

**Indigenous Law Student has a taste of Legal London.**



Indigenous Law Student, Mark Munnich had a taste of Legal London last week. Sponsored by Ashursts, Middle Temple and Carmelite Chambers, Mark came to London as a guest of Felicity Gerry QC and visited a number of court centres including a tour of the Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from Lord Carnwath. The placement was part of the Bilata Legal Pathways Program (*Bilata*) which aims to address the low numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the legal profession in the Northern Territory of Australia by encouraging Indigenous students to study law. The program works by engaging, empowering and offering practical support to Indigenous students from high schools and universities from remote, regional, and interstate demographics. Bilata, pronounced (Bee-lat-ta) is a Larrakia word for a wooden spear-throwing device, also commonly known as a woomera. Traditionally a Bilata was utilised to guide a spear along a pathway, assisting with direction, speed, and accuracy.

The pilot London opportunity ran for two weeks from the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 and Mark was the first law student to pilot the scheme. He is a young Indigenous man who is a descendant of the Gunddandji and Yawuru nations. Mark is currently in his last year of his Bachelor of Laws at Charles

Darwin University (CDU) School of Law. He took time out for the Solicitors Journal Awards and to visit Haringey Law Centre and Ashursts London offices. Mark would like to thank Carmelite Chambers in particular for their support of his time in chambers and Middle Temple for his accommodation and a lovely lunch.