

# RECIPROCITY IN ACTION: ILAN STYLE'S PARTNERSHIP WITH AIATSI

ANNOUNCEMENT



**AIATSIS**

Photography: Talai Elu

# In a meaningful testament to the value of cultural preservation

Ilan Style proudly announces its collaboration with the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra. This partnership gives rise to the 'Ilan Style Fellowship'. A visionary program set to launch later this year, the Ilan Style Fellowship aims to enrich the lives of emerging Torres Strait Islander scholars, their families and communities.





## Guided by the vision of our Founder

### Professor Kerry Arabena

herself a proud Torres Strait Islander woman, the Ilan Style brand resonates with purpose and significance. We care deeply about creating beautiful native Australian products that are better for people, and more sustainable for the environment. But more than just a delightful product range, Ilan Style has the tagline 'Know. Be. Do', because sharing and supporting Indigenous ways of 'knowing, being and doing' has always been Kerry's personal purpose - and so the Ilan Style Fellowship is born.

Kerry's unique perspective as a past AIATSIS Fellow infuses the Ilan Style and AIATSIS partnership with authenticity and a personal connection. Kerry appreciates how transformative such initiatives can be. Her own journey began from countless hours in the AIATSIS library, which led her into academia, then successful business ownership and entrepreneurship - with many milestones along the way! This story exemplifies the profound impact and ripple-effect of fostering scholarship. And now Kerry is giving back to other students, to create her legacy as a proud benefactor. Kerry so eloquently encapsulates the essence of Ilan Style's humble ethos: "When you hold our products in your hands, you place meaningful change in ours. Ilan Style is symbolic of reciprocity in action." And now through the Ilan Style Fellowship, that 'meaningful change' is set to take flight.





# The Ilan Style Fellowship aims

to empower Torres Strait Islander scholars and contribute to the preservation and advancement of cultural knowledge, revitalise languages and foster a new generation of custodians of cultural heritage. The Fellowship is underpinned by four pillars:

## 1. Financial Support for Equitable Access:

Torres Strait Islander students embarking on this transformative journey will receive comprehensive financial support, ensuring equitable access, so that they can focus on their archival research in Canberra, without financial barriers.

## 2. Mentoring:

The mentorship framework connects Torres Strait Islander students with seasoned researchers and supports from AIATSIS, fostering growth and understanding.

## 3. Capacity Building:

Targeted capacity-building strategies empower Torres Strait Islanders with analytical tools to decode archival insights, building a bridge between heritage and contemporary understanding.

## 4. Disseminating Findings:

The Fellowship's impact extends back home to the Fellow's community and beyond to the world. Ilan Style and AIATSIS will collaborate to ensure that the Fellows' discoveries reach a wide audience, contributing to the collective knowledge tapestry of Torres Strait Islander culture, history, and heritage.





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As the Ilan Style Fellowship prepares for its launch, our team is very humbled and excited. It is incredibly enriching to work within a for-purpose environment, with a passionate team and an authentic, incredibly caring Founder! This endeavour symbolises not just a partnership, but a celebration of 'Know. Be. Do' - identity, knowledge, unity and allyship. Ilan Style is honoured to contribute to this journey of exploration and preservation, nurturing and sustaining the stories of cultural heritage so that they continue to shine brightly.

Together, Ilan Style and AIATSIS breathe life into the words of Kerry Arabena, creating a legacy of reciprocity to resonate across time, place and generations.

**For Further Information:**

[info@ilanstyle.com.au](mailto:info@ilanstyle.com.au)

1800 We Yarn (1800 939 276)

[ilanstyle.com.au](http://ilanstyle.com.au)



FELLOWSHIP



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