



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

MEDIA RELEASE

**FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PEOPLE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AND/OR CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS**

Today I am announcing that the Australian Government is providing \$150,000 to fund a further scholarships program that aims to facilitate training for people from Indigenous and culturally diverse backgrounds to deliver family dispute resolution services. In particular, culturally appropriate services for separated families.

A similar scholarships program ran between 2011-2014 for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who wished to obtain a Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution.

The scope of the new scholarships program has been broadened to cover training in post separation service delivery work. This not only covers family dispute resolution, but also family and relationship counselling, children's contact services and community development.

It is well known that people from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds face substantial barriers to accessing family law post separation services in Australia.

These scholarships will build and enhance the skills for professionals who understand both the cultural background of different families and the family law system. They are pivotal in bridging current gaps in access to these services.

This initiative supports the Australian Government's ongoing commitment to improving access to justice for people from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds.

Family & Relationship Services Australia will administer the scholarship program. Scholarship applications are now open and will close on 12 May 2015. Successful applicants will be notified in early June 2015 for courses commencing in the second half of 2015.

Applications for a second round of scholarship, for eligible courses commencing in 2016, will open in November 2015.

For more information please contact [Family & Relationship Services Australia](#).

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