More teachers on the way

NINETEEN students graduated this month with the Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree through the University of Western Sydney’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Program. These new primary education teachers are expected to join classrooms this year.

Students and their families were joined by academics for the graduation ceremony, at the UWS Parramatta campus.

UWS recognises the need for more indigenous teachers in the classroom, and is committed to addressing this issue.

The development of the Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree program at UWS in 1984 was a strategic initiative of the university and has contributed to providing more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary teachers in the education system.

Students in the program can be current or non-current school leavers, mature-age parents who always wanted to be teachers, people with a desire for a career change and Aboriginal education assistants and/or liaison officers wanting to become fulltime teachers.

More than 60 students are now enrolled in the four-year degree course. The program, offered at the UWS Bankstown campus, is taught in block mode that includes on-campus visits each year.

On-campus accommodation, travel and meals are provided for eligible students.

Units of study include the primary curriculum, cultural content and professional experience, giving students the opportunity to undertake the practical component of study in their own community.

The degree program provides graduates with the skills and understanding to teach effectively across the Kindergarten to Year 6 curriculum.

For more information on the Bachelor of Education (Primary) degree, visit www.uws.edu.au/badanami or call 1300 897 669. Applications for entry into the degree in 2016 can be obtained from www.uws.edu.au/badanamiadmissions or telephone 1300 897 669 or email study@uws.edu.au