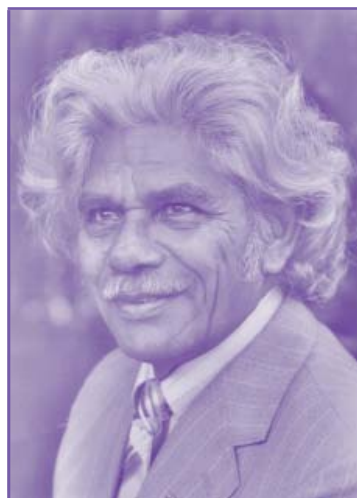


## THE NEVILLE BONNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### For Honours in Political Science



*In Memory of Mr Neville Bonner  
The First Indigenous Member of Federal Parliament*

### 2012 APPLICATION FORM

The Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship is for an Indigenous Australian to study Honours or combined Honours in Political Science or related subjects such as government, political geography, political history, political anthropology or political economics.

The Scholarship is available for study at Honours level at a recognised Australian university.

#### Value

The Scholarship is equivalent in value to the Australian Postgraduate Award stipend (approximately \$23,000 in 2011) plus payment of the student contribution amounts relevant to the Honours year of study.

#### Eligibility Criteria

You are eligible to apply for the Neville Bonner Scholarship if:

- you are an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; and
- you have been offered a place in Honours in 2012; or
- you have good reason to believe you are likely to be offered a place at Honours level in 2012; and
- your Honours program is in Political Science or a related subject field.

#### Enquiries

Please contact the Scholarship Administrator if you have any questions about your eligibility and to discuss your application.

Send an email to [cabs.admin@anu.edu.au](mailto:cabs.admin@anu.edu.au) or phone (02) 6125 2825.

#### How to Apply

Post your completed Application Form and the requested documents to the Scholarship Administrator:

Ms Karen Holt  
Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship  
Council and Boards Secretariat  
1.09 Chancelry Bld 10  
The Australian National University  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

#### Application Due Date - 27 January 2012

The Scholarship will be awarded early in 2012, after the selected student's enrolment in the Honours program is confirmed.

*The Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship was established by the Commonwealth Government in the year 2000. The Scholarship is administered by the Council and Boards Secretariat at The Australian National University. The Neville Bonner Memorial Fund is held by the ANU Endowment for Excellence.*

**THE NEVILLE BONNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**2012 APPLICATION FORM**

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (bh) \_\_\_\_\_ (ah) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an Australian citizen? Yes  No

If you have not done so already, read the Additional Information on pages 4 and 5 of this Application Form.

**INDIGENOUS STATUS:** Please provide written evidence that you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. For example, a letter from an Indigenous community leader/organisation or from the Indigenous Unit of your university confirming your status as an Indigenous Australian. This may be attached to your application or you may organise to have it sent to the Scholarship Administrator by 27 January 2012.

**OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS OR AWARDS:** A Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship may be held concurrently with another scholarship or award, with the permission of the Selection Committee. Please list any scholarship/s you have applied for or which you seek permission to hold and their value.

**ACADEMIC RECORD**

Write the name of your degree course and the institution at which you are currently studying/have studied.

Attach an original, certified academic transcript of your undergraduate degree and any other academic qualification/s you have completed. (Also include the explanation or key to the marking code/grades used). When your 2011 Semester II results are available, you must forward them to the Scholarship Administrator as soon as possible, so they can be considered with your application.

**HONOURS COURSE DETAILS**

Provide course details for your planned 2012 Honours year. If you are not currently enrolled at the University at which you wish to undertake the Honours program, you need to apply for admission separately and concurrently.

Degree Course \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Honours Specialisation/Field \_\_\_\_\_

Part-time  Full-time  Intended Honours start date \_\_\_\_\_

Written confirmation (from your university) of your acceptance and enrolment in the 2012 Honours program is required before the Scholarship can be awarded.

# THE NEVILLE BONNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## 2012 APPLICATION FORM

### ACADEMIC REFEREES

You will need two academic referees who can comment on your suitability for the Scholarship and your ability to undertake study at Honours level. Provide your referees with a copy of the Academic Referee Report Form and write their contact details below. Referee reports are confidential and must be sent by your referees directly to the Scholarship Administrator by 27 January 2012.

(1) Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (bh) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (bh) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL REFERENCE

A reference from someone who is not related to you but who has known you for at least three years may also be submitted to support your application. Ask your personal referee to write a letter (no more than two pages in length) to the Scholarship Administrator. They may comment, for example, on your extra-curricular activities, other interests and community involvement.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (bh) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### PERSONAL STATEMENT

Write a personal statement (up to two pages) to support your application. This may include a description of your chosen Honours topic, your service to the Indigenous community and your future aspirations.

**Agreement to publicity:** The Scholarship winner may be asked to provide personal information for release to the media. They may also be interviewed as part of the publicity for the Scholarship.

Please indicate if you would be willing to agree to publicity activities.

Yes  No

**Declaration:** I declare that the information supplied on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and correct. I authorise the Selection Committee to obtain official records with respect to me and to seek other relevant information about me from the appropriate educational institution(s).

.....  
**Signature**

.....  
**Date**

**Checklist:** Your application must include the following documents that are either to be enclosed with your application or sent by your referees directly to the Scholarship Administrator:

- Completed Application Form (2 pages)
- Original academic transcript/s
- Personal statement (2 pages)
- Two academic references
- Personal reference
- Written evidence of Indigenous status
- Confirmation of Honours acceptance

If you are currently completing your Degree, you must also send your 2011 Semester II results to the Scholarship Administrator as soon as they are available. You may also include a two page Curriculum Vitae if you wish. Please do not include any additional information (other than that requested) as the Selection Committee will not be able to consider it.

Please contact the Scholarship Administrator by email to [cabs.admin@anu.edu.au](mailto:cabs.admin@anu.edu.au) or by phone on (02) 6125 2825 if you have any questions or to check that your application and referee reports have been received.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Objective:** To encourage Indigenous Australians with an interest in politics, political science or related subjects to further their undergraduate education through an Honours year of study at a recognised Australian university. Political Science may be broadly interpreted to include such subjects as government, political geography, political history, political anthropology and political economics. The Selection Committee may consider applications from other subject areas (consistent with the objective of the Scholarship) where there is a political component to the proposed thesis.

**Value:** The Scholarship is an annual award equivalent in value to the Australian Postgraduate Award stipend (in the year of award) paid over the period of the Scholarship, which is two consecutive academic semesters of full-time study or pro rata over two years for approved part-time study. The Scholarship also includes up front payments of the student contribution amounts relevant to the Honours year of study.

**Eligibility:** Indigenous Australians of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and are accepted as such by the Indigenous Australian community in which they live or have lived are eligible to apply for the Scholarship. Applicants shall be Australian citizens who are currently enrolled or have been enrolled in a program (or combined program) of study leading to the award of a Degree of Bachelor with majors relevant to an Honours year in politics or political science or related subjects. The Honours year is to be undertaken at a recognised Australian university.

**Application for the Scholarship:** The completed application form and relevant documentation must be submitted to the Scholarship Administrator by 27 January 2012. Application will be made subject to confirmation that the candidate is to be admitted into the Honours program in 2012.

**Application for Admission to the Relevant University:** An applicant who is not currently a student of the University at which he or she wishes to undertake the Honours program must apply separately and concurrently for admission to that university. Acceptance into the Honours program at the relevant university is a prerequisite for confirmation of the award of the Scholarship.

**Selection Criteria:** The Selection Committee will take into account the previously attained academic achievements of the student, the suitability of the applicant for an Honours year of study as assessed by the referees, the relevance of the proposed Honours research project to the Scholarship objectives, the student's aspirations including expressed interest in service to the Indigenous community, and other criteria as included from time to time by the Selection Committee. The award of the Scholarship is conditional on the Scholar gaining entry into the Honours program in 2012.

**Other Scholarships or Awards:** The Scholar may hold concurrently with the Neville Bonner Memorial Scholarship any other scholarship or award but must give details about the nature and value of the other scholarship(s), either held or being applied for, in the Application Form and must seek specific permission from the Selection Committee for the concurrent holding of the scholarship or award.

**Enrolment:** The Scholar shall enrol in 2012 on a full-time basis (or part-time with permission from the Selection Committee) at an Australian university in the Honours year of a program of study leading to the award of a Degree of Bachelor with Honours in Political Science (or related subjects) as identified on the Application Form and as approved by the Selection Committee.

**Commencement:** Payment of the Scholarship stipend shall commence when the Scholar commences the Honours program in 2012. It is expected that, under normal circumstances, commencement shall be in the first semester of the academic year immediately following selection. Should the Scholar be granted permission from their university to commence the Honours program in the second semester of an academic year, permission must also be requested and given by the Selection Committee for the Scholarship to commence in the second semester.

**Deferment:** The Selection Committee may grant a deferment of the taking up of the Scholarship on receipt of a written request supported by the relevant academic authority, for a maximum of one academic year. If, during the year of deferment, studies in another course are undertaken, the Selection Committee shall determine whether the Scholarship shall be rescinded.

The Selection Committee may consider special cases for the granting of a deferment of a remaining portion of the Scholarship on receipt of a written request supported by the relevant academic authority, for a maximum of 12 months. Such cases may include personal or family illness requiring periods of leave that would prevent successful completion of the academic year.

**Publicity:** A condition of acceptance of the Scholarship is that the Scholar gives permission for relevant personal information to be released to the media and published on the ANU website. The Scholarship winner may also be interviewed by the media as part of the publicity for the Scholarship.

**Payment:** The Scholarship Administrator will pay the student contribution amounts relevant to the Honours year of study directly to the Scholar's university. The Scholar must send the invoices/statements to the Scholarship Administrator within at least two weeks of the payment due date.

The Scholarship amount (equivalent to the APA) will be apportioned as a fortnightly stipend during the Honours program and paid directly into the Scholar's bank account by the Australian National University.

**Monitoring:** The Scholar is required to provide the Scholarship Administrator with a statement of satisfactory progress from the relevant academic authority at the end of the first semester of the Honours year. For the purpose of this Scholarship, satisfactory progress is deemed to be an average grade of credit and no failures. At the end of the Honours year, the Scholar is to provide an official academic transcript to the Scholarship Administrator. In the case of a part-time student, statements on progress must be supplied at the end of each semester until results are available at the end of the Honours program.

**Withdrawal:** The Scholar must inform the Selection Committee in writing if he or she withdraws from the Honours course before completing the year.

**Termination:** The Scholarship may be terminated where the Scholar:

- (i) fails to enrol in the Honours program as approved by the Selection Committee;
- (ii) changes their enrolment status without prior written notification and approval from the Selection Committee;
- (iii) withdraws from the course before completing the Honours year; or
- (iv) has not, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, acting on the advice of the relevant academic authority, performed at a satisfactory academic level in the first semester of the Honours program.

**Repayment:** Should the Scholarship be terminated, the Selection Committee, acting on advice from the relevant academic authority, shall determine whether any part of the Scholarship monies shall be repaid.

**Non-Award:** The Scholarship will not be awarded in any year, if in the opinion of the Selection Committee there is no applicant who meets the eligibility or selection criteria as set out in the Application Form and above.

## Neville Bonner

A few special Australians have burrowed into our hearts over the course of the twentieth century. Foremost amongst them is Neville Bonner. Neville Bonner's life is a study not only of courage, conscience and compassion in the face of extraordinary adversity, but also of personal and national reconciliation.

Neville Bonner was born on a blanket under a palm tree on Ukerebagh Island, in the mouth of the Tweed River, south of the Queensland border. His mother, Julia Rebecca Bell, descendant of the Jagara tribe of the Brisbane River Queensland, married an Englishman Henry Bonner. Despite the marriage, Neville's certificate was marked 'illegitimate'.

As a boy Neville cut scrub and cleared land for little money. When finally found a place at South Lismore School, his mother made clothes for him from rags. But the parents of non-Indigenous children boycotted the school in protest of his aboriginality. He was moved, finally receiving six months schooling in a dairy.

Neville's grandparents, Ida and Roger Bell assumed responsibility for raising him and his brother after the death of their mother. In Queensland at the age of 14 he spent one year at Beaudesert State School in which time he was taught three grades, being able to read and write when he left.

"I owe a lot to my grandmother", Neville would say towards the end of his life. "She always said that courtesy and respect cost nothing but paid great dividends. And she told us that if you didn't have an academic education, but were able to speak well, it would get you through life." She died just before Neville finished school but left an indelible mark on the young boy. Neville "humped his swag" to join ring-barking and scrub-felling camps. Here and on the cattle stations he learned that aboriginal labourers were fed less than others. He tried unsuccessfully to enlist in 1940 but aboriginal men were at first rejected for war service on the basis of their "unsuitability for the European climate". By the time the policy had changed, Neville had sustained an injury to his wrist riding a buckjumper and was then rejected on medical grounds. He worked the cattle stations of Western Queensland, rising to head stockman at the Mt Emu Plains Station, where in 1943 he met his first wife, Mona whom he married at Palm Island where she had been born. The near death of their first son led them to leave the isolated stations and relocate to Palm Island. In doing so, Neville surrendered his own freedom in a sense. His life was now subject to a Superintendent, a concept to which he was unaccustomed.

It was during his 16 years on Palm Island that Neville's political and leadership skills emerged. He learnt bridge carpentry, formed health and recreation committees and rose to the position of Assistant Settlement Overseer responsible for a workforce of 250 men. Asked how he coped with moving to what was essentially a penal settlement, he replied "I was very rebellious, but I soon learned that you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar."

In 1960 the Bonner family returned to mainland Queensland, settling in the Ipswich area where Neville worked first on a dairy farm and later in a meatworks. It was here that he then joined the Coloured Welfare Council which merged with the ironically named, "One People of Australia League".

Over the next few years Neville's personal life changed. Some years after their separation, Mona died. Three years later in 1972, he married Heather, his honorary personal secretary, an event he would later describe as "one of the greatest blessings God has ever given me in bringing us together".

Having served three years as Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Suburbs Branch of the Liberal Party in Oxley and a year on the Party's executive, Neville Bonner made history in 1970. He became the first Indigenous Australian to contest a Senate election, albeit unsuccessfully as the seat was taken by Vince Gair. But then in 1971, when the late Dame Annabelle Rankin was appointed High Commissioner to New Zealand, Neville nominated for selection to fill the casual Senate vacancy. He became Senator Bonner.

He commenced his first speech at 8.26 pm on 8 September, 1971: "It is with very deep and mixed emotions that I participate in the debates of this parliament for the first time. I feel overawed by the obvious education of honourable Senators within this august chamber...but this does not mean that as a Senator from Queensland I am unable to cope. I have graduated through the university of hard knocks. My teacher was experience. However, I shall play the role which my State of Queensland, my race, my background, my political beliefs, my knowledge of men and circumstances dictate. This I shall do, through the grace of God, to the benefit of all Australians." His career discredited the early views of sceptics. He attacked State and federal governments over the management of Arukun-Mornington Island. He rebelled against government policy in relation to East Timor and again in relation to the 1977 Referendum. Neville was an advocate in the Liberal Party for Aboriginal land rights but also criticised some non-Indigenous people

for "encouraging" the impatience of young militant Aboriginals.

Whilst serving as a Senator he suffered the painful, but all too familiar indignation of being refused service in some Queensland hotels. But whether it were such incidents or losing the coveted winnable position on his party's ticket for the 1983 election, he was never consumed by bitterness. Instead, his was a life of grace, humility and gentility acknowledged in part by his appointment in 1979 as the Australian of the Year. Neville continued to serve in public life after leaving federal parliament. He was a member of the board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation for 8 years, was patron to a number of organisations including World Vision and the Ipswich Women's Shelter, and wrote a number of publications including "Black Power in Australia" and "Equal World - Equal Share". From 1992 to 1996 he was a member of the Griffith University Council and Chairman of the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee. In 1993, the University awarded Neville an honorary doctorate. Between 1990 and 1997 he was Senior Visitor for Queensland prisons and in 1997 was elected chairman of the Indigenous Advisory Council.

Asked by his biographer, Angela Burger in 1979 whether he was a "Senator for blacks or whites", he replied: "My responsibilities are first to God Almighty, secondly to my nation, thirdly to my State, and entwined through it all, my love for my race."

Asked in 1992 to nominate his greatest achievement while in Canberra, he said: "I think the fact that I was there. That an Aborigine was there. They talked about Aborigines rather than boongs and blacks. So, you know, there were a lot of things that made quite an impact and a difference in the attitudes and thinking of people."

In 1998, Neville contracted lung cancer which finally took its toll, depriving Australia of a much loved and well respected son.

In May 2000, a tribute dinner was held for Neville in Old Parliament House in Canberra. Many of his old friends and colleagues from all walks of life spoke of Neville's life and work. The Prime Minister, John Howard announced the establishment of a scholarship in his memory to assist Indigenous people studying in higher education who had a particular interest in politics.

As a people we are enriched for having had this man, his quiet humility, courage, conviction, conscience and compassion. In a century that produced so many Australians of great talent, Neville Bonner's legacy is to remind us that above other virtues stands the importance of character.