

Roberta Sykes Harvard Club of Australia Scholarship

The Roberta Sykes Scholarship Foundation and the Harvard Club of Australia are offering a scholarship to provide talented Indigenous Australians with the opportunity to undertake up to two years of postgraduate study at Harvard University.

The scholarships are directed at Indigenous Australians who have the potential to become leaders in their field of study and in their communities. The inaugural scholarship will be offered for study at Harvard commencing in September 2011. The value of the scholarship will be at least \$60,000 per annum to be paid over the course of the scholar's study. The scholarship covers tuition, travel costs and living expenses. Only one scholarship is available at any point in time.

The scholarship will only be awarded to candidates who have been accepted into a postgraduate degree program offered at Harvard University. In most circumstances, candidates will need to hold a First Class or upper Second Class Honours degree in order to be accepted.

Applicants are required to submit their Harvard application by the deadline required for the degree program they wish to pursue. **This can be as early as December 1, 2010.** Applications for the 2011 Roberta Sykes Harvard Club Scholarship will open on November 15, 2010 and will close on January 31, 2011.

About the Harvard Club of Australia Group

The Harvard Club of Australia Group is the organisation for Harvard alumni. Formed in 1961, the club's aim is to promote fellowship amongst alumni and to assist Australians wishing to study at Harvard. For more information on the club and its programs, please visit: www.harvardclub.org.au



About Roberta Sykes

Roberta Sykes was the founder of Black Women's Action in Education Foundation ("BWAEF"), which was formed in the early 1970s. BWAEF grew out of a need for an organisation whose primary focus was to support Australian Indigenous women scholars in educational pursuits. From the mid-1980s, BWAEF enabled a number of Indigenous women to undertake postgraduate studies at Harvard. Over time, the ambit of funding was expanded to include support for Australian Indigenous men attending Harvard, and then also for Indigenous postgraduates to attend other overseas universities.

Roberta was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal in 1994 for her tireless and valuable work in the arena of Indigenous affairs.

In 2009, the name of BWAEF was changed to the Roberta Sykes Indigenous Education Foundation and a new Board of Trustees was appointed to carry on Roberta's important work.

Roberta Sykes' first anthology of poetry, *Love Poems and Other Revolutionary Acts*, was published in 1979. Since then, she has published poetry, essays and articles, in addition to *Mum Shirl: An Autobiography* (ghost-written by Roberta) and *Snake Dreaming*. The first volume of *Snake Dreaming*, *Snake Cradle*, won the 1997 Age Book of the Year, the 1998 National Biography Award and the 1998 Nita B. Kibble Literary Award.



Widener Library, Harvard University

For further details on how to apply, please contact the Roberta Sykes Scholarship Foundation by email at: enquiries@robertasykesfoundation.com.au



The Roberta Sykes
Indigenous Education Foundation



HARVARD CLUB OF AUSTRALIA