

Transforming our Academic Enterprise: Discussion Paper – June 2019



Central to the success of the University's strategic plan – Enterprise25 – is a commitment to introduce a new academic organisational structure that is oriented around our academic programs, to ensure that our resources are focused on the quality of our teaching, research and the student experience.

Our staff and students have been involved in collaborative exercises over recent months to co-create the design of our future program-oriented structure. These inputs have helped to inform the Discussion Paper [here](#).

We are interested in your thoughts on our proposal. You may submit responses to the discussion questions included in the [Discussion Paper](#) through the online form or comment on the proposal via email to enterprise25@unisa.edu.au.

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An incredible journey of survival to Australia

Abok Dau

Financial Assistant, Anglican Diocese of North WA
Co-Founder and Chair, Athiolget Women's & Children's Health Association
Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Management)

Guor Michar

Pharmacist, Friendlies Pharmacy
Co-Founder, Athiolget Women's & Children's Health Association
Bachelor of Pharmacy



(Image: Guor Michar and Abok Dau, and family)

Abok Dau and Guor Michar's tale of survival and triumph is remarkable.

After surviving a childhood disrupted by war in Sudan, Guor's conscription as a child soldier, and 17 years in refugee camps, the couple have resettled in Geraldton, Western Australia, crafted successful careers in pharmacy and business administration, and started a young family.

Now the couple are also working tirelessly to save lives in poverty stricken regions of South Sudan through their Athiolget Women's & Children's Health Association, providing lifesaving medicines to the most vulnerable in the country.

When Abok and Guor were children in Sudan, the mounting political tension in the country eventually consumed the remote southern region where the pair spent their childhoods.

The decades-long war that led to the separation of the Republic of South Sudan from North Sudan has cost millions of lives and left millions more living in poverty, without access to adequate medical care, food, and countless other vital services.

From a young age, Abok's and Guor's experiences instilled in each a sense of the fragility of life.

"My early childhood in South Sudan was traumatic due to the war and also the numerous deaths of my playmates at a very young age," Guor says.



(Image: Abok Dau and Guor Michar)

"I was consumed with fear of death as I saw many families, including my own, losing many of their little angels to malaria, typhoid, dysentery and diarrhoea.

"Wailing and mourning would overcome the village and I felt a chapter was closing on our community as every other child born was expected to live for only a month.

"Babies would be kept behind closed doors to protect them from 'evil spirits' outside the family hut - a family hut that was surrounded by little unmarked dirt graves that looked like anthills. The fear of stepping on those little graves stoked fear of death even closer."

As the war intensified around them, famine and poverty became a daily reality for most and disease and malnourishment took many lives. In the South, where the war was most intense, the rebels decided to recruit young boys.

When Guor was just nine he was conscripted and marched for three months to an Ethiopian refugee camp where the rebels trained the young soldiers.

"The reserve camps in Ethiopia were also refugee camps where military activities such as further training, military planning and firing squads were highly practiced," he says.

"We were over 50,000 boys from different parts of Sudan. Every year, the boys between the ages of 14 and 18-years-old would be armed and sent to the frontlines to fight."

While Guor and Abok did not meet in Ethiopia their stories traverse the same landscape.

Abok and her family also made the long journey to Ethiopia where they hoped to reunite with her father who had been wounded in the Pochalla war. But when the Ethiopian government was overthrown Guor, Abok and her family were forced to flee back to Sudan. Once again they faced many months of trekking across war-torn countryside.

"We re-entered Sudan in May 1991 and were faced with starvation and constant aggression. We were forced to walk hundreds of kilometres from Pochalla in Sudan to Kenya and arrived in 1992 to seek refuge in Kakuma Refugee Camp," says Guor.

"We had to walk back into Sudan where the war was very intense. Many people died on this journey, drowning in the rivers or re-joining the fighting," says Abok.

Guor and Abok were forced to spend the rest of their childhood, another 11 years and 13 years respectively, living in the camps, surviving on low-nutrition supplies of maize, beans, and what vegetation the women and girls could find in the nearby bush.

Many children in the region quickly became malnourished or suffered abnormal growth and anaemia. Guor became very anaemic but was one of the lucky ones to receive a blood transfusion in 1996.



(Image: Abok Dau carrying water from a dirty water source).

School was a saving grace of the refugee camp. In South Sudan where Guor and Abok were born there were no schools in an area home to more than 120,000 people. So when the opportunity arose for the couple to get their schooling in Kenya they took it very seriously.

Guor worked hard on his studies and was sponsored by the UNHCR to settle in Australia in 2003.

Abok's experience was similar.

"When I got an opportunity to go to school in Kenya like Guor, and many other children, I took it seriously. I was even lucky enough to be listed among those who were taken to Canada by World University Service of Canada (WUSC)," she says. "But because I was waiting to come to Australia with my family, they couldn't let me be part of those who were accepted."

We arrived in Perth, Australia in 2005 where I studied English and Human Resources and continued to work as an Interpreter with the On-call and WA Translating and Interpreting Services."



(Image: Abok Dau and Guor Michar with their family).

Once Guor and Abok were settled in Australia they were both eager to further their studies.

Abok transferred her studies to UniSA when the opportunity arose to complete a Business degree with a major in Human Resource Management. She is now working as a Finance Assistant while raising three children and administering the family's charitable work with the Athiolget Women's & Children's Health Association.

"Graduating from UniSA with a Bachelor of Business was a proud moment for me because raising young children while studying is one of the tough jobs," says Abok.

"I was glad when I received my results that I would be graduating – I could not believe it because my daughter was only one-month-old when I sat for the final exam."

Guor's awareness of the many deaths he witnessed from untreated curable diseases drove him to pursue a career as a Pharmacist.

In 2005 he enrolled in UniSA's pharmacy program where he was Golden Key International Honour Society and the founder and the president of the Sudanese Tertiary Students Association that brings Sudanese students from all South Australian universities and TAFE together.

Guor has now been serving his local community as a pharmacist for 10 years.



(Image: Guor at his UniSA Graduation in March 2009).

After their studies the couple was compelled to established the Athiolget Women's and Children's Association – a charitable organisation that provides essential medicines to the countless innocents affected by the war in South Sudan where medical care is difficult if not impossible to find for many curable diseases.

In January 2012, Abok and Guor were involved in supplying of lifesaving drugs to people in South Sudan, mainly antimalarial, antibiotics, antiepileptics, pain relief, worm treatment, and schistosomiasis.

"The impact this meagre supply had on the local community was considerable as lives were saved and changed for the better. As a result, Athiolget Women's and Children's Health Association was born to carry on this generous work to all those in the area" says Guor.

"During the war between North and South Sudan, I believe a big percentage of the 1.9 million people who perished between 1983 and 2005 was due to diseases like malaria, dysentery, diarrhoea, typhoid, STDs, bilharzia and kala-azar or visceral leishmaniasis – many easily curable diseases."

"From my family, more people died from diseases, especially women and children, than being caught in the conflict. This belief has been my driving force to fight a disease war over a political or economic war that is still being fought today in both countries of Sudan and South Sudan."



(Image: A woman and her children waiting in queue at Akot Medical Clinic in South Sudan 2016).

Abok first travelled to South Sudan to establish a clinic in Akot, a remote village in Ruweng State in 2015. The community came together to build a hut for the clinic, which since 2016 has treated 60 people per day for tropical disease treatments.

Abok and Guor also fundraise through the Association to fund medicines and clinic costs.

Thanks to the support of their local community, the organisation is now working to establish a modern clinic in the area that will be able to store medicines and continue to run health services for the area.



(Image: Athiolget Women's and Children's Health Assoc Inc. Clinic construction in South Sudan).

"I am very proud of my wife who has worked so hard to make sure the Association keeps its objective of providing lifesaving medicines to women and children," says Guor.

The couple have now made a home in Geraldton, Western Australia and are proud parents of their three children Michar, Akur and Ayeen.

The children are heavily involved in the Athiolget Women's and Children's Health Association fundraising and community, and will carry on this vital work for generations to come.

For more information or to make a donation visit: [Athiolget Women's and Children's Health Association](#).

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Yvonne East: If you can see it, you can be it

Yvonne East

Artist

Bachelor of Visual Arts

Master of Fine Arts (Research)



(Image: Yvonne in her studio by Yasmin Mund)

Yvonne's East's artwork has been displayed all over the country. You may have spotted her stunning local murals for the Adelaide Aquatic Centre, Adelaide Festival Centre, and in Victor Harbor, or her works in the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, the Frankston Arts Centre in Melbourne, and more regionally in the South Coast Regional Arts Centre, Goolwa and the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery.

This year, though, you can visit Yvonne's vibrant portrait of Green's Senator and first Muslim woman elected to any Parliament in Australia, Dr Mehreen Faruqi and her gorgeous pup, Cosmo, at the S.H. Ervin Gallery in Sydney until 28 July 2019 with her artwork being selected as part of the prestigious Archibald Salon des Refusés exhibition.

Yvonne has come a long way from working in her studio, an abandoned nightclub in Victor Harbor, when the Alexandrina Council Arts Officer, Leah Grace, heard about an artist working away in there and came for a studio visit, leading to her first solo show.

Yvonne's primary focus for her art is on painting and drawing. But she has a particular talent for capturing the essence and interior world of an individual through their portrait.



(Image: Portrait of Dr Mehreen Faruqi, 2019 in the Salon des Refusés)

Yvonne has always been innately fascinated with the human form and a person's identity. Drawing on conscious and subconscious social structures and norms that influence how we perceive, carry and present ourselves in the world to construct her art.

"I have always been interested in the human form, perhaps this comes from early years spent as a dancer and learning through direct observation, noticing the nuances in people's movement and a fascination with the forms, shapes and surface of the human face and figure," she says.

"The great thing about portraiture is engaging with another person, it is a process of collaboration. I don't go into a sitting with a definite pre-existing idea, what happens is that we sit and talk, I listen to what the sitter is passionate about, the way that they see the world, a particular way they may hold their head or physical gestures they make while they are speaking or thinking.

"While I can't sit directly in their shoes, it is a process of empathy, and I'm always humbled by my subject's generosity and what they are willing to share with me. In this sense it is an organic and reiterative process of discussion and ideas between two people.

"I'm fascinated by how people present themselves in relation to their professional role and social influence. There is a great history of portraiture to draw on and I love to play with how paintings can generate meaning."



(Image: Doug from Eden, 2018, oil on linen, 2018 Doug Moran Portrait Prize finalist)

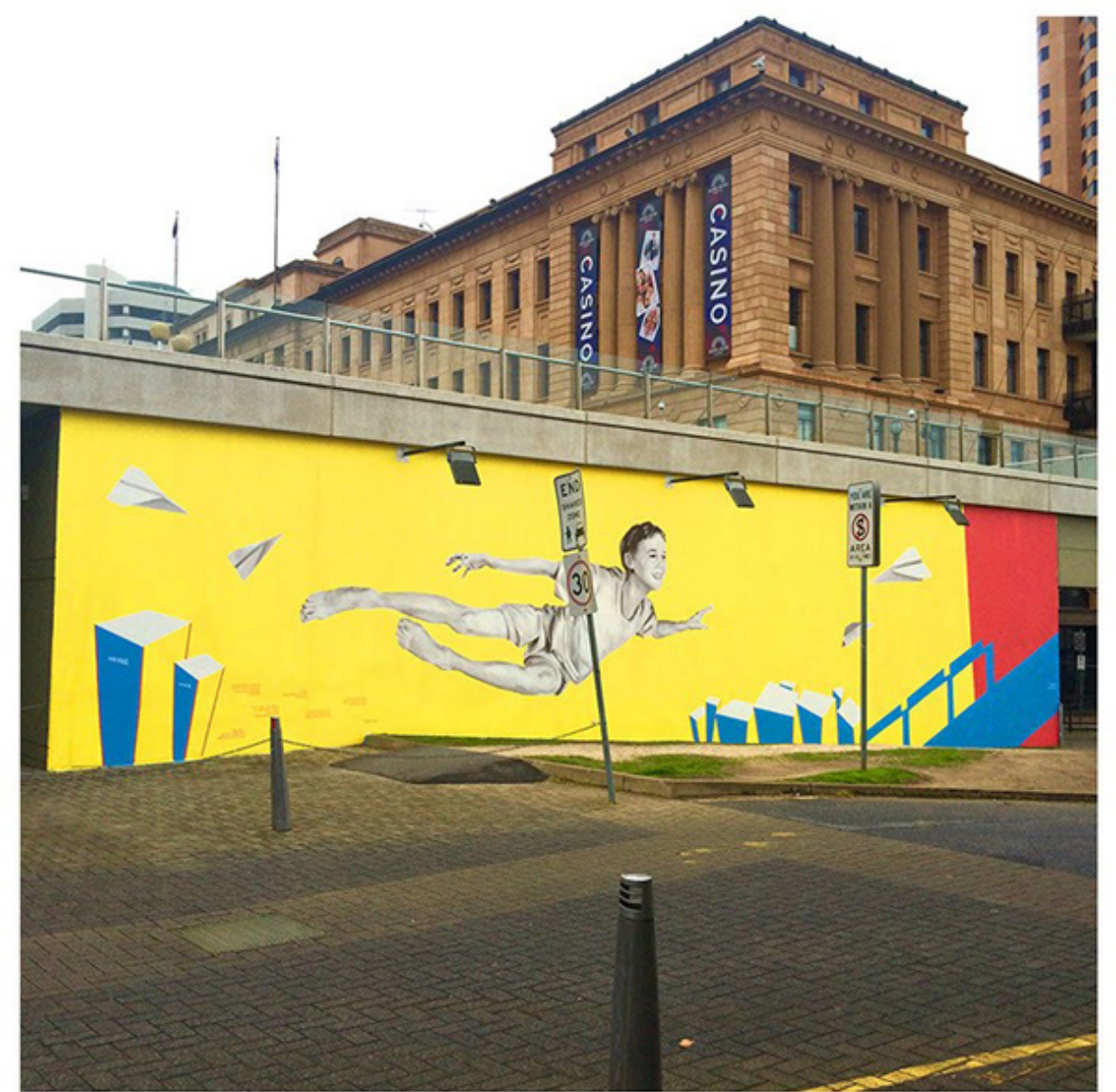
With her career going from strength to strength, Yvonne still regards her time at UniSA as pivotal in the development of her skills as an artist as she explains when developing creativity it is essential to question your motives, what you are passionate about, and the way you want to live your life.

"It sounds like a cliché but going to art school changed my life," she says. "I had grown up in the country, I was married, and going to art school invited a whole new way of seeing the world and asking difficult questions about why things are the way that they are.

"It was a great lesson in critical thinking. I had some influential teachers that are brilliant artists (Annie Newmarch, Greg Donovan and Rob Gutteridge to name a few) who essentially 'blew my mind' and expanded my view of the world."

Looking back at other pivotal moments in her career, one of the biggest highlights for Yvonne was winning the inaugural Country Arts SA Breaking Ground Award in 2011.

"It was a prize, that along with funds to support myself while I created a new body of work, also facilitated a solo exhibition in 2012 in the Fantastic Artspace Gallery at the Adelaide Festival Centre," she says.



(Image: Adelaide Festival Centre Mural SALA 2015, Adelaide City Council)

"I got to create work that was challenging and combined traditional drawing and painting practice with a 24 metre digital projection installation. It then went on to tour to major South Australia regional galleries for two years.

"It marked an enormous development in my work and I'll forever be grateful for the opportunity.

"I also remember being in awe the first time my work was selected for the Dobell Drawing Prize and hung in the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

"It was strange to see the work that I had developed in the privacy of my studio in regional South Australia, while my son was still very young, to then be shown in a major Australian Gallery that I had always loved and admired on previous visits."

Another highlight Yvonne counts as an important step in her career was being commissioned to paint the Honourable Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC. Which eventually became a finalist in the 2018 Archibald Prize, Australia's most famous and beloved portrait prize.

"We had the sitting in her chambers in the High Court in Canberra," she says. "It's probably the most nervous I have been for a sitting, but the Chief Justice was wonderfully at ease and generous with her time."



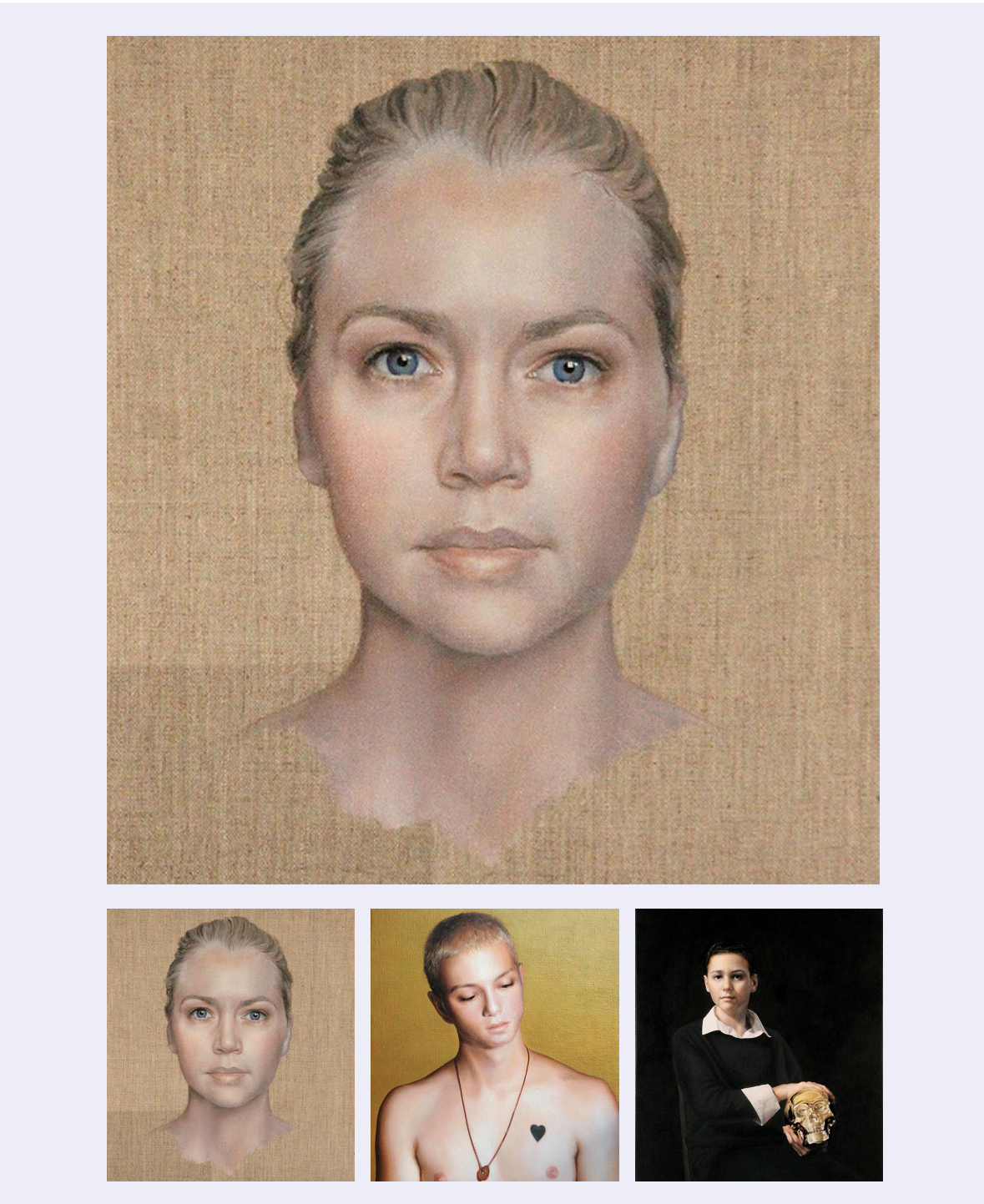
(Image: Portrait of Honourable Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC, 2018, Archibald Prize finalist)

Of the honour of being hung in last year's Archibald, she explains she felt incredibly lucky to be selected as it is a sought after art prize, and counts the visibility and exposure it offered to herself and subject, an important honour.

"I think last year nearly 1.7 million people visited the Archibald so I felt incredibly proud to have made visible a portrait of first female Chief Justice of Australia, painted by a female artist," she says.

"The fact that a 5-year-old girl can visit a major institution, such as the Art Gallery of New South Wales and see a powerful and intelligent woman recognised in this way – it just wouldn't have happened when I was younger. It's great to have these roles models – a case of 'if you can see it, you can be it.'"

To view more of Yvonne's stunning work visit her website [here](#).



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The gift of education for promising aged-care professionals



Earlier this month, 94 University of South Australia (UniSA) recipients proudly crossed the stage at The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre in recognition of their life-changing scholarship and grant honours, thanks to the generosity of the University's donors.

The awards, totalling almost \$1 million, will recognise 220 students in 2019 by providing vital encouragement for individuals sharing a common aspiration to succeed both academically and professionally.

Our scholarships and grants program offers transformative gifts to students with exceptional ability who – through an array of cultural, geographical and socio-economic circumstances – might not otherwise have the opportunity to go to university.

Just one example of the impact our generous donors is Resthaven's incredible contribution of over \$600,000 to scholarships and grants at the University over the past 10 years.

As a valued major donor to UniSA since 2010, the stalwart not-for-profit organisation has been key in nurturing the next generation of outstanding aged-care professionals with scholarships and education at the University.

The Resthaven scholarships deliver lasting benefits by affirming the importance of working in the aged-care sector and raising awareness of aged-care as a career path for graduating nurses and allied health professionals at the University. The scholarships support our students to become leading professionals who deliver quality care to older people – now and in the future.

This year at the 2019 Scholarships and Grants Ceremony, Resthaven Executive Manager of People and Culture – and fellow UniSA alumna – Sam Bradley, presented five scholarships to worthy recipients to support them on their aged-care journey.



(Image: Sam Bradley (left) with the 2019 Resthaven Scholarship recipients)

Resthaven 80th Anniversary Undergraduate Occupational Therapy Scholarship recipient, Melayni Boivard-Cations, says she was both elated and humbled to receive the scholarship further fuelling her already immeasurable enthusiasm and interest in aged-care.

"Through my personal and education experiences, the importance of working with older people to keep them living well by doing the things they want and need to do, in both good and ill health, has been unequivocal," she says.

"This scholarship will open up new opportunities to speak with older people, their families and staff, about the value and the variety of contributions to the wellbeing of occupational therapy for older people to support them in their goals.

"The more I experience, the stronger is my belief that occupational therapy makes an absolutely vital contribution to the health and well-being of older people."

Similarly for international student, Vipanjit Kaur, receiving the Resthaven 80th Anniversary Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship will make a tremendous impact on her education and future career as a nurse in the aged-care sector.

Speaking about her passion for aged-care nursing, Kaur is thankful for the gratification she gets from her work and personal satisfaction of knowing what she is doing genuinely makes a difference.

"When we get a thank you from a resident or a relative, and their face lights up, we get this warm and fuzzy feeling that we just can't beat," she says. "We have made their life that little bit more bearable and maybe even made them more comfortable in their final moments."

"I can safely say there is no greater honour and nothing more special, and that's the main reason behind me working as a carer in aged-care for the past couple of years.

"This scholarship will make a big difference in my education and in accomplishing my goals, and eventually become a successful registered nurse."

Other Resthaven honourees on the night included Resthaven 80th Anniversary Undergraduate Physiotherapy Scholarship recipient, Brian Farnam; Resthaven 80th Anniversary Undergraduate Nursing Scholarship recipient, Guorong Elias; and Resthaven Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Allied Health Scholarship, Raphael O'Connor.

Resthaven Chief Executive Officer, Richard Hearn, knows the importance of working with older people and supporting scholarships at UniSA in order to give back to the South Australian community.

"Resthaven considers our investment in the scholarships an important contribution to the Australian community," he says. "With our ageing society developing a strong future aged-care workforce is vital. Older people have shaped this nation. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect."

"Supporting the students who will become the highly professional aged-care nursing and allied health practitioners of the future benefits us all."

More information and images from the 2019 Scholarships and Grants Ceremony can be found [here](#).

Gallery of Resthaven Recipients



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Fostering partnerships for our global University



The University of South Australia is a globally connected university with graduates, staff and students from over 134 countries, alumni chapters in eight countries, and more than 2000 industry and professional relationships supporting research and community engagement.

A significant contribution to this is UniSA's partnerships with both industry and educational institutes.

As Australia's University of Enterprise we maintain close links with industry through a variety of ways. Last month, two very important global partnerships were solidified and celebrated with a Memorandum of Understanding events in Southeast Asia.

In late May, educational institute Kaplan and the University of South Australia hosted a launch in the Singaporean capital where staff, industry representatives and alumni celebrated the re-engagement of the partnership between the two institutions.

The formalities of the partnership were recognised with a Memorandum of Understanding signing by both Professor David Lloyd, UniSA Vice Chancellor and President, and Mr Dave Kuah, Kaplan's Vice President, International Services and Offshore Development.

This followed a panel discussion involving the shared values and engineering principles and challenges of the Jewel at Singapore's Changi Airport, consisting of Professor David Lloyd; Mr Stephen Ho, Group Chief Operation Officer for SkyLab Holding Pte Ltd; Professor Julie Mills, Pro Vice Chancellor: IT, Engineering and the Environment; and Mr Lawrence Lim, Principal Engineer, Meiden Singapore.



(Image: Discussion on engineering principles and challenges of Jewel at Singapore's Changi Airport.)

The Australian High Commissioner to Singapore, His Excellency Mr Bruce Gosper, also gave a speech highlighting the important role of local and international education in the region.

UniSA has been actively engaged with Kaplan, and its antecedent institutions, for over 20 years graduating thousands of Singaporeans.

This includes Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering) graduate, Lawrence Lim, who was officially recognised at the event for his outstanding career and contribution to the Singapore Alumni chapter, receiving the Alumnus of the Year Award from UniSA Vice Chancellor and President, Professor David Lloyd.

The event also celebrated the launch of UniSA's Master of Engineering (Engineering Management), the first program offered to students in the region with Kaplan. The intake will commence in September 2019.



(Image: Lawrence Lim receiving his Alumnus of the Year Award from the Vice Chancellor.)

The following day on Wednesday 29 May, UniSA Vice Chancellor and President, Professor David Lloyd, travelled to Malaysia to mark the University's partnership with Taylor's University with another Memorandum of Understanding.

The engagement was celebrated with an official signing ceremony followed by a dinner at Truffles Restaurant – Taylor's University signature training restaurant at the Lakeside Campus, with Taylor's University Vice Chancellor and President, Professor Michael Driscoll, and Professor David Lloyd each addressing the group expressing their enthusiasm for the re-engagement.



(Image: MoU signing (left to right) – Professor Dr Pradeep Kumar Nair, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, Taylor's University; Professor Michael John Driscoll, Taylor's University Vice Chancellor and President; Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President, University of South Australia; Professor Stephen Boyle, Dean, Academic, Business School; and Ms Josephine Tan, Campus Director, Taylor's College.)

Together, the University of South Australia and Taylor's hope to offer a range of programs from various discipline areas in Malaysia in addition to expanding the number of articulation agreements and research collaborations.

With more than 220,000 alumni living all over the world, UniSA's global reach is more important than ever. With valuable partnerships with a number of cutting-edge international institutions – including Kaplan and Taylor's – fostering these relationships is key in our position as the University of Enterprise and establishing our presence overseas with outstanding alumni.

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A safe place to call home for the vulnerable

Nahtanha Davey

Chief Executive Officer at **SACARE**
Graduate Certificate, **Business Administration**
Graduate Diploma, **Business Administration**
Masters, **Business Administration**



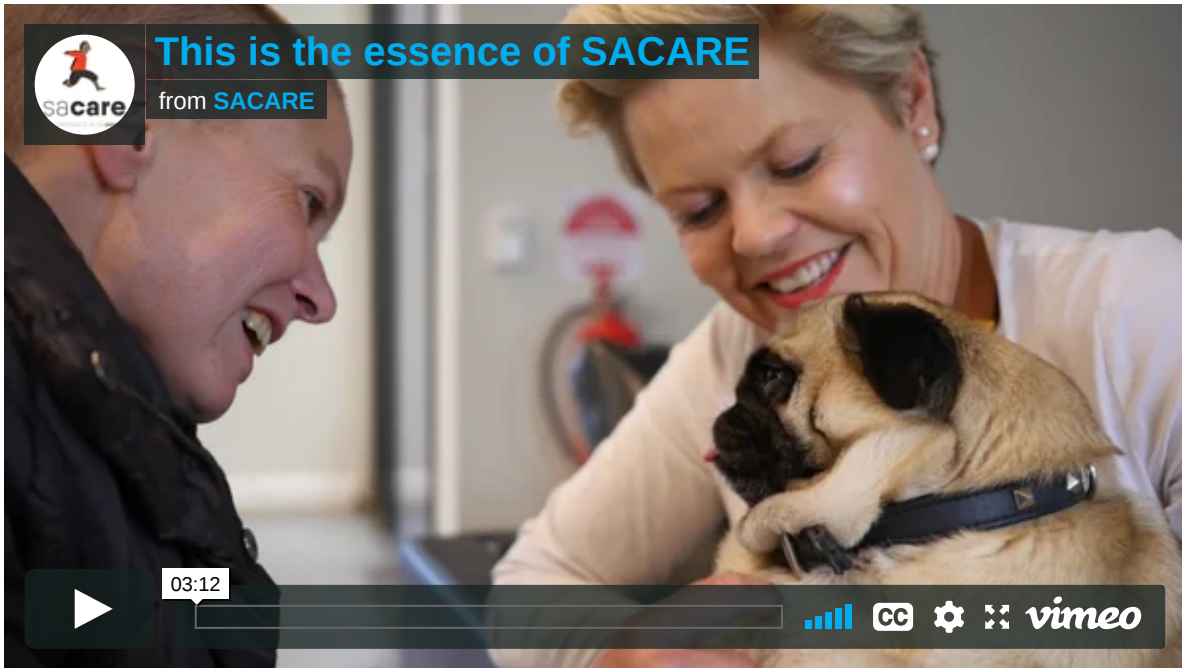
From her humble beginnings, Nahtanha Davey has ascended through the South Australian business industry to become the leader of **SACARE**, providing vital housing and care services for those affected by disability.

Her tenacity and ambition led her to the 5-star MBA program at the University of South Australia, and when she graduated in 2010 it set her on a rewarding path leading ethically-based companies with strong ties to our community's most vulnerable.

Mum to "two beautiful young girls and an amazing husband", Nahtanha was previously the CEO at Brain Injury SA where she led successful improvements and enhanced frontline service delivery for people living with acquired brain injury.

And with SACARE's promise that every person should have access to the very best services and accommodation, enabling them to live enriched, fulfilled and independent lives – it's easy to see where Nahtanha's values lie.

She joined SACARE at a very exciting period in 2018, just in time to oversee the opening of **The Gums**, SACARE's newest \$14m property for people needing high-quality health care, injury recovery and transitional services.



(Video: This is the essence of SACARE. More videos about the work SACARE do [here](#).)

"It really is a privilege to be working with such an incredible team, supporting South Australians living with disability at SACARE," says Nahtanha.

"I see myself as a values-based leader, passionate to continue to build onto and grow my expertise at the leadership level to support community-based organisations to thrive.

"I enjoy the community business sector, our broader not-for-profit sector, and I enjoy supporting worthy government initiatives at the local level to build strong foundations, manage change through good governance, stakeholder engagement and align to best practice."

At SACARE, Nahtanha is responsible for making major corporate decisions, managing the overall operations and resources, while being the public face for the organisation.

There are times when her role can be quite hands-on and times when she spends her day dealing with the higher-level company strategy.

"Seeing members of our community be rewarded for the efforts of our strategic initiatives is what keeps me going," she says.

"Knowing that we make a difference and provide hope to the lives of people who have endured some of the most harrowing experiences.



"I get to work with beautiful people daily, people who are adapting to a new lifestyle because of their traumatic experience and acquired disability. We get to help them achieve much more and enable them to thrive in their environment, it's very rewarding.

"I am passionate about being accountable and driving governance and quality to achieve outstanding results. I enjoy redeveloping governance systems and turning around organisations. I enjoy working in very complex environments, particularly politically."

Her commitment to change, travel and experience has successfully contributed to her executive career. It took a lot of drive and passion to show courage and resilience as a young woman in a leadership role, which she secured after completing her **5-star UniSA MBA**.

"One of my most memorable experiences during my time at UniSA was the International Business in China Intensive School opportunity which saw us travel to Shanghai and Beijing, extending on experiences and learning the value of building strong relationships."

She believes this experience enabled her to strengthen her learning and capacity in this space which has led to many successful negotiations throughout her career as a result of these learnings. Her advice to graduates?

"Step outside your boundaries, don't just sit still. Take off and learn what other parts of the world are achieving, find yourself a great coach or mentor and please keep learning."

If you're interested in learning more about UniSA's 5-star MBA, join our MBA Info Session in person Thursday 5 September 2019, or online Monday 9 September, from 6.00-8.00pm. [Register now](#).



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