



NURA GILI RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

SEMESTER 1, 2018

**All seminars take place from 10.30 am to 12 noon on Mondays,
room 309, Morven Brown, UNSW Kensington Campus.**

19 February **Dr Melanie Schwartz (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW Sydney)**

Retaining our best: supporting Indigenous law students through to graduation

From its beginnings, the UNSW Sydney Law Faculty has taken Indigenous justice as one of its core values, and alongside that has come a strong commitment to attracting and retaining Indigenous law students. The Faculty has one of the most advanced offerings nationally for Indigenous law students, aimed both at providing pathways for entrance into legal studies, and academic and pastoral support throughout degree programs (working alongside the UNSW Centre for Indigenous Programs, Nura Gili).

In 2017, as part of RAP commitments, research was conducted into the experience of Indigenous students in the Faculty of Law, with a view to stocktaking what has been done well, what could be done better, and where the Faculty should look to next in growing its support for Indigenous law students. The research included a digital survey of present and past Indigenous law students and two focus groups, one with current students and one with graduates.

This paper will outline the things that Indigenous students say are most challenging about attending law school, and what factors are most protective against discontinuation of studies. With the voices of the students firmly at the forefront, the paper will include recommendations for the next priorities in Indigenous student support at the Faculty of Law.