

The Oodgeroo Noonuccal Scholarship.

The Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) scholarship is a scholarship of \$500 available to an aboriginal student of ICARUS College or Medical Entrance who commences medical school in Australia in 2008 after obtaining a score in the 100th percentile in any section of the 2007 UMAT test.

About Oodgeroo Noonuccal

Oodgeroo Noonuccal was a poet, an actress, writer, teacher, artist and a campaigner for Aboriginal rights.

But she was best known for her poetry. Oodgeroo was the first Aboriginal Australian to have a book of poetry published.

Her poetry speaks of hope for understanding and peace between black and white Australians.

*"But I'll tell instead of brave and fine
when lives of black and white entwine.
And men in brotherhood combine,
this would I tell you, son of mine."*

Oodgeroo began writing poems when she was young, but it wasn't until she was in her forties that a well known writer encouraged Oodgeroo to publish them.

"She said something to me that I've never forgotten. I said I didn't think they were good enough and she said 'girl, these are not your poems. They belong to the people. You are just the tool that writes them down'."

Oodgeroo kept writing, and became recognised around the world as an outstanding poet.

Her Aboriginal upbringing was her main inspiration. Oodgeroo grew up on North Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane.

Here, surrounded by the sea and the bushland she'd wander off for hours exploring. Nature became very important to her.

"Whenever my Mother used to rouse about me being a wanderer and going off on my own looking for shells and feathers and things like that she used to say you'll have to stop her from wandering and Dad used to say 'leave her alone, she's different'."

Oodgeroo used to say she got her stubbornness from her father. It came out at school when the teachers forced her to write with her right hand, even though she was left handed. Young Oodgeroo suffered many blows across the back of her left knuckles before she finally gave in.

Her father also taught her to be proud of her Aboriginality.

"Dad always said to me 'you're black, you're Aboriginal, always be proud of it, but always know this, that if you're going to do anything in this world you've not only got to be as good as the white person, you've got to be better'."

In the 1960s, Oodgeroo campaigned for Aboriginal rights. Until then Aboriginal Australians didn't even have the right to vote.

Oodgeroo fought for equality. She travelled across Australia, giving as many as ten talks a day.

The campaign was successful. In 1967 Aboriginal Australians could finally have an equal say in how their country was run.

Oodgeroo Noonuccal continued to fight for her people. She travelled the world, telling others about the dreadful conditions Aborigines were living under.

But Oodgeroo felt people weren't listening to her, conditions weren't improving.

Frustrated, she decided to go back to the place she loved, her tribal land on North Stradbroke Island. The Noonuccal's call their land Moongalba, which means *'sitting down place'*. It's very sacred to them.

"At night time you can hear the old people talking lingo down here, especially on a calm night, you can hear it, the spirits are all around here."

But the Government said it owned Moongalba and Oodgeroo wasn't allowed to build anything there. She wanted to turn it into an Aboriginal museum.

The only way she could stay on her land was to camp there, in a caravan and tents.

Oodgeroo invited children, both black and white, to share her land and learn the Aboriginal ways.

"Over thirty thousand children have been here in the last twenty years...if they only come once it's embedded in their mind because here no one passes judgement on them, they have to be their own judge and jury."

When Oodgeroo Noonuccal died hundreds of people mourned, but that's not what she wanted. Oodgeroo wanted people to celebrate her achievements and to continue working for true understanding between all Australians.

Requirements for Entry & Instructions

- This scholarship is open to students of Aboriginal descent who are a student of ICARUS College or Medical Entrance
- The applicant must be enrolled to study medicine in 2008
- Should you be selected as a recipient of the scholarship you must first provide proof of enrolment in a Medical Course at an Australian University.
- Include a self addressed Yellow envelope for promotional materials
- The applicant must have obtained a score in the 100th percentile in any section of the 2007 UMAT test.
- The applicant must also provide a certified copy of UMAT test results obtained, to verify the applicants' scores.
- The winner will be required to provide a passport photo for publishing on the medical entrance website.
- Print out the registration form attached to this document and fill in the details. All fields are required for entry.

Rules

- One entrant will be selected as the recipient of the Oodgeroo Noonuccal scholarship
- All applications must be submitted be received by last mail 20th January 2008
- Only properly completed entries will be eligible for selection.
- All entries received after the 20th January 2008 will not be considered
- Scholarship recipients will be announced on the website upon confirmation and acceptance by the respective recipients.
- Potential scholarship recipients will be notified no later than the 16th of February 2008
- The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- Winning entrants permit the use of their name, photo and details for website inclusion.

The Oodgeroo Noonuccal Scholarship application.

Name:	
Address:	
Suburb:	
Post Code:	
State:	
Contact phone number:	

Please ensure you also include:

- Your certified copy of UMAT results.
- Proof of enrolment in a Medical Course at an Australian University.
- This registration form fully completed.

Mail this form including the above documents¹ to:

**Icarus College
Level 2,
339 King St
West Melbourne
Victoria 3003**

- Please write on the back of the envelope **Attention: The Oodgeroo Noonuccal scholarship**

¹ Please note all Submissions remain the property of ICARUS College.