

“#All In” for Reconciliation at Macquarie University



MACQUARIE
University

Speaker Bios

Josie Downey | General Manager and Managing Director | Merck Healthcare Australia and New Zealand

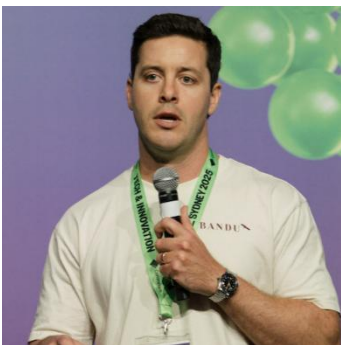


Josie was appointed Managing Director and General Manager of Merck Healthcare Australia and New Zealand, in 2021. She brings over 25 years of industry experience across large and small companies in Australia and Asia.

Josie is passionate about reconciliation, belonging and inclusion and is the proud sponsor of Merck’s Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan 2025-2027.

Merck started its reconciliation journey in 2023, and last year launched new Merck Indigenous STEM Leadership Scholarships with Macquarie University.

Edward Morgan | CEO and Co-Founder | Bandu



Edward Morgan is the CEO and Co-Founder of Bandu, an organisation dedicated to improving post-school outcomes for First Nations young people through support in education, employment, housing and community. Under Edward’s leadership, Bandu has grown significantly and now works with hundreds of young people, alongside schools, corporate partners and community stakeholders, to help create stronger pathways into adulthood.

Edward graduated as a teacher from Macquarie University in 2014 and spent nine years working in the education sector. For seven of those years, he served as Coordinator of the First Nations Program at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill, where he was responsible for the wellbeing, development and success of up to 50 First Nations boys each year.

His work sits at the intersection of education, employment and social impact. He has spent the past several years helping build practical partnerships that move beyond symbolic support and toward real opportunity, accountability and long-term change. Through Bandu, he has seen firsthand the difference that committed relationships, cultural respect and sustained action can make in the lives of young people.

Edward also has strong family ties to the East Kimberley region, where his first cousins are Kija and Ngaranyin People. Through these relationships, he has helped lead a number of on-Country immersion experiences celebrating land, culture and learning. This work has recently contributed to the establishment of Taam Tours, a social enterprise co-founded by Edward and his cousins, delivering immersive on-Country experiences for schools and corporate groups.

He brings a practical perspective to conversations about reconciliation and allyship, with a strong belief that going “all in” means stepping beyond intention and taking responsibility for meaningful, ongoing contribution.

Alanah Scholes | Reconciliation Action Plan Manager | National Rugby League



Alanah Scholes is a proud Gamilaroi woman and an experienced leader in Diversity, Indigenous Inclusion, and social impact. She is currently the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Program Manager for the National Rugby League (NRL), where educating people on reconciliation is at the core of her work.

With experience spanning hospitality, inclusion, and career development, Alanah works to embed meaningful and lasting reconciliation across all levels of the Rugby League and the NRL. The launch of the NRL's second Elevate Reconciliation Action Plan was a career-defining moment, providing a framework to influence executives and senior leaders and to bring others along on the reconciliation journey, from grassroots clubs to the national league.

Making a difference is in Alanah's DNA. She is a descendant of a Stolen Generations survivor and the daughter of Uncle Victor Wright, co-founder of the Koori Knockout, one of Australia's most significant Aboriginal sporting events. Strong family and community values underpin her commitment to giving back and empowering future leaders. Alanah also graduated with an Master of Business Administration specialising in Social Impact from UNSW this year, continuing her dedication to leadership and positive change.