

Manager's message



As we reach the end of another big year at CUC Cape York, I want to take a moment to celebrate everything our students and community have achieved together. This year we've seen our student numbers continue to grow, and it's been inspiring to watch so many of you balancing study, work, family, and community commitments with such determination.

Last week's end-of-year celebration and graduation event was a real highlight. Standing alongside you, your families, and our community to recognise your hard work reminded me why this centre exists – to create opportunities, build pathways, and support each other every step of the way. Congratulations again to all our students who completed subjects, finished qualifications, or simply kept showing up. Every achievement matters.

I also want to share some personal news. After an incredible journey since opening the centre, I will be moving on from my role as Centre Manager. It has been an absolute privilege to support our students and work alongside our dedicated team here in Cooktown. I've learned so much from this community, and I'm deeply proud of what we've built together.

Although I'm stepping out of the Centre Manager role, I'll still be working within the broader CUC network – so you may still see me around from time to time. Most importantly, I want to thank each of you for welcoming me, trusting me, and allowing me to be part of your study journeys. CUC Cape York will always hold a special place in my heart.

Wishing you all a safe, joyful, and restful festive season. I can't wait to see what 2026 brings for each of you.

Jenni

Graduation & End-of-Year Celebration

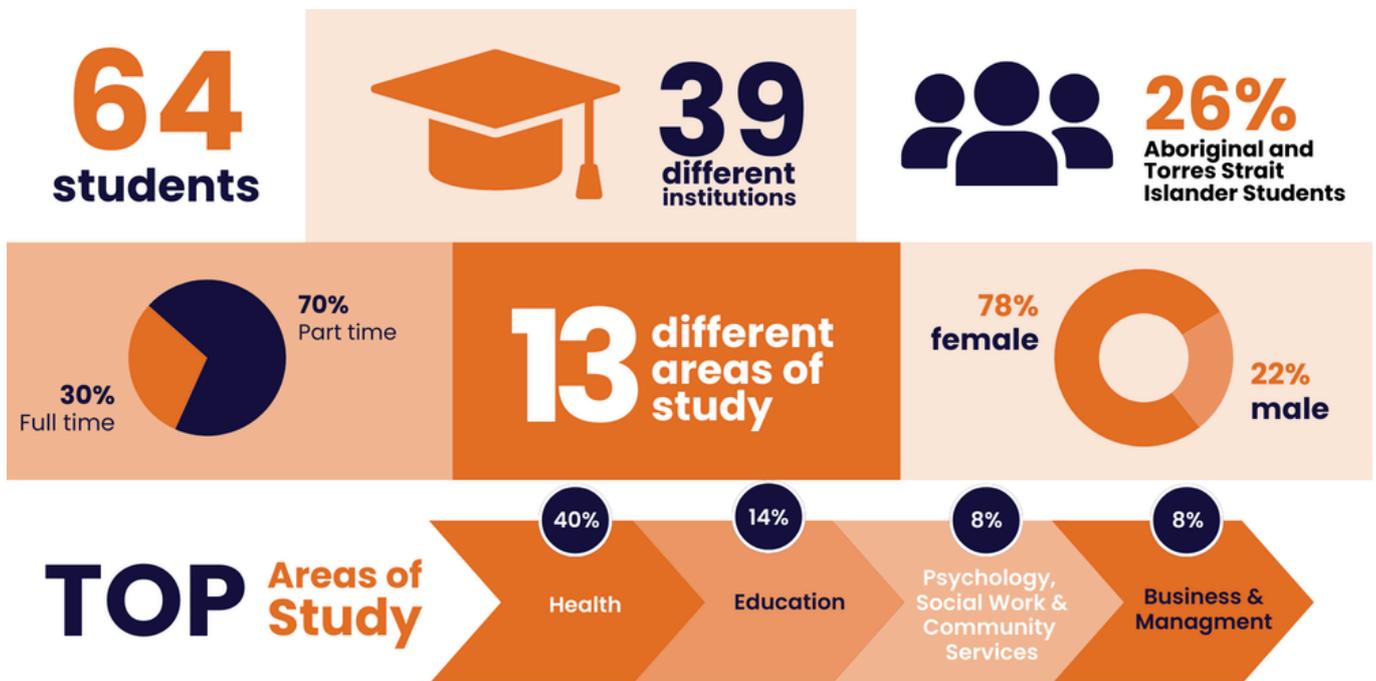
On Thursday 4th December, we gathered at the Sovereign Resort to celebrate our students and all they've achieved this year. It was a beautiful evening filled with smiles, laughter, and heartfelt stories that really showed the strength, perseverance, and determination of our CUC Cape York community.

A special congratulations to the five students who graduated on the night – we are incredibly proud of the hard work and resilience you've shown throughout your studies. But this celebration was for all of our students, and it was wonderful to come together with families, supporters, and staff to acknowledge everyone's milestones, big and small.

A huge thank you to the Sovereign Resort Hotel for hosting us with delicious nibbles and wonderful service. Here's to new beginnings, bright futures, and continuing to walk alongside our students as they chase their goals.



Snapshot of Semester 2



Learning Skills & Study Support



If you need a hand with your studies, Kerry, our Learning Skills Advisor (LSA), is here to support you. She can help with planning your study, understanding assessment requirements, academic writing, referencing, and preparing for exams.

If you're feeling stuck or just want some guidance, reach out to Kerry. You can book a session anytime through our [LSA booking link](#) or simply pop into our office. She's here to help.



Cape Country Careers

Back in October, we hosted our first Cooktown Student Futures Fair – a vibrant and inspiring day for young people across our region. Held at the Cooktown Events Centre, the event featured indoor and outdoor activities, with 14 presenters – including universities, local industries, and small businesses – running 18 interactive sessions for around 150 students from Years 6 to 12 across five schools.

Including Year 6 students allowed us to welcome young people from outlying Indigenous communities, many attending an event like this for the first time. Students explored career and study pathways in STEM, trades, digital tech, remote work, health, defence, agriculture, mining, creative industries, and more. They engaged in practical activities, VR experiences, role-play, drone demos, and AI sessions while connecting directly with presenters about future pathways.



Feedback was extremely positive. Students enjoyed meeting peers from other schools, trying new activities, and learning about local opportunities and support. Many left feeling more confident, curious, and excited about their options. One standout moment was when a student – meant to leave early for the local Barra Comp – chose to stay to catch the final sessions, showing the impact of the day.

Cape Country Careers is CUC Cape York's widening participation program and is funded through the Regional Partnerships Project Pool Program (RPPPP), an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education.

Indigenous Engagement Update

Tiannie, our Indigenous Engagement Coordinator, has been visiting our neighbouring communities – Wujal Wujal, Ayton, and Hope Vale – on a fortnightly basis. She’s been supporting current students, chatting with community members about study pathways, and advocating for more opportunities and accessible learning options across the region. Her visits aim to build strong relationships, listen to community needs, and ensure everyone feels supported on their education journey.

If you’d like to catch up with her during her community visits, keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates. She’s always happy to chat, answer questions, and help guide you through your next steps in study.



Re-Registrations for 2026



If you’re continuing your studies and want to keep using the centre, you’ll need to re-register with us for Semester 1, 2026.

Keep an eye on your emails – your re-registration link will be sent soon.

It’s quick and easy to complete and helps us keep your study details up to date so you can continue accessing all of our services and support.

Student Spotlight: Sally



What are you studying and what inspired you to choose this field of study?

I'm studying a Bachelor of Social Work at James Cook University, fully externally. I chose social work because it offers a strong, holistic foundation for practice. It draws from a wide range of disciplines and perspectives, which I find incredibly valuable for supporting individuals and communities in meaningful ways. Social work also offers a wide variety of opportunities across different settings, with a strong focus on empowerment – for both individuals and communities

As an online student studying remotely, what challenges have you encountered, and how has CUC helped you overcome these challenges?

One of the biggest challenges has been the lack of face-to-face support and connection that on-campus students have. Studying at home can be full of distractions, and it's easy to procrastinate when your study space overlaps with your personal space. CUC Cape York has been a game-changer for me. It provides a quiet, distraction-free environment where I can focus and get assessments done. The private rooms are especially helpful – I use them for university workshops and ongoing clinical supervision. Having access to in-person support while studying remotely has made a big difference in feeling connected, and I know there are opportunities to connect with other students at networking events.

What advice would you offer to fellow community members who are contemplating further study?

Cooktown is incredibly lucky to have a space like CUC. It's more than just a study hub – it's a supportive learning environment where students can access help, connect with others, and stay focused. My advice would be to make the most of the support available and don't be afraid to reach out. Even studying remotely, you can achieve your goals with the right environment and support.

Stay Connected

Don't forget to follow us on social media to keep up with news, events, and student achievements.

You can also join our private Facebook group, created just for students, to connect, ask questions, and share your study journey with others.

Connect with us:

 [Country Universities Centre Cape York](#)

 [CUC Cape York Students](#)

 [@cuccapeyork](#)

