

## Arnold Bloch Leibler Indigenous Law Student Scholarship

The Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University, is pleased to announce that Jeanette Vaha'akolo has been awarded the first Arnold Bloch Leibler Indigenous Law Student Scholarship.

This scholarship has come about as the result of a partnership between the Castan Centre, Arnold Bloch Leibler Lawyers and the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, Monash University. It assists an Australian Indigenous person to enter or continue studies with the Law Faculty of Monash University by meeting the costs of their Higher Education Contribution Scheme debt up-front each year, this can be for a maximum period of 5 years.

The scholarship represents an early step in the Castan Centre's longer-term goal of improving the availability of legal education not just to Indigenous Australians but also to other groups in the community who have been under-represented in the practice of law. It is one of a number of initiatives, including mentoring and close liaising with the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, in place to assist indigenous scholars complete their degree.

Jeanette is the first recipient of the Arnold Bloch Leibler Indigenous Law Student Scholarship. A member of the Yorta Yorta community, she has just entered the third year of her law degree and is also working with the Victorian Department of Justice during breaks in the University year. The Castan Centre believes that the legal discipline and Victoria as a whole will benefit from Jeanette's eventual qualification and practice as a lawyer. The Castan Centre is proud to be involved in assisting Jeanette to finish her law degree



*Jeanette Vaha'akolo*

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