

Mr Ken Zulumovski

An honorary award of a Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa) was conferred upon Ken Zulumovski by Chair Academic Board, Associate Professor Anthony Masters, at a Faculty of Health Sciences graduation at 2.00pm on 12 April 2019.

Citation

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mr Ken Zulumovski to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Australian society.

Ken is a descendent of the Kabi-Kabi & Gooreng Gooreng Nations of South East Queensland. He is a graduate of the Djurawang Health Sciences (Mental Health) program at Charles Sturt University and a former lecturer and researcher at Muru Marri, the Indigenous Health Unit of the University of New South Wales, School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

His career spans 20 years in program development and delivery working with Australian first nations and culturally and linguistically diverse communities. But Ken says he thinks it began around age 14, when his mum Aunty Sandra Johnson, encouraged him to look into becoming a St John Ambulance Cadet. In doing so he graduated as a Corporal and took on the task of training a lively group of younger cadets in; administering first aid, drill to build discipline, fundraising, and in reciting the St John Ambulance Code of Chivalry.

Building on this, at age 17, Ken enlisted into the Army Reserve and was posted to the combat unit, 113 Field Battery, Royal Australian Artillery Corp. There he trained as an artillery crew commander. He served eight years including three years with the Australian Defence Force Recruitment Unit implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence Career development strategy. As a tribute to his military career, Ken earned the prestigious Australian Defence Medal.

In 2007, Ken led the establishment of Gamarada Indigenous Healing and Life Training Pty Ltd. This organisation responds to the therapeutic and educational need for culturally safe community mental health, healing and life skills programs targeting, family violence, addiction and suicide prevention and access to Justice. This work was independently validated by Muru Marri in 2014 with a Program Quality Assessment using the Critical Success Factor Framework. The project involved conducting six case studies of highly valued social and emotional wellbeing programs around Australia that successfully engaged and supported Aboriginal Youth. A Process of in-depth case study analysis, yielded a set of strengths-based tools to capture the important elements that enable a program to be culturally competent, safe and effective for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participants.

In 2010 Gamarada was recognised by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet with an Excellence Award for Building Leadership in Indigenous Communities. Next Monday night Ken and his team will deliver the 540th week in Redfern and the 40th week in Mount Druitt of the Monday night community led Gamarada community healing and life training initiative.

Ken is also Founder and Managing Director of Gamarada Universal Indigenous Resources (GUIR). GUIR's spheres of influence include: Education, Justice, Health Care and Employment. He led the development of the Gamarada COURAGE Coaching Model. This model incorporates Third Wave Psychology with Indigenous wisdom traditions. It provides a therapeutic and culturally safe framework for cultural supervision and program delivery and is currently being used in restorative justice, education and training for teachers, students, allied health professionals as well as community engagement initiatives across the Social and Emotional Well Being and Healing spectrums.

In 2012 Ken facilitated the first NSW Aboriginal Healing Forum at the State Parliament House and was a member of the NSW Mental Health Commission's Indigenous Leaders forum.

Ken has transformed healing practices for Indigenous peoples and has pioneered ground breaking principles well before they were established examples of best practice.

Ken and his team are committed to systemic advocacy through holding regular community forums and national and international conference presentations across the: Health and Justice spectrum. In June Ken will present at the Australian Society for Psychological Medicine and Royal Australia College General Practitioners Biennial conference and at the Lowitja Institute, International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference.

This Honorary Doctorate award is recognition of Ken's many achievements, qualities and contributions to Australian society. He is an industry and community leader and an inspirational role model.

Pro-Chancellor, I present Ken Zulumovski for admission to the degree of Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.