

***Masters of Health Candidature***

Indigenous Students Experience  
of University Education

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### *Abstract*

This research was conducted in a cultural safety context for the Indigenous participants. The study explored qualitatively the issues for Indigenous students in tertiary health studies in an effort to add to the body of knowledge around issues of retention of Indigenous students in health studies.

The findings of this qualitative study described two major themes for the participants as they described their tertiary educational experience. The main theme has implications for educational institutions for cultural safety. These proved to be pivotal moments which jeopardized continuing studies rather than academic failure or difficulty.

The second theme of personal resources, described new issues then previously described in literature. Motivators for achieving qualifications proved to be different for the general population. But outstanding was the documentation of previous academic success in educational pathways and that all of the participants already work in health. These two findings have positive implications for employers striving to grow an Indigenous workforce.



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## Contents

Chapter 1 Introduction .....	1
Chapter 2 Literature Review .....	3
Chapter 3 Methodology.....	15
3.1 Research Problem.....	15
3.2 Research Question.....	16
3.3 Research Design.....	16
3.4 Recruitment .....	18
3.5 Data collection .....	20
3.6 Data analysis .....	21
3.7 Trustworthiness of the data .....	22
3.8 Ethical processes .....	23
Chapter 4 Results .....	24
4.1 Cultural Safety .....	24
4.1.1 Personal identity inclusive of culture.....	25
4.1.2 Language .....	26
4.1.3 Merging academic knowledge with cultural knowledge .....	26
4.1.4 Challenging racism, ethnocentrism .....	27
4.1.5 Fitting in to university.....	29
4.1.6 Cultural support networks .....	30
4.2 Personal attributes .....	31
4.2.1 Adaptability, change and personal growth.....	31
4.2.2 Healing .....	32
4.2.3 Commitment.....	34
4.2.4 Time Management .....	34
4.2.5 Prior qualifications .....	35
4.3 Indigenous tertiary support units.....	36
4.3.1 Negative experience .....	36
4.3.2 Positive experience.....	37
4.4 Family support .....	38
4.5 Employment .....	39
4.5.1 Work.....	39
4.5.2 Resources .....	41
4.5.3 ABSTUDY .....	42
Chapter 5 Discussion of Results .....	43
Chapter 6 Conclusions .....	55
6.1 Cultural safety- Conflict, racism and catalyst moments .....	55
6.2 Goals of education.....	57
6.3 Motivators .....	57
6.4 Previous Qualifications / study .....	58
6.5 Pathways .....	58
6.6 Grow workforce opportunities .....	58
6.7 Work/life balance .....	59
6.8 Recommendations .....	59
6.9 Recommendations for further research .....	60
Reference List .....	62

**List of Tables**

Table 1: Age and Culture .....20  
Table 2: Previous Qualifications prior to University Health Degree attempted .....20

**List of Diagrams**

Diagram 1: Culturally safe environment in Tertiary Education.....43  
Diagram 2: Identified personal resources .....48