

BRIDGING THE GAP

FOUNDATION FOR INDIGENOUS HEALTH AND EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

February 28, 2020

WINNERS OF INDIGENOUS HOSPITALITY SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED TODAY

Today, Bridging the Gap Foundation in partnership with International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) and Accor have pleasure in announcing that Ghinna Ambrum from Pullman Cairns International and Maddison Ingram are the recipients of the second round of Indigenous Hospitality Scholarships.

This is the second year that the scholarships will be awarded by Bridging the Gap Foundation and partners providing the opportunity for Indigenous students to study a three-year Bachelor of Business (Hospitality Management) Course at ICHM. Last year's recipient was Kenneth Abrook, Kaurna man who is currently working at Pullman Adelaide who is continuing his second year of studies at ICHM.

ICHM, a higher education provider based in Adelaide, is one of the most reputable hotel schools in Australia, preparing students for management careers in the hospitality industry.

"Bridging the Gap Foundation aims to address the urgent issue of the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians' health and education opportunities and outcomes," said Richard Ryan AO, Chair of Bridging the Gap Foundation and Immediate Past Chair of ICHM.

"I would like to congratulate Ghinna and Maddison and wish them the best in their studies."

The Foundation will fund the accommodation of two Indigenous students from 2020 onwards, with ICHM funding the student's tuition and Accor contributing through the provision of books and uniforms. An Indigenous mentor and support from Accor's Indigenous Programs team will be provided to the students while they study and work to enable their success.

"The hospitality and tourism industry is a significant segment of the Australian economic and cultural landscape. The contribution of the Indigenous community to this industry is invaluable. ICHM is proud to be able to support the Indigenous scholarships and provide these students with the knowledge, skills and professionalism to excel in their future career in this industry," said Natalie Simmons, CEO, ICHM.

The Foundation is very appreciative of the support provided by Accor and the role the company is playing in building future leaders in the hospitality industry.

Simon McGrath, Chief Operating Officer, Accor Pacific, said “We are very impressed with the calibre of talent this year.

“Accor is committed to partnering with like-minded organisations to develop employment outcomes that are sustainable, empowering and fulfilling which enables connection and pride within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community”

“As a company, we are committed to spreading awareness and understanding of Australia’s rich Indigenous heritage and culture through engaging the local community and guests in meaningful conversations and activities,” concluded McGrath.

Ghinna grew up in Babinda in Queensland and tried out a number of trade training courses before starting work as a hotel porter in Cairns. Aged 23, he is very excited to be able to train in hospitality, an area that he really enjoys.

“I’m very excited to receive this scholarship. I enjoy interacting with guests and enhancing the guest experience. This scholarship will equip me with the skills that I need to build my career and work my way up in the industry,” he said.

Maddison went to high school at Kaurua Plains School, and at the age of 19, is excited to be embarking on her scholarship. With her mother working in catering, she already has some knowledge of the industry.

“I’m looking forward to learning more about hospitality. I know that both my parents are very proud of me so I’m determined to succeed with my studies,” she said.

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About Bridging the Gap Foundation

Bridging the Gap Foundation has been established through the Menzies School of Health Research and Charles Darwin University. Its objective is to fund research into health and education and undertake projects in these fields in order to address one of Australia’s most urgent issues: the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians’ health and education opportunities and outcomes.

For more information: www.btgfoundation.com.au

About International College of Hotel Management (ICHM)

ICHM is the only school in Australia affiliated with the Swiss Hotel Association. In 2019, it was named the best hotel and hospitality school in Australia for the quality of its student experience, according to the leading national Student Experience Survey.

About Accor’s Indigenous Employment Program

Since 2001, Accor has placed over 1,500 Indigenous employees within its hotels across the nation. This has been driven through strong relationships with Government, partner organisations and existing employees whom are the best demonstration of success for our program. Our Indigenous programs continue to develop hospitality talent and as

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such approximately 5% (over 600 team members) of our total workforce identify as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Through our Indigenous Employment Program, Accor Australia's goal is to create employment outcomes that are sustainable, empowering and fulfilling which enables pride and inspiration within the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community. We do this by forming relationships with organisations and people in the community who in turn provide high quality talent to our business.