



 Mel George, recipient of the NIDA Luminis Foundation Indigenous Fellowship for Cultural Leadership.

Southern Courier

# Glass artist Mel George to spur on Aboriginal reconciliation through the arts and culture

Marie Hogg, Southern Courier  
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GLASS artist and curator Mel George believes a key part of the country's reconciliation with the Aboriginal community will happen through the arts.

As the inaugural recipient of a six-year grant worth \$300,000, Ms George (pictured) will undertake a Master of Fine Arts in cultural leadership at NIDA to forward the momentum of

reconciliation.

The grant was provided by the Luminis Foundation Indigenous Fellowship for Cultural Leadership, which funds 50 per cent of fees for the fine arts course. The program is aimed at supporting Aboriginal leaders already playing a role in shaping Australia's creative and cultural future.



📷 (L-R) Mel George with Peter Brownie, Simon Mordant AM, Jamie Garis, Jennifer Bott AO, and NIDA CEO Kate Cherry

“I want to amplify the visibility of artistic excellence that exists in the most remote and inaccessible areas of our country,” Ms George said.

“A key part of the long and difficult reconciliation process is through arts and culture.

“Participating in this course will help develop my knowledge and enable me to better contribute to one of Australia's most important challenges.”

Of Aboriginal and Greek heritage, Ms George curates exhibitions that integrate traditional and contemporary Aboriginal artists.

“Research has revealed that my paternal grandmother was forced to renounce her Aboriginality and thus, was unable to ever speak about her past and her culture,” Ms George said. “I see myself as a connector.”

NIDA chief executive Kate Cherry said the institute was proud to be building new cultural pathways in the community.

“I am grateful to Luminis for nurturing Australia’s brightest talent,” she said.