

# SKILLED & STYLED



“ *The program employs a culturally sensitive approach to building confidence, self-awareness and communication skills to develop career and personal goals...* ”



## Provider Name

Kiama Community College

## Contact

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## Program

Non-accredited & part qualifications:  
FSK, Beauty, Retail, Hospitality

## Target Group

Indigenous

## Details

2 days/week x 8 weeks.

9.30am to 3pm each day

## Key points of difference

Indigenous Liaison Officer providing local community knowledge and networks and individual mentoring to students. Lunch, transport. Respect.

**Lisa Chapman, Indigenous Liaison Officer at Kiama Community College is the driving force behind the Skilled and Styled program and the linchpin supporting the relationship between the college, the local Koori community and other Indigenous support services.**

Skilled and Styled has been operating for seven years and is now funded by CSO funding. The program employs a culturally sensitive approach to building confidence, self-awareness and communication skills to develop career and personal goals.

It uses a range of accredited and non-accredited learning outcomes in beauty, FSK, retail and hospitality. The program content is adjusted to meet the individual needs and recent community issues impacting on each cohort of students. The majority of students are Aboriginal women but a recent program was very successful with a group of Aboriginal men.

With an amazing 100% of students completing the non-accredited components and 80% completing the accredited components the outcomes for students are rich and varied.

Some have gained employment in local Aboriginal Health Services. Others have transitioned into further study in community services, retail, hospitality, LLN and FSK. For some the outcomes are very personal achievements such as gaining the confidence to leave an abusive relationship and establishing a safe and happy environment for themselves and their children.

Local employers, such as the Aboriginal Health and Community Service organisations, the local fruit market and Fantastic Furniture are

engaged and support the program by providing work experience, attending graduation ceremonies and providing employment where possible.

The college is very careful in the selection of trainers / assessors to work on the Skilled and Styled program. Trainers have reported that the opportunity to work on the program has resulted in a much deeper cultural experience with the Aboriginal community than can be gained through Cultural Awareness training programs.

Lisa believes the provision of individual mentoring and wrap around services such as transport, counseling and relaxed lunches are important to the success of the program.

*“Gathering around food, sitting around informally and talking encourages ‘old peoples ways’ and a belonging to family. The gathering brings back a sense of respect with our Aboriginal community, what it is to be black across age groups. It allows for open and honest conversation.”*

Lisa’s deep roots in the community, her ability to support and mentor individual students and trainers, her persistence and resilience are essential to the success of the Skilled and Styled program.

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.*