

Australian Olympic Indigenous Coaching Scholarship Program

OVERVIEW



AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC
**INDIGENOUS COACHING
SCHOLARSHIP**





Program Overview

The aim of the Australian Olympic Indigenous Coaching Scholarship (AOICS) program is to: **provide high-level professional development, education, and formal training to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Olympic sports coaches. Upon completion, graduates can deliver ongoing coach development courses, sports clinics, and pass on their knowledge in Indigenous communities across Australia.**

Scholarship coaches will complete two phases as part of the AOICS program (see diagram 1). During phase one (Student Coach phase), scholarship holders will learn from sports industry experts and benefit from Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) collaborations, including Olympic sport National Federations, the University of Canberra, the Centre of Healing and Justice Through Sport and the Royal Australian Air Force. These partners contribute directly to the delivery and teaching of the

units and practical experiences offered in this scholarship.

In phase two (Graduate Coach phase), AOICS coach graduates, in collaboration with their respective National Federation (NF), deliver a coaching course to aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches based in community. Additionally, the graduate coaches will conduct HaveAGo sports clinics or events for First Nations students. These clinics and events provide AOICS graduates an opportunity to practically apply their new skills acquired during the scholarship, and be paid to deliver services on behalf of the AOC and their NF.

PHASE ONE (Student Coach)



AOICS Graduation

PHASE TWO (Graduate)

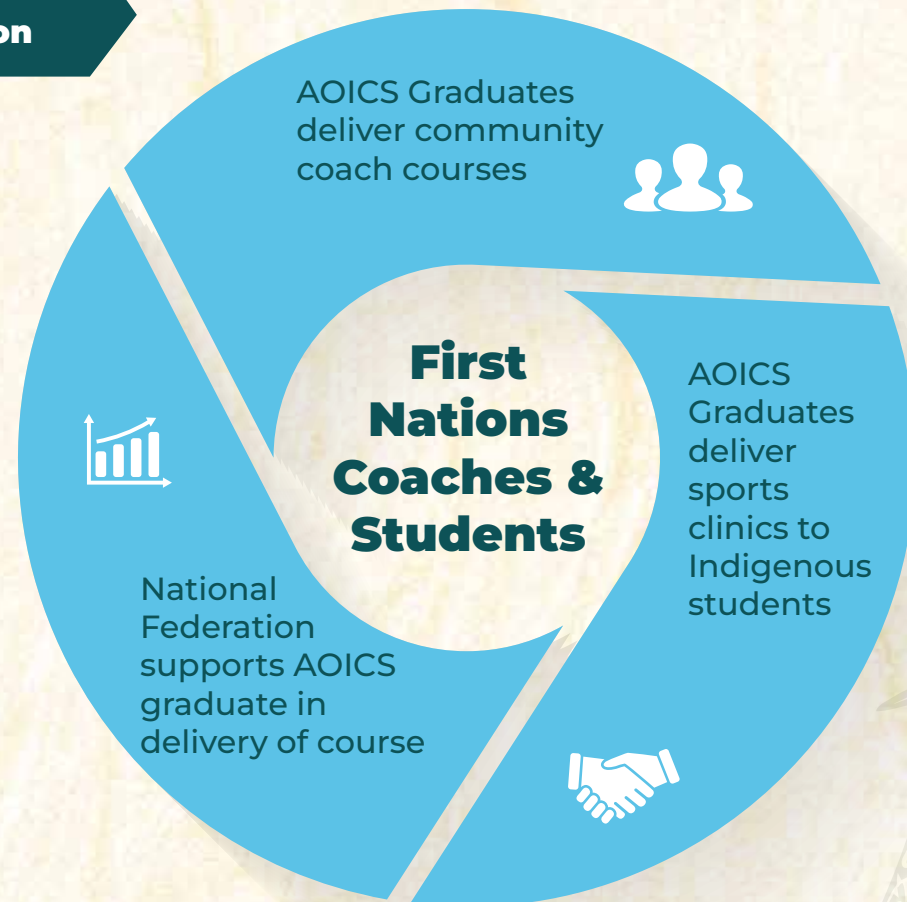


Diagram 1: AOICS Student Phase and Graduate Phase

PHASE ONE: STUDENT COACH

Phase One Overview

First Nation coaches participating in this scholarship will be introduced to a variety of coaching skills, tools, and techniques through diverse training and experiences. Each Phase One unit consists of a series of modules and experiences that each coach must complete.

Phase One Duration

Depending on scheduling of units, Phase One will take between 6-8 months to complete.

Phase One Locations

- High performance centres (e.g., Australian Institute of Sport or State Institutes of Sport)
- University of Canberra
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Online

Phase One Key Dates

- Dec 2025: Unit 1 (5 days)
- Dec 2025 – Apr 2026*: Unit 3 (5 sessions, online or in person)
- Jan – June 2026*: Unit 2 (5 days)
- June 2026*: Unit 4 (5 days)

* *Dates may change due to scheduling of units*

Phase One Units

Phase One of the scholarship includes the following five units.

Unit 1	Indigenous Community Visit and Practical Experience In Unit 1, coaches will first complete the program induction and selected modules from Unit 3 to build foundational knowledge and prepare for the upcoming activities. Next, they will deliver a HaveAGo school sports clinic, which helps them develop essential leadership and communication skills by engaging directly with students. Following this, coaches will join the AOC on a visit to an Indigenous community. The unit also includes inspiring sessions where coaches meet and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Olympians and AOICS alumni, providing valuable mentorship and motivation for their journey ahead.
Unit 2	National Federation Elite Coaching Experiences In partnership with an Olympic sport NF, this coaching experience allows scholarship holders to learn from Australia's top coaches in high-performance settings like national team selections, training camps or competition. Scholarship coaches also complete requirements to deliver coaching courses for their NF, supporting them to conduct ongoing coach development courses and share their knowledge within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.
Unit 3	Capacity-building Program This unit is made up of five modules delivered by The Centre for Healing and Justice Through Sport. Modules develop coaches to best support and get the most impact out of their players through integrated evidence-based, innovative, and cutting-edge practices from the fields of neuroscience, neurodevelopment, and trauma-informed practice.
Unit 4	Leadership, Sport, and Culture Workshops Delivered on campus by world class lecturers from the University of Canberra, this unit provides a series of workshops that deliver skills, tools, and learning in the areas of leadership, sport and culture. Workshops include but are not limited to (1) coaching team philosophy, (2) nutrition, (3) sports psychology, (4) innovative warm-ups, (5) finding and applying for sports funding, and (6) an opportunity to meet and learn from local Traditional Owners, the Ngunnawal people.

Besides set course units, scholarship holders can suggest topics for the AOICS program, influencing the leadership, sport, and culture workshops. Participants may also be interviewed for program evaluation. This people-centred approach ensures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches actively shape the AOICS program.

Graduation Ceremony

Once scholarship holders have completed all units as part of the AOICS program, they will participate in an AOC graduation ceremony. Graduating coaches will receive a certificate from the AOC in recognition of their completion of the AOICS Student Phase.

PHASE TWO: GRADUATE COACH

Phase Two Overview

After coaches have graduated, they will be able to use their new skill set to deliver coaching courses to other aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches with support from their NF. In addition, the graduate coaches will conduct HaveAGo sports clinics for local First Nations students on behalf of the AOC. This practical experience enables AOICS coaches to receive payment for their services, confirming their status as professional coaches.

Phase two of the scholarship requires the AOICS graduate to complete the following two components.

Deliver a coach course to other aspiring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches*

The AOC will work with NFs to create an opportunity to mentor and support AOICS graduates to apply their new skill set by delivering a coach course to aspiring First Nations coaches. This will allow graduates to give back to a community and pay forward their knowledge to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

01



02



Delivery of sports clinics to First Nations students*

AOICS graduates will have the chance to deliver HaveAGo sports clinics for First Nations students on behalf of the AOC. This is an opportunity for students to experience participating in an Olympic sport in a clinic delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches.

Phase Two Duration

- 4-5 days
- Depending on scheduling, phase two may take up to 6 months to be delivered.

Phase Two Locations

- Metropolitan, Regional or Remote Indigenous communities

Phase Two Key Dates

- July – Dec 2026*

** Dates may change due to scheduling*

**The implementation of Phase Two components is contingent upon the availability of budgetary resources and may be modified as necessary.*

AOICS Program Impact

Table 1: AOICS Graduates
As of December 2024

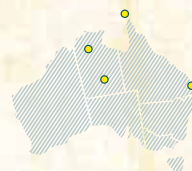
AOICS INDIGENOUS COACH GRADUATES

Name:	Sport:	Gender:
Dawn Baira	Hockey	Female
Travis Carroll	Hockey	Male
Shana Casimiro	Hockey	Female
Keegan Popowski	Hockey	Male
Simone Carré	Athletics	Female
Benjamin Catley	Athletics	Male
Kimberly Eulenstein	Swimming	Female
Michael Faccin	Swimming	Male
Libby Cook-Black	Athletics/Marathon	Female
TJ Cora	Athletics/Marathon	Male
Tiana Brockhurst	Athletics/Marathon	Female
Andrew Thorpe	Athletics/Marathon	Male
Cassie Dover	Basketball	Female
Tyson Demos	Basketball	Male
Tahlia Kelly	Basketball	Female
Jason Ah Sam	Basketball	Male
TOTAL GRADUATES = SIXTEEN (16)		

FULL PROGRAM OVERVIEW VIDEO [CLICK HERE](#)

16

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches have graduated from the AOICS program.



Hockey, Athletics, Basketball, and Marathon community coach courses were delivered in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities located in Alice Springs NT, Katherine NT, Redlands QLD, and on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait Islands.

83%

AOICS graduates delivered thirty-five (35) HaveAGo Olympic sports clinics to 1109 students in remote communities, with 83% of participants identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

5

Five (5) Elite Experiences completed by coaches.

50% ^{FEMALE}  50% ^{MALE} 

The AOICS 2023-24 program achieved gender equality with 50% female and 50% male graduates.

76%

Fifty-nine (59) community-based coaches participated in foundation coach courses with 45 (76%) identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

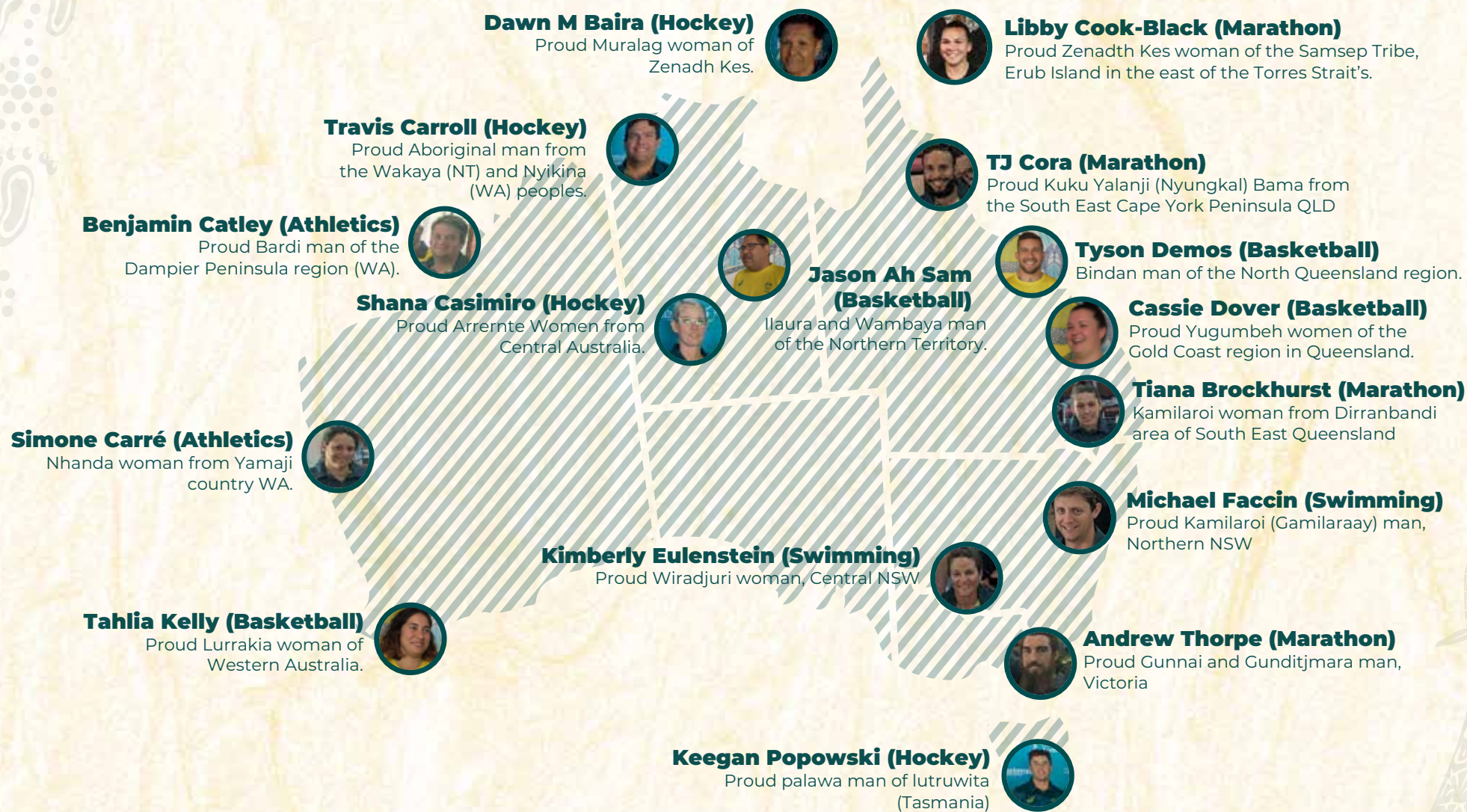


Five (5) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Olympians acted as mentors to the Sixteen (16) graduating coaches.

5

Five (5) completed modules from the Centre for Healing and Justice Through Sport.

Diagram 2: AOICS Graduates Indigenous Map



GRADUATION VIDEO [CLICK HERE](#)

SELECTION CRITERIA

NFs and/or lead organisations will select Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coaches based on the below criteria:

- Nominated by an NF or lead organisation (engaged/selected by AOC per AOICS round).
- Identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.
- Recognised coach with the sport NF or lead organisation.
- Aged 18 or older.
- Holds a valid Working with Children Check.

