The Aboriginal Cultural Arts Program at TAFE Illawarra’s Nowra Campus aims to foster a local indigenous arts industry to drive teacher and student community involvement in the Shoalhaven region.

Through the development of and involvement in specific commercial artworks, events and products, the program works to establish strong links between the Institute’s Aboriginal Arts courses and the Indigenous history and culture of the Shoalhaven people.

Students involved in the program are given the opportunity to participate in the organisation and planning of school and community-based art projects, including events such as the National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week Art Exhibition.

Why get involved?
The Aboriginal Cultural Arts Program is ideal for students studying a Certificate III or Certificate IV in Aboriginal Cultural Arts at Nowra Campus. It gives students the opportunity to:

- gain valuable experience in developing and organising cultural and arts events
- participate in international exchange
- benefit from shared learning experiences with students from different levels of study
- further improve individual skills and knowledge of art techniques, philosophies and histories
- build relationships with key industry and community organisations

What are the program’s key achievements so far?
Since the program’s inception in 2008, participating students and teachers have:

- assisted in the organisation of the 2010 NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition in conjunction with the Shoalhaven Arts Centre
- developed the “Black Cockatoo” Art Awards to coincide with the 2010 annual NAIDOC Week Art Exhibition in the Shoalhaven region
- been selected to participate in a Cultural Exchange Program to visit Beijing, China
- 29 students have successfully completed Certificate III and a further 13 students have gone on to complete their Certificate IV qualification
How to get involved?
Interested students can visit the Aboriginal Education & Training Unit at Nowra Campus or contact Aboriginal Program Co-ordinator, Warwick Keen, on (02) 4421 9817.