

## Speaking notes for Academy RAP Launch – 'Reflections on the RAP Journey'

To start off being the International Year of Indigenous Languages and also, being International Day of the Worlds Indigenous Peoples

I wish to acknowledge this Ngunnawal Country in Kamilaroi language

<b>Kamilaroi</b>
Yaama ngin-daayuu
Brad Moggridge n-gaya
Kamilaroi mari n-gaya
Dhawun nhalay Ngunnawal n-gaya winangaylanha
Way yamaa wunan-gay ngiyani ganu
Gaba Nginda
<b>English</b>
Hello to you all
I am Brad Moggridge
I am a Kamilaroi man
I acknowledge this Ngunnawal Country
We will respect the elders, all of them
thank you

**Acknowledge the welcome Aunt Violet, dignitaries and President.**

**It all started with a Tweet!**

Here we are on the eve of **National Science Week**, I wish to go back a few years, I noticed the Academy's Twitter account and a tweet that spruiked that "**great minds gathered at the shine dome to talk about the future of science**". I retweeted and asked can Indigenous people be a part of that science future?

The **response was swift from the Comms team** and next I knew it I was meeting with Academy people (**Melanie, Isobel and Anna-Maria**) then attending *Science at the Shine Dome* and offered a spot by the chair David on the Academy's RAP committee with **Prof Jason Sharples** as external advisors.

**We had infiltrated the system (The Dome).**

**I wish to Acknowledge the RAP Committee current and past as well as the Executive/Council/Fellow Sponsors.** It has been great to watch a group of committed people and an organisation **grow, accept, question itself, develop and hopefully thrive** in a space outside of the normal Science box. **With RA's support this RAP is a perfect story to begin this change.**

**Why am I committed to science?**

Taking science as a career has been exciting, challenging and lonely at times that's for the last 20years and sometimes I have questioned why I do this, but I have **influenced policy and legislation**, I have **listened to some of the oldest water stories** on earth and some even culturally connected to my bloodline, I have also **travelled the world to tell my water science story**, I have had **input Indigenous Knowledge Curricular** and now I have **won a few awards** including the Academy's Travel Award and a ACT NAIDOC award.

**But**

I wish we had an **Indigenous Science Network** to gather and share and learn from each other, I wish we had a **set of Mentors both Cultural and Non-Indigenous** to call upon for advice. I wish we had a **national Indigenous science strategy** to guide and fund the answers to our questions, I wish I had **leadership in my career that stayed the course** and supported me on my pathway. Instead I paved my own pathway to impact and had to learn to lead. I wish I had **Indigenous parliamentarians looking for answers from Indigenous scientists.**

A challenge I have set myself is to influence so that **future Indigenous scientists (maybe even my kids) do not have to experience this**. I will always push for a better career options and support for Indigenous Scientists as **I focus on the "S" in STEM** so having Indigenous people start and finish science **is a challenge for all of us here**. I also hope for Indigenous knowledge to be celebrated and a normal part of future learning.

Graduate positions and cadetships are important but what happens after that? We must **remove cultural isolation, build organisational cultural competency, fund our research, leadership that owns its and provides career progression, these** are critical for Indigenous Scientists to excel? Plus, I don't care what gender, **we just need more starting and finishing Science degrees** and seeing a future for themselves making science their choice.

I see some initiatives growing in this space **Indigenous Girls STEM Academy**, but will we have a generation of Indigenous boys left behind (half the Gap) just as I could have been left behind?

The **Deadly Science** initiative, getting science books to disadvantaged kids, which is great for them to explore the world of science and create their own questions.

I also admire **Women in STEM** and **SAGE, the STEMWomen.org Database** and **Queers in Science** they are all going great guns, some of these initiatives are things I have dreamt of, I just don't **want Indigenous scientists to be left behind** our time is now, with the Academy's and Science and Technology Australia's help of course.

I see companies and institutions making commitments through RAP's. I see Acknowledgement and Welcomes becoming normal. For me I judge what happens after Acknowledgement or Welcome, if it's ticking the box, or just a soulless RAP (**which I call CRAPs**) then I walk away, I am here today as **I am sticking by the Academy** as I see a good story evolving and this story has only just begun. Let's hope this **catches on** to the other Learned Academy's do their RAP's

This cultural shift in Science is a good thing this relationship between Traditional Science (the oldest science on the planet) and western science can fix the problems in a modern world. Australia is an old dry continent and it needs the input of an old knowledge system that knows it, that sings and dances it. **Finding ways to make celebrating, incorporating and even validating Traditional Science so it becomes normal is good for the future of this country.**

Gaba Nginda (Thank You)