

# Moondani Balluk Plan 2022-2025

Formerly titled Bathelmun Yalingwa

THE NEW WAY TO DO UNI

# Acknowledgement of Country



Victoria University acknowledges, recognises and respects the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Boonwurrung, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri of the Kulin who are the traditional owners of University land in Victoria, and the Gadigal and Guring-gai of the Eora Nation who are the traditional owners of University land in Sydney.

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# Introduction

**Bathelmun Yalingwa**, meaning ‘Shine Bright’, was first introduced in 2017 in response to the Universities Australia (UA) Indigenous Strategy. In 2022, it needed to be refreshed in light of Victoria University’s (VU) new [Strategic Plan 2022-2028: Start well, finish brilliantly](#), leading to the renaming Bathelmun Yalingwa to **Moondani Balluk Plan**.

One of the key strategic drivers of the University’s strategy is Protecting Country, meaning that Indigenous-led cultural, social and climate solutions guide us every step of the way. Moondani Balluk drives these solutions with the view that, ultimately, these will be front of mind for all within VU. Given this, the work outlined here is instigated, refined and socialised through Moondani Balluk.

This name change activates a shift in focus to ensure Moondani Balluk becomes the expert and authority in growing, sharing and connecting Aboriginal perspectives and standpoints at Victoria University. The objective is to go further, to not only listen to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and standpoints that uphold and privilege self-determination but to understand the expertise and authority of these voices.

The last five years have seen changes inside the University, buffeted by a political landscape of ever-changing Aboriginal affairs, policies and programs. They intervene in our communities and deposit us into a deficit model – coping with the ebb and flow of loss and hardship experienced as Aboriginal people.

Inside the University, we continue to mentor our Aboriginal graduates and community people and offer employment opportunities wherever possible. We stand up to the system that still tries to make us bend into it, and we share our knowledge even when we fear it will be ridiculed and misunderstood. We stand tall against the ignorance that has shown itself in our classes.

Moondani Balluk is our culturally safe space where we can talk through and share our feelings of trauma from being told our lives are not important and our teachings are not true.

We are brave. We are Blak. We are connected to Country, ancestors and Elders. We know who we are. We have survived.

# Strategic Context

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2028: Start well, finish brilliantly

### Our Vision

To be a global leader in dual sector learning and research by 2028

### Our Strategic Drivers



**Our Commitment to  
Progressive Inclusivity**

**Indigenous  
achievement**

**Moondani Balluk Plan  
2022-2025**

Gender Equity  
Action Plan 2022-2025

Cultural Diversity and  
Inclusion Plan 2023-2026

# High-Level Objectives

## Doing Dual Differently

A university experience designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and ensures all students will encounter and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content within VU.

## Partnering with Principle

Moondani Balluk staff continue to maintain and further develop equal and collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal entities in the west of Melbourne, nationally and internationally.

## Maximising Research with Impact

Strong and distinctive capability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research, and ensuring all our research is underpinned by our commitment to Protecting Country and First Nations knowledge, as per the VU Research and Impact Plan 2023-2028.



## Protecting Country

Pursue epistemic justice outcomes within a framework of decolonisation to create spaces that privilege Blak lives, Blak experiences and Blak participation.

## A Thriving Place to Study and Work

A safe, inclusive and inviting University environment that sets up Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff for success; and elevates Aboriginal culture.

# Actions

Doing Dual Differently	Partnering with Principle	Maximising Research with Impact	Protecting Country	A Thriving Place to Study and Work
A university experience designed by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and ensures all students will encounter and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content within VU.	Moondani Balluk staff continue to maintain and further develop equal and collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal entities in the west of Melbourne, nationally and internationally.	Strong and distinctive capability in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research, and ensuring all our research is underpinned by our commitment to Protecting Country and First Nations knowledge, as per the VU Research and Impact Plan 2023-2028.	Pursue epistemic justice outcomes within a framework of decolonisation to create spaces that privilege Blak lives, Blak experiences and Blak participation.	A safe, inclusive and inviting university environment that sets up Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff for success; and elevates Aboriginal culture.
<b>How will we do this?</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an Aboriginal competency by ensuring all students will encounter and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content as integral parts of their study.</li> <li>Provide culturally specific units for delivery in Aboriginal community settings that pathway into further education and employment.</li> <li>Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in learning and teaching for HE and VET that is delivered in community settings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop alliances with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Groups and local Councils, particularly in the West, as a component of the Major Alliances Framework.</li> <li>International partnerships in research developed in collaboration with Community, Identity and Displacement Research Network (CIDRN).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led research that is recognised and promoted by the University.</li> <li>Embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in research.</li> <li>Attract high-performing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers</li> <li>Place-based Aboriginal research projects with Aboriginal entities.</li> <li>HDR coursework and other initiatives for postgraduate students.</li> <li>Strong research collaborations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and develop anti-racism and critical race praxis and pedagogy.</li> <li>Support, as appropriate, Government measures to improve justice and recognition (eg Treaty in Victoria, Yoorrook Commission)</li> <li>Identify and undertake a program of activism to seek justice and redress, ensure that voices are heard and align with other movements (eg Black Lives Matter).</li> <li>Investigate knowledge base and ability to pursue projects drawing on Traditional Owner and Moondani Balluk academic experience and knowledge in Protecting Country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues in our workforce and provide career development.</li> <li>Educate and inform staff about Aboriginal history, culture and perspectives.</li> <li>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership recognised by being appropriately structured and supported.</li> <li>Policies and practices</li> <li>Create culturally safe working space for Moondani Balluk staff and students.</li> </ul>
<b>What does success look like?</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moondani Balluk academics are engaged in cross-discipline Aboriginal content design and delivery.</li> <li>VUP units and other short courses are designed for off campus Aboriginal cohorts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoU's are agreed, designed and finalised with relevant Aboriginal entities.</li> <li>Collaborative research partnerships with impact locally, nationally and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moondani Balluk academics are engaged in design and delivery of Aboriginal specific postgraduate coursework.</li> <li>Moondani Balluk researchers are engaged in local and global research and jointly authored publications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The University understands and respects the expertise and authority of Moondani Balluk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal perspectives are embraced and understood by staff.</li> </ul>

# Measures of Success

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### Success Measures

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation rate HE and VET
- Graduate outcomes

- Number of collaborations with partners nationally and internationally.
- Impact of community engagement

- Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander HDR student completions
- Number of publications
- Number of local community-led research projects.

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation – Staff
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Participation – Leadership positions

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student satisfaction rates
- Staff Engagement Survey results (Protecting Country)

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