramedicine programs in the country, seeing more than 1500 graduates over the past two decades.

Commencing delivery in 2021, this year sees the first graduating cohort of the Bachelor of Paramedicine (NT), contributing to the recruitment and retention of workforce locally. The program is accredited by the Paramedicine Board of Australia and designed to prepare students for the challenges they will face clinically, and personally, as a frontline paramedic.

College of Medicine and Public Health

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF PARAMEDICINE

Katrina Crombie

Ebony Hill

Sarah Waqa

Storm Young

College of Medicine and Public Health

GRADUATES – OTHER COURSES

The College of Medicine and Public Health is delighted to acknowledge the achievements of Northern Territory residents who have completed a range of Flinders University degrees. Since 2020 students from a range of degrees have been given the opportunity to celebrate their achievements here in Darwin with family and their local community. This year 25 Territory graduates join us to celebrate on Larrakia land today. We look forward to your contribution to the Northern Territory workforce in the years to come, and that you continue to join us for alumni events that celebrate over 1200 Northern Territorians who have completed Flinders University degrees over time.

Congratulations!

College of Education, Psychology and Social Work

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATION (SPECIAL EDUCATION)

Uthra Jegannathan

DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Kate Scobell

College of Nursing and Health Sciences

DEGREE OF MASTER OF MIDWIFERY (COURSEWORK)

Ishita Singhal

DEGREE OF NURSING (CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH)

Mandeep Kaur

DEGREE OF MASTER OF NURSING (DIABETES MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION)

Laura Cuthbert

College of Medicine and Public Health

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL EDUCATION

Marcellina Martins

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Deborah Mauger

Congratulatory Messages

On behalf of the Paramedicine degree teaching team, we would like to congratulate you as the inaugural graduates of the Paramedicine (NT) program. We are privileged to have supported your opportunity to study in the Territory and look forward to the contribution you will make to pre-hospital health service delivery and your community more broadly. Well done to both you and your partners and families, we recognise this achievement is often a team effort!



Storm Young

What excites me most about Paramedicine is its dynamic and ever-evolving nature. Pre-hospital care is essential for community health, and I'm passionate about participating in it. This field demands compassion, empathy, and a strong sense of collaboration, which I will spend my career evolving.

Flinders University was the right choice because the quality of education I've received here has been exceptional. The content delivered in the Paramedicine program has adequately prepared me for my future career, equipping me with the necessary knowledge and clinical skills.



Dr Tim Rayner
Paramedicine
Discipline Lead



Brad Mitchell
Paramedicine Course
Coordinator



Over 25 years of impact and partnership in the NT



Celebrating 10 years
of the Northern Territory
Medical Program

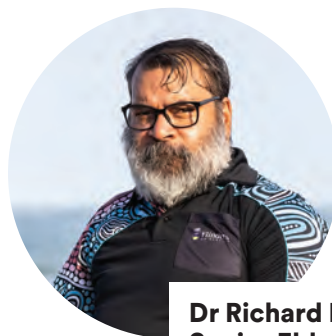
Our accomplishments have been extraordinary.

Over the past 25 years Flinders has served the Territory through the Clinical School in Darwin, the Rural Clinical School (Alice Springs, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Tennant Creek), the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH), the Rural Interprofessional Placement Learning program (RIPPL), the Remote Primary Health Care suite of manuals (RPHCM), the Remote Health Practice Program, the Johanna Briggs Institute Centre of Excellence Mparntwe Centre for Evidence in Health, Poche SA+NT, the Indigenous Entry Stream, the Regional Training Hubs (Alice Springs and Darwin), the Katherine Remote Interprofessional Student Placement Program (KRISPP), membership of Central Australian Academic Health Science Network (CA AHSN), and an ever expanding portfolio of community driven research. In 2021 we celebrated 10 years of the NTMP. Since the program's inception, the NTMP has been providing nearly 50% of the new interns required in the Northern Territory. Graduates to date have included 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, with more conferred at today's graduation celebration. With 20% of graduate entry students identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, the NTMP has the highest percentage of Indigenous students in each intake of all medical programs in Australia.

Most importantly, we have delivered on the primary aim of the NTMP: to produce graduates who are fit-for-practice in the unique context of remote and Indigenous Northern Territory communities.

Flinders is successful in the Northern Territory because of the dedication, goodwill and vision of a collective of students, teachers, clinicians, researchers, academics and professional staff who are steadfast in their commitment to the provision of high quality health care and equitable access to education for our communities in the NT.

To highlight the incredible work of this collective, we have developed a 25 year celebration book that tells individual stories of some of the people who have conceptualised, developed, supported, taught and studied at Flinders in the Northern Territory. These pages provide a sneak peek into the book content's and highlight some of the incredible stories that embody Flinders University's contributions to the Northern Territory and to rural and remote health.



Dr Richard Fejo
Senior Elder on campus
Darwin

We are still the most disadvantaged people in Australia, and that's not acceptable, but it will take a massive effort of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to make change. That's why I became a cultural educator, equipping doctors and nurses with knowledge to go out into communities, so they understand what they can experience and immerse into our lifestyle and better understand the challenges we face.

A lot of non-Aboriginal people say to me 'we don't know where to start'. I tell them to go find out whose land they are on, talk to the traditional owners on the land you are standing on, go to a museum and find out more.

Knowledge and understanding are essential if we are going to make changes in our health.



Associate Professor
Buddhika Weerasundera
NT Medical Program

"I will always remember the first cohort that graduated: it was very special to me, almost like watching my own children graduate! That's the kind of passion that we all have for medical education here. I am so happy that I can be part of growing the health workforce in the NT, and to contribute even in the smallest possible way."



**Professor James Smith
– Deputy Dean Rural and
Remote Health NT**

Flinders students based in the NT have one of the richest learning environments in the world. The ability to engage in two-way learning that bridges Indigenous and Western worldviews is unique and is something I regularly hear our students talk about in a positive way. It is reassuring to know that Flinders graduates take this knowledge into their workplaces to improve the health and social wellbeing of all Territorians. We should all be proud of these achievements.



**Associate Professor Emma
Kennedy, Academic Coordinator of
the Flinders NT Medical Program**

Completing the program is a huge achievement. I am inspired by you as students in your tenacity, commitment, inquiry and vulnerability. I look forward to working with you in translating this into the care needed in our patients, their families and our community. Thank you for choosing to study in the NT. Congratulations!



**Associate Professor Karla Canuto
– Director Indigenous Health
Leadership**

Congratulations. Your qualifications are formal recognition of the knowledge and skills you acquired throughout your studies, now with that, comes great responsibility to put them to good use. I look forward to seeing the contributions you all make to the betterment of the health and wellbeing of all Territorians.

Congratulations!

Now that you have finished your degree at Flinders University, you have become a lifelong member of our Alumni Network. You join over 125,000 Flinders alumni across 130 countries who are finding their place, making their mark and making a difference around the world!

Leverage your degree long after graduation by tapping into this powerful network and making connections wherever your degree takes you.

Get involved, give back

Access important career developing and defining opportunities by getting involved and giving back.

- Share your time - As your career develops, we welcome you to share your skills, knowledge and experience with students through speaking and mentorship opportunities.
- Offer a placement – When you're in the position to help a current student gain this valuable workplace experience, please reach out to us and we will help find the right student for your organisation
- Share your story – Over the next year, or in the next decade, inspire the next generation of students by sharing what your next steps were beyond Flinders University and how you achieved your career goals.
- Connect with your fellow-graduates - Alumni networks and reunions are a great opportunity for catching up and maintaining connections with graduates from your degree, industry or region.
- Support lifechanging research - You can play a powerful role in changing lives by supporting research at Flinders University. Learn how your support can have an impact across the community: **[Flinders.edu.au/giving](https://flinders.edu.au/giving)**
- Support students in financial need - If you would like to support students who are facing financial hardship to reach their potential, please make a donation to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship: **[Flinders.edu.au/support](https://flinders.edu.au/support)**



2023 NT Alumni Reception

Celebrating Alumni Achievements

Flinders is honoured to count among its alumni:

1 Fields Medallist

6 Rhodes Scholars

30 Fulbright Scholars

350+ Australian Honours recipients

Flinders University Alumni Awards

The annual Flinders University Alumni Awards acknowledge the significant contributions made by our graduates in their field, to the University or to the community locally, nationally and internationally. The awards include the Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Early Career Alumni Awards.

Congratulations to our 2023 recipients!

Convocation Medal

Cav. Maurice Crotti AO
Bachelor of Arts 1971

Professor Maria Makrides
Bachelor of Nutrition and Dietetics 1991, Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) 1995

Distinguished Alumni Award

Professor Robyn Clark
Diploma of Applied Science (Nursing) 1986, Bachelor of Nursing 1994

Professor Bogda Koczwara AM
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 1990

Emily Korir
Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies 2016

Dr Michael C Smith
Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care in Developing Countries 2012, Doctor of Philosophy (Biomedical Engineering) 2016

Professor Cassandra Szoeki
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 1999

Professor Simone Ulalka Tur
Master of Educational Studies 2002, Doctor of Philosophy (Education, Humanities, Law and Teaching) 2018

Early Career Alumni Award

Launched in 2020, the Early Career Alumni Award recognises the outstanding achievements and contributions of graduates in their early career (up to five years after graduating from an undergraduate or postgraduate degree).

This year we celebrate the achievements of Early Career Alumni Awardees:

Dr Mehrdad Aghamohamadi
Doctor of Philosophy (Electrical Engineering) 2022

Dr I Gusti Ayu Agung Dhani Dharmapran
Honours Degree of Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical) 2016, Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) 2020

Eloise Hall
Bachelor of International Relations/Bachelor of Business 2023

Madison Siegertsz
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Screen) 2020

**Who are the Flinders alumni that inspire you?
Consider nominating them for a Flinders
University Alumni Award in the 2024 mid-year
nomination round, open soon!**

Read more:
[Flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards)

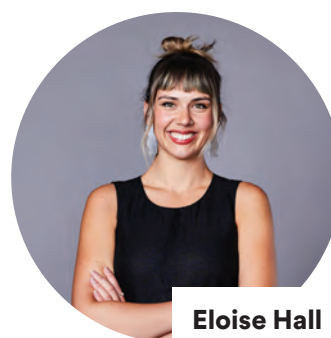


**Professor
Maria Makrides**

(Credit: Meaghan Coles)



Dr Michael C Smith



Eloise Hall

(Credit: Flashpoint Labs)



We look forward to staying connected

We are so excited for your next move after you graduate from Flinders University, but we also want to continue to engage with you, inspire you and help you reach your career goals into the future.

Staying connected is an important way for us to let you know about Flinders University Alumni Network activities, professional development opportunities, reunions and events in your location (whether that is Sydney, Shanghai or Stewart Park).

You can stay connected by updating your contact details whenever you move or change jobs. Fill in the online form or contact the Alumni Relations Team.

Update your details via:
[Flinders.edu.au/update](https://flinders.edu.au/update)

Contact the Alumni Relations Team to find out how you can get involved, share your experiences and develop new ones:

alumni@flinders.edu.au

+61 8 8201 7969

[Flinders.edu.au/alumni](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni)



Northern Territory
Medical Program

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