



| CASE STUDY

NEW CULTURAL HUB REINFORCES CHARLES STURT'S PARTNERSHIP WITH WIRADJURI COMMUNITY

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

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Charles Sturt University's ongoing partnership with the Wiradjuri community has been reinforced with the opening of a cultural hub at the university's Bathurst Campus.

The new Wiradjuri Elders Cultural Hub was launched in July 2019 and provides a safe cultural space for students, staff and members of the community to learn about Wiradjuri customs and language, and ask questions, seek guidance and interact with the Elders.

Operating in a spirit of reconciliation and respect, the cultural hub is characterised by its large open-plan design, which befits the vast traditional lands of the Wiradjuri people across south-eastern Australia where Charles Sturt's inland campuses are located.

The cultural hub incorporates large and small meeting areas for visitors to interact with Wiradjuri Elders, who will invite a range of community organisations to provide services and activities including:

- Passing on local cultural knowledge through storytelling, lectures, demonstrations and workshops (for example, possum skin cloak making and traditional dance)
- Community access to a cultural library and artefacts
- Social and emotional support for students
- A sense of connection for Aboriginal students living away from country
- Education workshops for students, staff and community members.

The opening of the cultural hub extends

the University's deep engagement with Indigenous communities in line with its Yindymarra Winhanganha ethos, which means 'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live in a world worth living in'.



It also underpins the value the University places on the knowledge and culture of traditional land owners, which serves to strengthen its partnership with Indigenous communities to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff, while also encouraging relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

"Many community organisations and friends and family of the Elders, including NSW Police from the Local Area Command in Bathurst and the Police Citizens Youth

Club, celebrated the opening with us, and we look forward to sharing our culture with guests in the space for a long time to come."

Charles Sturt Vice-Chancellor Professor Andrew Vann said the size of the crowd that attended the launch event shows how important the Wiradjuri people are to the local community.

"The University is very privileged to have been able to create a wonderful space for the Elders on our campus in Bathurst. This recognises their custodianship of the land on which we work and creates a place from which they can teach us and welcome us to their country," he said.

"We look forward to their continuing contribution to the Charles Sturt community through sharing their wisdom with us."

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"There were more than 250 people who attended the launch of the new Wiradjuri Elders Cultural Hub, many commenting on how comfortable and calm the space is," said Elders from Gunhigal Mayiny Wiradyuri Dyilang Enterprise.