List of Indigenous Australian role models

1. Dr Kelvin Kong: Indigenous Surgeon specialising in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. Dr Kelvin Kong comes from the Worimi people of Port Stephens.

2. Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, Professor of Law at the ANU, Director of National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

3. Lowitja O'Donoghue: Australian of the Year, Founding Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission

4. Pat Dodson: Professor at the UNSW (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)


6. Tom Calma: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner

Indigenous in the media

Ernie Dingo is one of Australia’s most loved and celebrated actors and entertainers. He is also known for his prodigious work to promote Aboriginal health and social justice issues. Ernie was awarded an Order of Australia in 1990. In 1994 he was voted Aboriginal of the Year, and became a ‘National Living Treasure’ in 1997.


Cathy Freeman along with Lionel Rose the boxer, is one of Australia’s most famous Indigenous Sports personalities. Cathy was the first Aboriginal woman to win an Olympic gold in her sport of athletics, and was later awarded an Order of Australia, Australian of the Year, Olympic Order and Sportsman of the Year.

**Christine Anu** is a highly successful Australian pop singer. She has also appeared in film and on Broadway, later appearing on Channel 7’s ‘Popstars Live’ as a judge. On the show Christine comments “I chose to play a positive role model and want to encourage these young people in their endeavours, rather than criticise them”. Christine demonstrates her positive influence and attitude, and is a model for Indigenous to follow and succeed.  http://www.christineanu.com.au/

**Yothu Yindi** is an Aboriginal band formed in 1986. The band combines aspects of both musical cultures, their sound varies from traditional Aboriginal songs to modern pop and rock songs, where they blend the typical rock instruments with traditional Aboriginal instruments. By combining traditional dance with their music, they promote mutual understanding and respect among differing cultures.  http://www.yothuyindi.com/

**Patrick Johnson** is an Australian sprinter who has represented Australia in the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. He is one of the few non-West Africans to break the 10-second barrier for 100m sprint.  http://www.patrickjohnson.com.au/

**Albert Namatjira** is one of Australia’s greatest artists, possibly Australia’s best known Indigenous artist. His fame led to him and his wife being the first Indigenous Australians to be granted Australian citizenship. This citizenship enabled Albert and his wife being granted certain unprecedented rights as an Aboriginal person, which later resulted in the granting of similar rights to other Aboriginals by the Government.  http://www.abc.net.au/schoolstv/australians/namat.htm

**David Gulpilil** is an Indigenous Australian traditional dancer and actor. He was launched into fame after starring in Peter Weir’s film “Walkabout”. A portrait of Gulpilil by Craig Ruddy won the 2004 Archibald Prize, Australia's best known art prize.  http://www.gulpilil.com/
Indigenous Australians and Education:

As at July, 2009

1. Since 2004 there have been 60 Indigenous Law graduates from the UNSW.
2. There are only 120 Indigenous doctors in Australia although this number is rapidly growing. There are another 120 currently studying medicine.