News Release

For Release: 18 November 2026

ANZ and ICAN launch local First Nations financial capability scholarships

ANZ and the Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN) have launched a new First Nations financial capability scholarship program as part of ANZ's 2026–2028 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Responding to calls from the First Nations financial counselling sector, ANZ is investing in the financial capability workforce through scholarships for up to 45 people, expanding access to nationally recognised education and qualifications through ICAN's place-based training and support.

The ANZ First Nations Financial Capability Scholarships will support First Nations people and community workers to build financial capability skills and qualifications, in turn strengthening existing community services and growing the national financial capability workforce.

The scholarships will be delivered through three place-based programs over the next three years, with the first program starting in Townsville.

Participants will receive support covering training and assessment costs, learning resources and mentoring. The program will combine intensive training blocks in local communities with blended learning and ongoing support.

ICAN will also work with employers to help participants complete the qualification and apply their learning in the workplace.

ANZ Head of Social Impact Janet Liu said investing in locally based skills and expertise is an important part of improving financial wellbeing over the long term.

"Building financial capability within communities can have an impact well beyond the individual undertaking the training. Through our longstanding relationship with ICAN, we're helping more people develop recognised skills they can use to support their organisations, families and communities."

ANZ Head of First Nations Strategy Shelley Cable said the scholarships demonstrated how ANZ's broader First Nations ambitions could translate into practical outcomes.

"This is what economic self-determination looks like in practice; listening to First Nations expertise and backing the solutions the sector says are needed. Through this scholarship program, ANZ is investing in stronger local financial capability and support, while improving First Nations representation in the financial capability workforce."

ICAN Chief Executive Officer Aaron Davis said the program built on the enduring relationship between ANZ and ICAN and their shared focus on financial wellbeing, education and locally driven programs.

"Lasting impact comes from building capability within communities. This program invests not only in individuals, but also in the organisations and communities where they work. These scholarships will remove barriers and create opportunities, and we're excited to welcome our first cohort of participants."

The scholarship program is one of the deliverables outlined in ANZ's 2026–2028 RAP, endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and guided by ANZ's 2035 First Nations Strategy, Fuelling the Fire.

ANZ's RAP sets out practical actions across the bank to help advance First Nations aspirations for economic self-determination, focusing on financial inclusion and empowerment; banking and growing the First Nations economy; building cultural intelligence; and strengthening governance, relationships and impact.

More information about the scholarships and application details can be found here.

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