

Aunty Bilawara Lee

Chancellor, I have the pleasure of presenting Bilawara Lee, who has been awarded the Honorary Doctor of Letters.

Aunty Bilawara, a Senior Elder from the Larrakia Nation, the traditional custodians of the greater Darwin region, is currently the Larrakia Academic In-Residence at Charles Darwin University.

Aunty Bilawara advises on Larrakia cultural practices and protocols and provides culturally informed guidance, direction and support to CDU's students and staff.

Previously, Aunty Bilawara was a nurse at Royal Darwin Hospital before spending 20 years working at the University of Canberra where she managed the Ngunnawal Centre (Aboriginal Student Support Centre).

It was during this time that Aunty Bilawara completed a Bachelor of Applied Science in Cultural Heritage.

Aunty Bilawara also provides her cultural knowledge and expertise at other organisations including the Northern Territory Government and the Menzies School of Health Research, where she led the development of the Indigenous Staff Network to improve the representation of Indigenous staff.

For 15 years Aunty Bilawara has chaired the Menzies Child Health Divisions First Nations Advisory committee and is the

current Chair of the Minister of Health, Health Advisory Committee and sits on the NT Clinical Senate.

Aunty Bilawara is an accomplished author having published two novels; *Star dreaming* and *Healing from the Dilly Bag* and 10 books in Larrakia language and English for NT schools.

Her cultural expertise has been recognized on the podcast series “Ask the specialist” which was embedded into NT Health, Top End, Big Rivers and East Arnhem cultural awareness programs.

Chancellor,

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the improvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and education as well as her cultural knowledge and experience, Charles Darwin University council awards Aunty Bilawara Lee the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters.