



ECU Foundation Impact Report 2025

The power of giving



Chancellor's foreword

A heartfelt thank you

As Chancellor, I have the privilege of seeing firsthand the profound difference philanthropic giving makes to our students, our research endeavours and the communities we serve.

In the pages ahead you will see the extraordinary generosity of our donors in action, and the tangible difference their support makes through scholarships, bequests, community giving and partnerships.

These stories are just a glimpse of the impact shared with us at the four ECU Foundation Board meetings held throughout 2025. It is deeply rewarding to provide strategic guidance and oversight to ECU's philanthropic efforts, to spend time with generous donors, and to contribute to advancing the University's priorities, long-term ambitions and sustainability through fundraising.

I extend my sincere thanks to Board members Ms Di Bain, Vice-Chancellor Professor Clare Pollock, Vice-President (Corporate Services) Mr Scott Henderson, and the ECU Development and Alumni Relations team for their commitment and support throughout the year. I also wish to acknowledge the significant contribution of former Vice-President (Engagement) Ms Sonia Mackay-Coghill, whose nearly decade-long service concluded in July 2025.

On behalf of the ECU Foundation Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to every member of our donor community. Whatever the size of your contribution in 2025, please know that its impact is profound, and that together, your generosity is changing lives and strengthening the future of our University.

As we open our ECU City Campus in 2026, I am excited by the opportunities our new home in the heart of Perth will unlock, and I look forward to continuing our shared work to transform lives and better our community for generations to come.

With thanks and best wishes,

Gaye McMath

Chancellor and ECU Foundation Chair



Edith Cowan University acknowledges the Traditional Owners, Custodians and knowledge-holders of these unceded lands upon which students and staff live, learn and work, and pays its respects to the ancestors and Elders of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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Students



Research



Arts

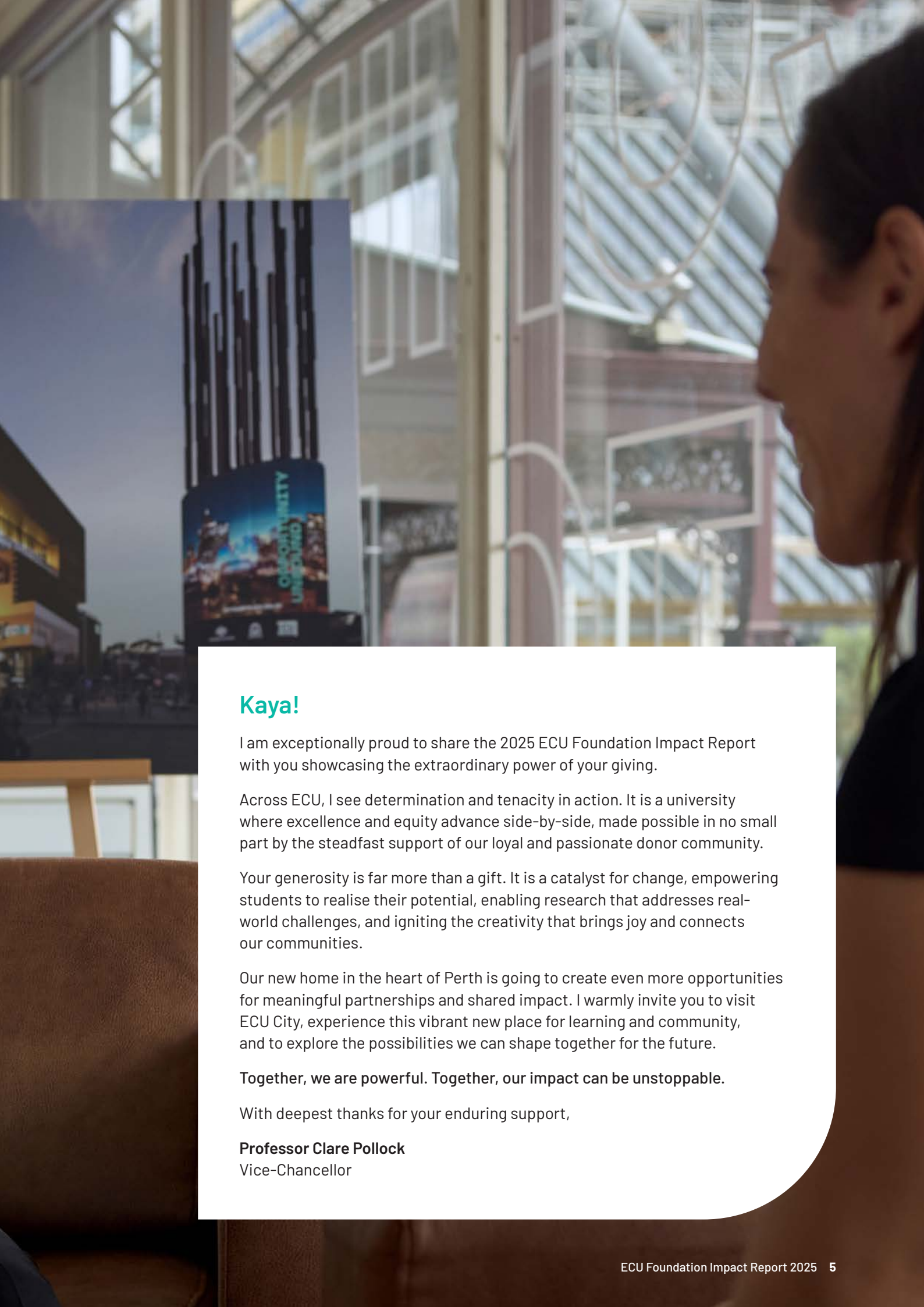


Impact

Front cover image: Bachelor of Education (Primary) student and 2025 Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship recipient, Jamie-Rose with her 6-year-old son Jye. "Your generosity has helped me to be the best student and mother whilst relieving the financial pressure during this hard time."

You make ECU a place where
excellence and equity co-exist





Kaya!

I am exceptionally proud to share the 2025 ECU Foundation Impact Report with you showcasing the extraordinary power of your giving.

Across ECU, I see determination and tenacity in action. It is a university where excellence and equity advance side-by-side, made possible in no small part by the steadfast support of our loyal and passionate donor community.

Your generosity is far more than a gift. It is a catalyst for change, empowering students to realise their potential, enabling research that addresses real-world challenges, and igniting the creativity that brings joy and connects our communities.

Our new home in the heart of Perth is going to create even more opportunities for meaningful partnerships and shared impact. I warmly invite you to visit ECU City, experience this vibrant new place for learning and community, and to explore the possibilities we can shape together for the future.

Together, we are powerful. Together, our impact can be unstoppable.

With deepest thanks for your enduring support,

Professor Clare Pollock

Vice-Chancellor



WAAPA: Home to world-class visiting artists

WAAPA's 2025 Musical Theatre graduates are beginning their careers with an experience that few performers will ever have: helping shape a brand-new musical.

Over the three years of their degree, the students worked with WAAPA alumnus and writer-composer Eddie Perfect (*Beetlejuice*, *Shane Warne the Musical*) to develop *Tivoli Lovely*, a musical comedy inspired by Australia's historic vaudeville circuit.

Being part of the process from early drafts to opening night gave the students rare insight into how a new musical is created.

"It feels like the professional real deal... it's a great learning opportunity that we don't get very often in musical theatre."

Zoe, third year Musical Theatre student

In addition to Eddie Perfect, students were able to work with some of the country's leading creative practitioners including fellow WAAPA alumni, Dean Bryant (director) and Johannes Luebbers (orchestration) along with Zara Stanton (music direction), Kelley Abbey (choreography) and Dann Barber (set and costume design).

The result was a cast of 40 Musical Theatre students, a 24-piece student orchestra and a full crew of production, lighting, set and design students behind the scenes delivering *Tivoli Lovely* to packed houses, standing ovations and rave reviews at the Heath Ledger Theatre in November.

"It's been a remarkable experience watching both the students and the musical grow across such a long time." Dean Bryant, WAAPA alumnus Bachelor of Arts (Musical Theatre), 1999

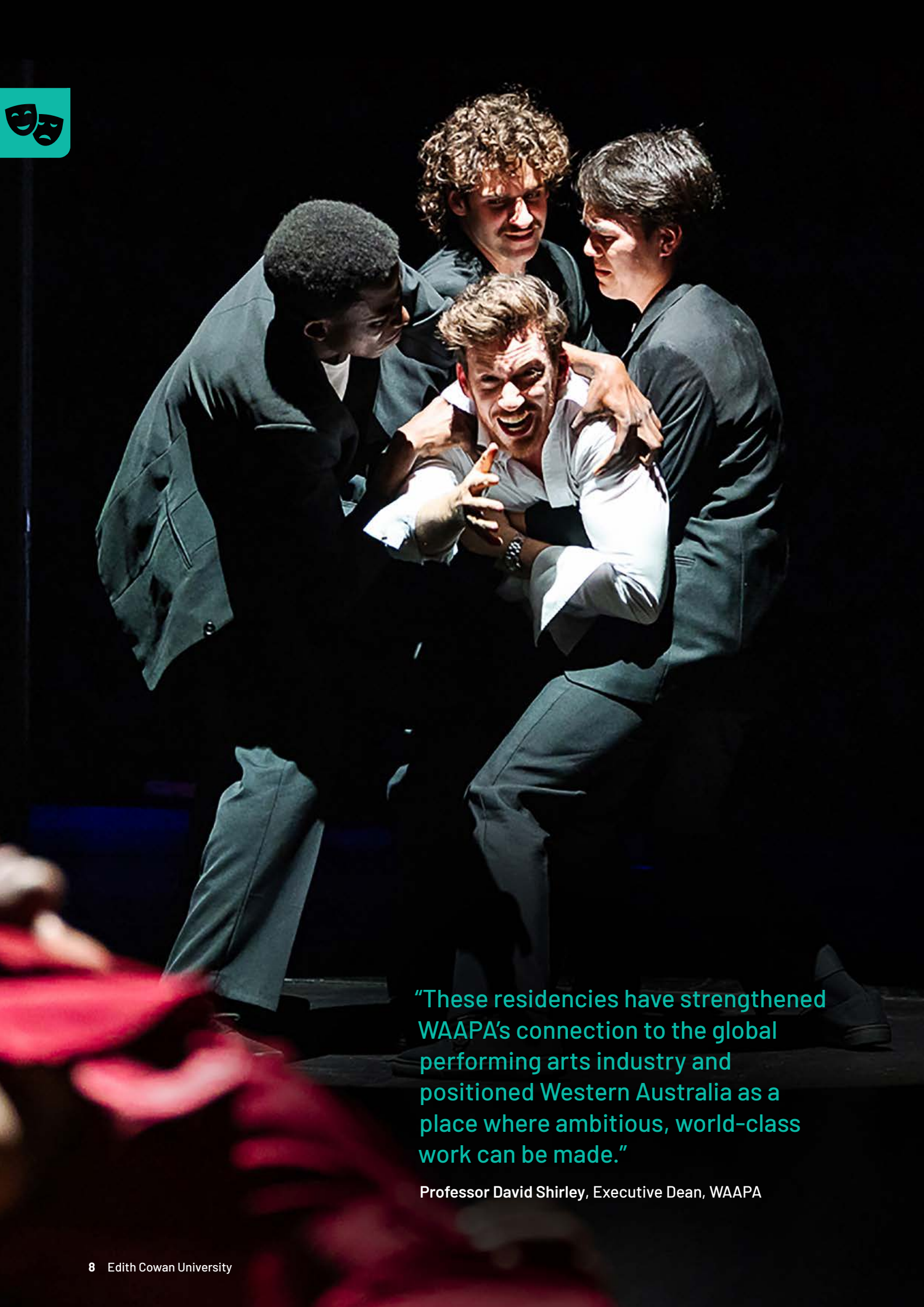
Tivoli Lovely was one of two major visiting artist residencies to reach fruition in 2025 thanks to the support of WAAPA's Principal Partner, Minderoo Foundation.





“Every bit as good as any
(musical theatre extravaganza)
you would expect to see
on Broadway or London’s
West End.”

Fremantle Shipping News



“These residencies have strengthened WAAPA’s connection to the global performing arts industry and positioned Western Australia as a place where ambitious, world-class work can be made.”

Professor David Shirley, Executive Dean, WAAPA



In August, students from WAAPA's Acting and Production & Design courses presented *Antigone*, the culmination of a three-year creative partnership with acclaimed UK theatre company, Cheek by Jowl.

The residency gave students valuable exposure to leading international practitioners and contributed to their development as artists.

"I think it is so very important for students to have contact with performers throughout the world to prepare them for their future careers."

Nick Ormerod, Co-founder and Joint Artistic Director, Cheek by Jowl

The success of these two long-term residencies has paved the way for the establishment of a new Premier Visiting Artist Fund. Formed as part of the landmark gift from WAAPA's Principal Partner, Minderoo Foundation, it will enable WAAPA to host some of the world's preeminent creative artists in its new state-of-the-art home at ECU City from 2026.

Thanks to donor support, WAAPA students are graduating with the skills, global industry networks, confidence and creative ambition to shape the future of Australian performing arts.



Watch Cheek by Jowl in action with WAAPA students creating *Antigone* bit.ly/Antigone-2025

Impact powered by Minderoo Foundation



2x 3-year residencies



>5000 audience attendance



8 visiting artists



>1000 new social media followers for WAAPA *ance growth*



170+ students and creatives across all disciplines from production and design, musical theatre, music and acting



94% of students on average, agreed that their experience increased their future employability in the arts



17 sold out public shows across the 2 performances



NEW Premier Visiting Artist Program commencing 2026

Image above: Minderoo Foundation Co-Founder, Nicola Forrest AO and members of ECU's Executive team with the cast of visiting artists involved in the creation of *Tivoli Lovely*.



Future teachers for remote communities

Many rural and remote schools in Western Australia are finding it harder than ever to attract and retain teachers.

While graduate teachers could help bridge the gap, many do not see these locations as a potential first teaching destination.

In 2025, ECU launched the inaugural On Country Study Tour to give pre-service teachers experience in remote and regional settings.

Research shows that getting these opportunities during training increases the likelihood that graduates will pursue teaching roles outside the metropolitan areas.

In June, ten pre-service teachers from ECU's Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary degree programs spent a week in Derby, in the heart of the Kimberley.

"This is more than a field trip for these future educators. By their own accounts, it has been a life-changing journey that enabled them to experience firsthand the joys, challenges and transformative power of teaching in remote Australia." Professor Caroline Mansfield, Executive Dean, School of Education

"The tour reminded me of all the reasons I chose to become a teacher. I think our time in Derby may have genuinely changed the course of my career."

Lily, Secondary Pre-Service Teacher



Over the week, the students visited fourteen locations, from early childhood centres to primary and high schools as well as youth centres and significant local sites. They heard from educators and community leaders about what it is like to live and teach in remote communities. They saw how teaching is delivered in these settings, including distance learning through Kimberley School of the Air and vocational pathways at Derby District High School. These experiences highlighted how teaching, learning and community life are closely intertwined in remote settings.

For third year student Sarah, the week was just the beginning of a positive experience with remote teaching. She went back to the Kimberley after the tour to do her five-week practicum at Derby District High School.

“Within the first week (of returning), I was bumping into familiar faces at the shops and having students recognise me both at school and around town, which helped me to build meaningful relationships with staff and students early on – something reflected in the positive progress feedback from my supervisor throughout my placement.” Sarah, Secondary Pre-Service Teacher

The inaugural On Country Study Tour was made possible by generous donor and partner support, giving aspiring educators firsthand insight into rural and remote education, cultural diversity and community life. ECU hopes future study tours will help future teachers see rural and remote Australia as a place they can belong.

“This program is important for our community. It helps demystify the reality of life in remote areas and vibrant spirit of remote communities and plants the seeds for future teachers to return – not just to work, but to become part of the fabric of our region.”

Tamara Clarkson, CEO, Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

Images: ECU's first cohort of On Country Study Tour participants experiencing classrooms and life in the Kimberley region of WA.



Impact powered in partnership



Broome International Airport | Catholic Education WA | Derby District High School INPEX | Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

Co-designed and delivered with four community partners

- Derby District High School
- Kimberley School of the Air
- Holy Rosary School
- One Tree Community



2,000 kms travelled



14 remote school and community visits



10 ECU students from early childhood to secondary



2 students returned to Derby for professional placements



Corporate scholarships change lives

For many students, the road to graduation is shaped not by effort alone but by whether they can afford to keep going.

ECU Bachelor of Laws student Jodi was finding it tough to juggle study, work and family commitments until she received the 2025 Dentons Aspire Law Scholarship.

Jodi's experience reflects the reality for many ECU students. When financial pressure is high, many are forced to stretch themselves to the limit. A scholarship can ease that pressure, meaning they no longer have to choose between buying study materials and paying rent, or between attending a lecture and taking extra shifts at work. Their education changes and so does their future.

For commerce student Helen, receiving the 2025 Perth Airport Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship means being able to strive for her fullest potential.



"This scholarship has enabled me to commit to studying more units and will help ease the financial burden."

Helen, Bachelor of Commerce

Through long-term partnerships, students can be given more than one-time assistance. Scholarships provide stability, opportunity and a pathway forward for students who might otherwise struggle to stay at university.

Jodi and Helen show what becomes possible when businesses back scholarships creating outcomes that benefit students, industry and our community.

When support lasts, possibility grows.

Impact powered by corporate support



21 students supported by corporate scholarship funding in 2025

Made possible thanks to all partners, oldest and newest

Perth Airport **15** years of giving → **more than 29** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarships

Western Power **10** years of giving → **more than 10** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarships

Dentons **1x** Inaugural Law Scholarship established in 2025

More partners needed

832 students applied for a scholarship

734 students remain in need

98 scholarships were funded

“I’ve balanced single parenthood with raising three children, alongside part-time study, employment, and volunteer work. There have been challenges and often imposter syndrome. This scholarship not only alleviates financial stress but also reaffirms my goals in the legal profession. It reminds me that my journey, while unconventional, is valid, valued, and supported.”

Jodi, Bachelor of Laws student



Watch first-hand how a scholarship
can make a difference to someone's life
bit.ly/Dentons-Aspire-Law-Scholarship





True equity begins before enrolment



"This support truly makes a difference in the lives of these young people, it helps to make higher education much more accessible and attainable to everyone who seeks it."

Dr Fiona Navin, Director, Access and Equity



Hear from high school students what the On Campus Experience Day meant to them
bit.ly/ECU-UniPrep-Schools-Campus-Experience-Day-2025

The biggest hurdle to further education is not always the application process.

It's having the confidence and preparation to see university as a real option.

"UniPrep made me feel like my dream was possible, studying at university to become a psychologist."
Charles, UniPrep in Schools student

UniPrep can be a vital support for potential students, whether they're first in their family to attend university or coming from outside the traditional pathways. It promotes equity in the broadest sense, helping build academic capability, familiarity and self-belief before they apply.

The program offers academic preparation alongside real experience of university life, helping students develop the skills they need and a sense of what studying at ECU is really like.

Students come to UniPrep at different stages. Some take part after leaving school, through an on-campus course designed for recent school leavers and mature age applicants.

Others chose an earlier pathway as part of the UniPrep in Schools, offered in conjunction with ECU's partner schools. Students in Years 11 and 12 can undertake university preparation units alongside their high school courses. They develop academic skills, learn how university works and begin to see themselves as future students.

A key part of this early pathway is the UniPrep On-Campus Experience Days, where students spend time at ECU Joondalup, explore facilities and take part in discipline-based workshops alongside ECU staff and students.

"Being here at the campus today makes me feel like I can actually study music. I feel really excited about going to university."

Edi, UniPrep in Schools student

In 2025, a dedicated UniPrep On-Campus Experience Day for students from low socio-economic partner schools was supported by the Bendat Family Foundation. For some students, it was the first time university stopped being an idea and became a place they could genuinely picture themselves.

"There would always be those students that would struggle with ATAR and feel like they've lost their way. It provides an avenue to university and it also provides hope as a way of achieving their dreams."
Daniel Winslede, UniPrep in Schools teacher

"From the moment they get accepted on the course, you see difficult behaviours change. From the moment you see them on campus, they rise up."
Naomi Bunch, UniPrep in Schools teacher

UniPrep helps students take the first step. But for students facing financial or personal barriers, the next step can be harder: enrolling, staying on track, and completing their studies.

That is why continued donor support matters. Scholarships and other equity support help ensure that students who begin their journey through programs like UniPrep can afford to keep going and graduate with the qualifications that change the course of a life.

Impact powered by the Bendat Family Foundation



UniPrep in Schools **On Campus Experience Day 2025**



119 students from **9** disadvantaged metropolitan and outer metropolitan secondary schools



Expansion in 2026 to include **2** remote schools (Hedland SHS and Derby SHS) and **10** regional schools



Enhancing climate justice and disaster resilience in WA

"The toolkit provides practical guidance for organisations to prepare for climate impacts, including most importantly equitable processes for working with Aboriginal communities and people who have Lived Experience to ensure services meet their needs and honour their knowledges."

Associate Professor Naomi Godden,
ECU Centre for People, Place and Planet

Community service organisations working on the ground are already seeing how climate change is impacting the people they support.

Families are facing rising food and fuel costs. People are trying to stay safe through heatwaves without secure housing. Communities are recovering from bushfires and floods while already under financial and social strain.

To be effective and equitable, organisations must ensure their policies, emergency plans and everyday services are designed with, and work for, the people most affected by climate change.

With development deeply rooted in community engagement, a new Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit is providing community service organisations with the free online tools and resources needed to incorporate this approach into their practice.

In a project spearheaded with support from Lotterywest, researchers from ECU's Centre for People, Place and Planet have co-created the toolkit alongside community service organisations, Aboriginal leaders and People with Lived Experience. The focus is not on building new programs, but on strengthening the ones that already exist.

"Service providers need to be flexible when they work with community, and they need to just go and sit down with community and listen. If they do that, at least they know they are going some way to meet community needs, not just paying lip service to them." Aunty/Dr Mara West, Healthy Environments and Lives Network WA Aboriginal Steering Group

The project, which has since attracted additional funding from both federal and state governments, also includes training sessions, webinars,



a community of practice and funded partnerships. These allow organisations to test what they are learning in real settings, share insights with each other and feed those lessons back into the toolkit so it continues to evolve.

By supporting community service organisations and communities to think, plan and act differently, the Climate Justice and Resilience Toolkit is helping ensure services meet the needs and honour the knowledges of people most directly affected by climate change.



Climate Justice & Resilience Toolkit

View the toolkit and learn more about how this project is helping communities disproportionately affected by climate change:
climatejusticetoolkit.org.au

Impact powered by Lotterywest and project partners



14,190 online toolkit views

172 members joined the Climate Justice and Community Services Advisory Network

Online toolkit **promoted** at the Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience Conference 2025

First online community capacity building workshop series delivered

Inaugural partnership established with MercyCare WA

\$800k+ in additional government funding secured



The power of community giving

Studying at a tertiary level is demanding, requiring persistence, focus and resilience. When challenges arise, it can make all the difference to know support is available.

Psychology and Counselling student Caitlen was considering dropping out of her course when she was overwhelmed by the pressure of health setbacks and mounting bills.

Then she received an Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship.

“The road ahead felt long, dark, and full of unknowns. That's when the Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship changed everything.”

“It lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. It gave me the space to focus on recovery, on study, and on pursuing my goals. But more than that, it showed me there are people in the ECU community who believe in students like me.” Caitlen, 2025 Inspiring Minds Scholarship recipient

The Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarship program is powered by generosity from across the ECU community.

Staff, alumni and supporters contribute through payroll giving, one-off donations and community fundraising, creating a safety net for students facing financial difficulty, personal hardship or barriers to participation in higher education.

In 2025, the spirit of giving took many forms, from everyday contributions to extraordinary endurance efforts like Professor Paulo de Souza's Herdy's Frontyard Ultra Marathon, which raised over \$16,000 for the program.

As a result, a record 31 Inspiring Minds Equity Scholarships were awarded in 2025, providing each recipient with \$3,000 to help them stay focused on their studies.

Together, these contributions are helping more students feel supported not just financially, but by the knowledge that a community is behind them.

“I might be running for 24 hours and in a couple of days I'll feel better. But that feeling doesn't go away for our students. They have to go through an ultra-marathon to finish their studies.”

Professor Paulo de Souza on his motivation for running the 2025 Herdy's Frontyard Ultra for students.





Impact powered by community



31 student lives transformed



\$60k raised through staff payroll giving program



\$20k raised through alumni events



\$16k+ raised through Herdy's Frontyard Ultra Marathon

Hear from more Inspiring Minds
Equity Scholarship recipients,
Sarah and Luke
bit.ly/ECU-Inspiring-Minds-2025





ECU Impact Collective bolsters a legacy of support

One-hundred and twenty five (125) years after launching our first teaching course and forty years after nursing and midwifery education began at ECU, donors are stepping forward in a new way to support students training for these critical professions.



Be part of our Impact Collective
bit.ly/ECU-Impact-Collective



The ECU Impact Collective enables donors to contribute to a shared fund that divides donations between an immediate scholarship fund and a future endowment fund. The two funds provide help when students need it most, while also creating sustainable support for future cohorts.

It comes at a critical time, with a predicted shortfall of 80,000 nurses and midwives and more than 4,000 teachers over the next decade. Financial pressures mean around 12 per cent of students in these courses withdraw before their extended practicums.

“Financial barriers disproportionately impact those teaching, nursing, and midwifery students who must complete a compulsory unpaid work placement.” Elizabeth Court, ECU Impact Collective Ambassador

The Impact Collective builds on decades of donor support that has already made a measurable difference for nursing and teaching students at ECU.

“I couldn’t have gotten through my [final practicum] without this help. I would have had to juggle multiple jobs just to afford basic living expenses.”

Capel, Bachelor of Education (Secondary)
2025 Future Teachers Scholarship recipient

Since 2011, the Dorothea Swift Nursing Scholarship has been providing extended financial support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and rural students, honouring Dorothea Swift’s legacy of care in remote Aboriginal communities.

This same year marked the beginning of the Dr Susan Holland Scholarship. Established through the bequest left by former teacher and ECU executive, this scholarship has enabled 14 doctoral students to undertake research to enhance teaching quality.

The Doreen Collyer Nursing Scholarship, established in 2017, is another long-term initiative that has supported students facing significant financial pressure during unpaid clinical

placements, particularly mature-age students balancing study, work and family responsibilities.

Together, these scholarships help students like Sophie complete their studies and take up careers in areas of critical need. Sophie spent three years in the Kimberley region before her studies and hopes to return to a remote or rural location to work.

“I can now complete this course without extreme financial pressure and make a meaningful difference in healthcare,”

Sophie, Bachelor of Science (Nursing)
2025 Dorothea Swift Nursing Scholarship recipient

The ECU Impact Collective brings together people from all walks of life who share a common goal: supporting today’s students and helping create a better tomorrow.

Power of the ECU Impact Collective



3 founding members
Loretta Byrd, Judith Hardie and Peter and Joelle Larsen



\$225,000 raised in 2025



4 scholarships awarded in 2025

Impact powered by long-term supporters

Dorothea Swift Nursing Scholarships 2011-2025 **30** scholarships awarded

Dr Susan Holland Scholarship 2014 - 2025 **14** scholarships awarded

Doreen Collyer Nursing Scholarships 2017-2025 **9** scholarships awarded



Lifelong love of the arts lives on

Paula Huston was a long-time supporter of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, deeply committed to supporting students and their craft.

A lifelong lover of classical music and live performance, she passed away in November 2025, leaving one of the most significant bequests in WAAPA's history.

For Paula, the arts were never something to admire from a distance.

She lived near WAAPA's Mount Lawley campus for over two decades, spending many hours enjoying student performances and delighting in seeing them grow into confident, expressive performers. She believed wholeheartedly in the importance of supporting emerging talent.

"To get into that career in Australia is extremely difficult and it's really only philanthropy that is going to provide that. A link in the chain really is what it is." Paula Huston

In the final chapter of her life, Paula worked with Edith Cowan University to formalise a Gift in Will that included her entire estate, valued at several million dollars. This followed her longstanding commitment during her lifetime to provide \$100,000 each year to support WAAPA student scholarships.

Paula's legacy now has a permanent place in WAAPA's future through the Paula Huston Auditorium, one of the key spaces within the Munderoo Centre for Performance Excellence at the new ECU City Campus.

It's here that her belief in the transformative power of the arts will extend far beyond the walls that bear her name.

"Her legacy will support generations of WAAPA students whose work will enrich communities here and around the world." Professor Clare Pollock, ECU Vice-Chancellor

In choosing to provide for WAAPA through her estate, Paula has made a powerful statement about the future she wanted to help create, and the kind of legacy worth leaving.

"Careers in the performing arts are demanding. Support like Paula's can truly make the difference between a student stepping back or stepping forward into their potential."

Professor David Shirley, Executive Dean, WAAPA



Honouring the life and
generosity of Paula Huston
bit.ly/Paula-Huston-tribute





WAAPA Dance: Elevating excellence together



A growing community of donors is elevating excellence at WAAPA Dance by strengthening scholarships, enriching training, and expanding the experiences that allow emerging dancers to thrive.

In 2025, that shared commitment brought two new donor-funded scholarships, and a new prize, enabling talented students to focus not only on their dance practice but also on their artistic vision.

"I want to be able to inspire people and continue to cultivate my love for this beautiful art form as a career." Julia, inaugural Dr Heather Zampatti Excellence in Dance Scholarship recipient (2025)

Donor support does more than reward excellence and reduce financial pressure. It creates access to opportunities that accelerate development and strengthen professional readiness.

Fourth-year dance student Ebony was named the inaugural recipient of the Dr Maggi Phillips Scholarship in Contemporary Dance. Founded by former Head of Dance at WAAPA, Nanette Hassall AM, the scholarship recognised Ebony's excellence as she completed her Honours program with LINK, WAAPA's graduate dance company.

Ebony was also recognised with the new Zelinda Bafile Prize in Contemporary Dance for her outstanding contribution to LINK in 2025.

"Your support will help me in furthering my dance career. Because of you, I am able to travel to Europe next year to complete workshops and auditions."

Ebony, Bachelor of Performing Arts Honours, LINK Dance Company

As the only graduate dance company of its kind in Australia, LINK bridges the gap between training and the industry.

It gives emerging dancers the experience of professional company life while still supported within WAAPA's training environment.

Thanks to philanthropic support, LINK was able to host visiting choreographer Tara Gower to create an original work in *Echogreen* and third-year classical ballet students had the opportunity to work with Dutch choreographer Nils Christe and his creative partner, Annegien Sneep, to re-stage SYNC as part of the *Rise* mid-year dance season.

Behind the stage, LINK Dance was also funded to engage award-winning composer Rachel Dease and emerging composer and sound designer Amaru Zachariassen - both graduates of WAAPA's music program - to collaborate with choreographers in developing original music and soundscapes for *Echogreen* and *Echolocation* respectively.

The impact that donor generosity is having on WAAPA Dance is a wonderful example of the power of giving on students and our creative sector more broadly.

Powering Scholarships & Prizes



- **Dr Heather Zampatti Excellence in Dance Scholarships**
Julia Iso and Sophia Denison-Brown, Adv Dip Professional Dance (Elite Performance)
- **Jamelia Gubgub and David Wallace Classical Ballet Scholarship**
Brady Leong, Dip. Professional Dance (Elite Performance)
- **Dr Maggi Phillips Scholarship in Contemporary Dance**
Ebony Pluess, Bachelor of Performing Arts Honours, LINK Dance Company
- **Zelinda Bafile Prize in Contemporary Dance**
Ebony Pluess, Bachelor of Performing Arts Honours, LINK Dance Company

Powering Creativity

- **The Bass Family Foundation** supported visiting artist Tara Gower who worked with LINK Dance Company on *Echogreen*
- **Jamelia Gubgub and David Wallace** supported visiting artists Nils Christe and Annegien Sneep who worked with third-year classical ballet students on SYNC, *Rise* dance season
- **Karen Field** supported original composition and sound design by Rachel Dease and Amaru Zachariassen for LINK productions *Echogreen* and *Echolocation*



WA talent shining on the big screen

Western Australia's screen industry is flourishing, and ECU students are ready to play a role in its future.

At the WA Screen and Media Academy (WASMA), students learn industry-standard practice under real production conditions, with opportunities to collaborate across disciplines. This was on full display at the 2025 postgraduate showcase, *Reimagine*.

WASMA students debuted their Set Ready series of short films featuring second-year acting students from WAAPA. The collaboration helps emerging performers and screen creatives bridge the gap between training and industry.

"There's no way to learn what we are learning with theory. It's been extremely beneficial to be there working with the camera, working with the actors and learning first-hand from industry professionals."

Elle, Master of Screen Production student

"This collaboration between the two courses has been really good as an emerging artist. It gives us what we need to take that next step." Michael, Bachelor of Arts (Acting) student

Reimagine also showcased three original vignettes created through a collaboration between students from WASMA and WAAPA Aboriginal Performance, made possible through the generosity of the Bass Family Foundation. These First-Nations led stories were guided by best practice industry protocols, deep listening and inclusive screen practices, with additional guidance from ECU Elder-in-Residence Nan Roma. Thanks to donor support, Aboriginal Performance students were able to take centre stage on the big screen, sharing their voices and stories.

"It was my first experience screenwriting and being on a film set. The WASMA crew loved our ideas and it was so fun to work with them and see *The Department* through from start to finish." Byron, Certificate IV in Aboriginal Performance student.

The showcase culminated with the announcement of the 2025 Evie Rogers-Elgar Memorial Award to the top student in postgraduate screen production, Ruby Wheeler. Established by Michelle Rogers and Alison Elgar as a tribute to their daughter who they tragically lost to cancer, their hope is that film lovers across the community will contribute to the fund and honour Evie's legacy by supporting students that will create the future films we will all enjoy.

Collaborations and donor supported initiatives like those showcased at *Reimagine* are helping to power the creative industries economy in WA by producing set ready graduates – the writers, the producers, the directors and the actors – that will entertain us with stories for years to come.

Impact powered through Reimagine



25 WASMA students gained industry experience from **10 professional mentors**

4 Set Ready short films featuring **16 WAAPA 2nd year acting students**

3 vignettes co-created with **8 Aboriginal Performance students**, made possible by the Bass Family Foundation

6 short films selected for WA Made Film Festival 2026

15 nominations in the WA Film Festival Student Awards

“Telling WA stories is really important. Making sure that WA filmmakers have opportunities like this is vital to the industry here.”

Elle, Master of Screen Production





Removing barriers, unlocking the future

The stories in this report are a testament to the drive and determination of ECU students, and to the difference donor support makes. It is at university that students commit themselves to transforming the future. Not just as individuals, but for their families, communities, and the wider world.

Almost half of ECU domestic students are the first in their families to undertake university study. Nearly a quarter of our domestic students manage parental or caring responsibilities whilst studying. Donor support does more than ease financial pressure; it reminds students that others believe in their potential and their future.

"My lived experience is a testimony to ECU's commitment to excellence in student support and experience. The Hardship Fund payment came at a point when I was desperately gasping for safety and survival. Not only did it provide financial relief, but it made me feel supported, seen and believed."
Gloria, Master of Engineering

Gloria's experience is a powerful reminder of what donor support makes possible. Yet alongside these transformational stories, the need for support is growing.

Over the past 12 months, rising living costs, food insecurity, and housing stress have escalated across WA. For students balancing study with low income and caring responsibilities, these pressures can quickly become overwhelming. One student survey showed that 41 percent of ECU students had trouble affording food in 2025.

"I don't always eat because I make sure my family eats first."

Postgraduate Arts and Humanities student (2025)

In response, the ECU Foundation reinstated the Student Hardship Fund in 2025 to provide targeted support at critical financial pressure points.

Why your support matters

The "average" student at ECU is a 25-year-old mum who is juggling significant family responsibilities and often paid work in addition to study.



44% of ECU students considering leaving cited financial difficulty (QILT SES 2024)



25% of students are working full-time while studying (79% working in some form)



43% of our domestic students in 2025 are the first in their family



23% of our domestic students are also parents or unpaid carers



40% have not accessed health or dental services due to cost (SSAFE Sept 2025)



13% of our students live regionally or remotely



34% have cut or skipped meals due to lack of money (SSAFE Sept 2025)



12% of our students are living with a disability



“I hope my story serves as a model of resilience, hope and perseverance. My wish is to see this program scale and flourish because I know first-hand that such a gesture of humanity and support is a lifeline to those in dire need.”

Gloria, 2025 Hardship Fund recipient

Through the fund, students facing genuine hardship will be eligible for \$1,000 or more in a lump sum payment to support urgent needs such as food insecurity, emergency accommodation, rental stress and bills, and help for students escaping unsafe or unstable homes.

The Hardship Fund is designed to help students through periods of acute pressure, so short-term hardships don't lead to long-term disadvantages.

In 2026, we will focus on building this program so it can help more students to stay enrolled,

particularly those facing multiple barriers to participation and success.

With continued donor support, we can ensure more students have the opportunity to reach their potential and play their part in shaping a better future, for themselves and the wider world.



The power is in your hands to help a student like Gloria
giving.ecu.edu.au/hardshipfund

The power of the ECU Foundation

2025 Snapshot



The outcomes below show that every donation, large and small, made a difference last year. Thank you for being part of our donor community.



\$8.5M

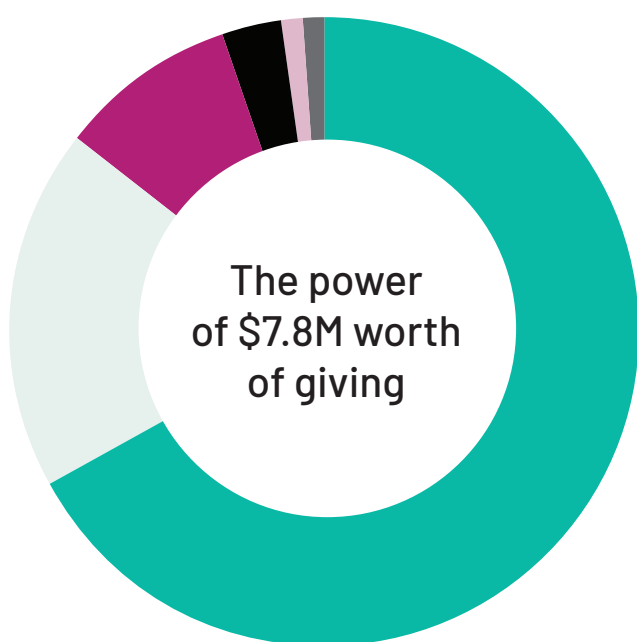
Funds received
(excluding interest revenue)



\$7.8M

Funds disbursed

Areas that your generosity supported in 2025



WAAPA Minderoo Centre for Performance Excellence, Visiting Artist Program and other specialist initiatives	\$ 5,303,287
Scholarships	\$ 1,422,521
Research	\$ 726,937
Prizes	\$ 192,351
Sponsorship	\$ 63,429
Teaching & Learning	\$ 61,312



399 Donors



63% Staff Payroll Giving Program participation growth
>\$60k in payroll giving



221,073 Alumni
\$911k in alumni giving



98 philanthropic scholarship awarded



View the full audited financials for the ECU Foundation online
bit.ly/ECU-Foundation-governance

Leading the way



QILT Student Experience Survey
ECU is ranked #1 among Western Australian universities for: Overall Experience of Students, Skills Development, Student Support, and Services.

#1 No.1 in Australia
for top public university in Australia for Student Support



Good Universities Guide
ECU has been a long-standing Australian leader in university teaching, with 5-star ratings for undergraduate Teaching Quality for an amazing 19 years in row.

#1 Highest graduate employment rate in WA
93% of our graduates are in full-time employment within 3 years of completing their degrees



Times Higher Education Young Universities
THE Young University Rankings lists the world's best universities aged 50 years old or younger. ECU is ranked in the top 100 in the world.

#1 No.1 in WA
for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student support and success



Athena SWAN
ECU has received the world-recognised Athena SWAN Silver Award for commitment to gender equality, diversity and inclusion for staff and students.

#1 No.1 in WA
for student support for students with disability

Your invitation to ECU City

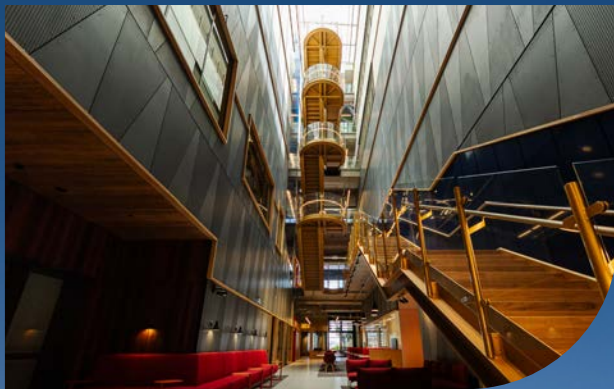


ECU City is now open and pulsing with the energy of 10,000 students! This stunning state-of-the-art campus will reshape the Perth CBD and redefine higher education in Western Australia.

ECU City will be a place where technology, industry and creativity meet to deliver the creative thinkers, adaptive learners and global citizens who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Whether it's for a WAAPA performance, a visit to the ECU Gallery, or just to explore the campus surrounds, we invite you to come and experience our City's newest place for learning and community for yourself.

You are always welcome!





From all of us at ECU

THANK U




"We make a living by what we get,
but make a life by what we give"

Winston Churchill

ECU Development and Alumni Relations

 +61 8 6304 2761

 giving@ecu.edu.au

For more information visit
giving.ecu.edu.au

**Edith Cowan University Foundation
Financial Report
Year Ending 31 December 2025**

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Edith Cowan University Foundation
Income Statement
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 \$			2024 \$		
	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Revenue						
Bequests	750,000	-	750,000	5,701	-	5,701
Donations	1,411,408	195,036	1,606,444	7,100,459	83,880	7,184,339
Sponsorships/contributions	6,151,164	4,382	6,155,546	14,886,975	21,000	14,907,975
Interest income	1,219,682	93,932	1,313,614	978,064	69,635	1,047,699
Total Revenue	9,532,254	293,350	9,825,604	22,971,199	174,515	23,145,714
Expenses by Function						
Prizes	192,351	-	192,351	176,161	7,500	183,661
Scholarships	1,332,521	90,000	1,422,521	1,284,834	51,000	1,335,834
Teaching and Learning related expenses	61,312	-	61,312	(36,802)	-	(36,802)
Research related expenses	726,937	-	726,937	1,124,333	-	1,124,333
Sponsorship related expenses	63,429	-	63,429	35,173	-	35,173
Other	5,274,627	28,659	5,303,286	7,608,546	26,500	7,635,046
Total Expenses	7,651,176	118,659	7,769,835	10,192,245	85,000	10,277,245
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,881,077	174,691	2,055,768	12,778,954	89,515	12,868,469

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 December 2025

	2025 \$			2024 \$		
	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Assets						
Current Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	31,135,216	1,852,568	32,987,784	29,227,272	1,677,877	30,905,149
Receivables	80,760	-	80,760	268,005	-	268,005
Total Assets	31,215,976	1,852,568	33,068,544	29,495,277	1,677,877	31,173,154
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accrued Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred Income	414,827	-	414,827	575,205	-	575,205
Total Liabilities	414,827	-	414,827	575,205	-	575,205
Net Assets	30,801,149	1,852,568	32,653,717	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949
Total Equity	30,801,149	1,852,568	32,653,717	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949

**Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 31 December 2025**

	2025			2024		
	Non-Discretionary	\$ Discretionary	Total	Non-Discretionary	\$ Discretionary	Total
Opening Balance	28,920,072	1,677,877	30,597,949	16,141,118	1,588,362	17,729,480
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,881,077	174,691	2,055,768	12,778,954	89,515	12,868,469
Closing Balance	<u>30,801,149</u>	<u>1,852,568</u>	<u>32,653,717</u>	<u>28,920,072</u>	<u>1,677,877</u>	<u>30,597,949</u>

**Edith Cowan University Foundation
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 December 2025**

	2025 \$			2024 \$		
	Non- Discretionary	Discretionary	Total	Non- Discretionary	Discretionary	Total
Cash Flows from Operating Activities						
Receipts from contributions	8,339,439	199,418	8,538,857	21,684,594	106,394	21,790,988
Interest received	1,219,682	93,932	1,313,614	978,064	69,634	1,047,698
Payments to beneficiaries and suppliers	(7,651,177)	(118,659)	(7,769,836)	(10,192,245)	(85,000)	(10,277,245)
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	<u>1,907,944</u>	<u>174,691</u>	<u>2,082,635</u>	<u>12,470,413</u>	<u>91,028</u>	<u>12,561,441</u>
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,907,944	174,691	2,082,635	12,470,413	91,028	12,561,441
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of Period	<u>29,227,272</u>	<u>1,677,877</u>	<u>30,905,149</u>	<u>16,756,859</u>	<u>1,586,849</u>	<u>18,343,708</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of Period	<u>31,135,216</u>	<u>1,852,568</u>	<u>32,987,784</u>	<u>29,227,272</u>	<u>1,677,877</u>	<u>30,905,149</u>

Note 1. Material Accounting Policy Information

Management have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the Edith Cowan University Foundation (“the Foundation”) is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial statements are therefore special purpose financial statements that have been prepared in order to meet the needs of Board of the Foundation.

The Foundation is a component of Edith Cowan University and is not an independent legal entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period, unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Revenue recognition

Donation and bequest income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt except where invoices for payment are generated as per donor requests.

Interest revenue is accrued to the relevant ECU Foundation projects where applicable. Funds received from the Minderoo Foundation Limited Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Premier Visiting Artists Fund attracts a interest at 5% per annum.

Other revenue (including sponsorships) is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In this case, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents represent funds at call which are held by Edith Cowan University on behalf of the Foundation.

Fund accounting

The Foundation may receive contributions restricted for particular purposes or activities. To facilitate observance of these limitations, the financial statements list separately those funds which are non-discretionary and those funds which are discretionary.

Non-discretionary funds are available for use, but expendable only for purposes specified by the contributor or by statute.

Discretionary funds are available for use by the Foundation at the discretion of the Board.

Events occurring after the reporting date

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2025, which significantly affects, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Foundation in subsequent years.

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Board of Directors Declaration
31 December 2025

As described in the basis of preparation accounting policy included in Note 1 to the Financial Statements, the Foundation is not a reporting entity, and these are special purpose financial statements.

The Board of the Foundation declares that the financial statements and notes:

- (a) comply with the accounting policies as detailed in Note 1 to the Financial Statements; and
- (b) present fairly the Foundation's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

Signed on behalf of the officers



Ms Gaye McMath
Chairperson and Chancellor

Date: 1 April 2026
Perth, WA

William Buck

ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

Edith Cowan University Foundation
Board Report
For the year ending 31 December 2025

williambuck.com

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1. Engagement

We have undertaken an audit of the financial report of Edith Cowan University Foundation (“the Foundation”) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards applicable to audit engagements.

This report has been prepared for the Board of the Foundation.

2. Disclaimer

This report is prepared on the basis of the limitations set out below.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of the Board and is not intended for any other purposes. We accept no responsibility to a third party who uses this communication.

The matters raised in this report are only those that came to our attention during the course of our audit and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or improvements that might be made.

We cannot, in practice, examine every activity and procedure, nor can we be a substitute for management’s responsibility to maintain adequate controls over all levels of operations and their responsibility to prevent and detect irregularities, including fraud.

Accordingly, management should not rely on our report to identify all weaknesses that may exist in the systems and procedures reviewed, or potential instances of fraud that may exist. Our comments should be read in the context of the scope of our work. Findings within this report may have been prepared on the basis of management representations.

Suggestions for improvement should be assessed by the Foundation for their full commercial impact before they are implemented.

This report has been prepared solely for your use as management of the Foundation and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended, for any other purpose.

3. Responsibility for the Financial Report

The responsibility for producing the financial report and ensuring adequate internal controls and sound business practices is the responsibility of the management and is a part of management's overall responsibility for the ongoing activities of the Foundation. Policies and procedures developed by the Foundation to safeguard its assets and to provide reasonable assurance that errors and irregularities or illegal acts are promptly identified, must be properly monitored to ensure that all staff are complying with the guidelines provided.

4. Appreciation for Assistance

We would like to express our appreciation for the cooperation and assistance which we received during the course of our audit from Jay Jadeja, Andrew Kong, and other staff members.

We shall be pleased to discuss with you further any matters mentioned in this report at your convenience.

5. Audit Report

Based on our audit work we plan to issue an unmodified audit opinion.

6. Independence

The engagement team and others in the firm as appropriate, the firm and network firms are independent in accordance with relevant ethical requirements and any regulatory requirements that apply to the audit engagements.

Details of relationships that may reasonably have a bearing on auditor independence, as outlined in relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements have been requested and may have been identified; however, the related safeguards have been applied to eliminate threats to independence or reduce them to an acceptable level.

7. Quality Control

We have implemented policies and procedures designed to deliver high quality assurance services in line with our legal and professional obligations. Our [Transparency Report](#) describes our Systems of Quality Management.

8. Summary of Unadjusted Audit Differences

During the audit, we noted an unadjusted audit difference which have not been factored into the accounts and financial report. The unadjusted audit difference is below the materiality threshold of our audit.

Details	Debit \$	Credit \$
Dr. Acc 1500 Donations	50,000	
Dr. Acc 1502 Prizes	1,000	
Cr. Acc 0212 Trade Debtors Control		51,000
To reverse revenue for 2026 which were recognized in 2025.		

9. Audit Risk Areas

During the audit, we identified the following risk areas within the financial report. We have summarised the significant risk areas, our planned approach, and the summary of results in each of these areas.

Audit risk area	Approach	Summary of results
Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We confirmed our understanding of the revenue system procedures for non-interest monies received. – We tested controls and conducted a test of detail over revenue; – We tested the classification of income as either discretionary or non-discretionary; – We performed a substantive analytical review on interest income; – We tested a sample of transactions to assess if revenue had been recognised in the correct period; and – We read the terms and conditions of major funding contracts entered into during the year and checked amounts recognised as income to the contracts. 	Satisfactory
Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We confirmed our understanding of the basis of identifying the portion of the Foundation's cash balance in ECU's bank accounts; – We have obtained the external ECU bank confirmation as at 31 December 2025 directly from the Office of the Auditor General who are ECU's auditors; – We have also obtained cash reports to determine the allocation of cash balances to ECU Foundation; – We have performed a substantive analytical review on the cash balance of the Foundation; and – We checked the balance to internal reports and the restricted cash amounts disclosed in ECU's annual report for 31 December 2025. 	Satisfactory
Expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We confirmed our understanding of the expenditure system procedures; – We tested controls and conducted a test of details over a sample of expenses; – We tested the classification of expenditure as either discretionary or non-discretionary; and – We conducted a cut-off test. <p>We note no administrative or management costs incurred by the</p>	Satisfactory

University are allocated to the
Foundation.

10. Detailed Observations, Suggested Areas for Improvement

As part of the audit, we tested internal controls to check whether we can rely on them for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the financial report. While we do not express an opinion over the effectiveness and operation of internal controls, we did not identify any control improvements during the audit.

11. Going Concern Observations

During the audit there have been no material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern and require further consideration or disclosure within the financial report.

12. Disagreements with Management

There have been no disagreements with Management during the audit.

13. Fraud

During the audit we have not identified or been notified by your office of any circumstances of fraud.

14. Laws and Regulations

During the audit, there has been no evidence that the Foundation has not complied with laws and regulations applicable to the amounts disclosed in the financial report.

15. Use of Other Auditors

William Buck did not require the assistance of another Audit Firm in performing the audit of the Foundation.

16. Conclusion

Our audit was performed in accordance with the scope set in our engagement letter and Australian Auditing Standards with the objective of our expressing an opinion on the financial report.

We have issued an unmodified audit opinion.

Thank You

We look forward to working with you.

Amar Nathwani – Audit Director

Amar.Nathwani@williambuck.com

Grace Ng – Audit Manager

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