

Associate Professor Kathleen Butler is the Head of the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle. Kath has experience in local, state, national and international Indigenous engagement contexts in community and education contexts. She has held Executive positions on her Local Aboriginal Land Council; Home and Community Care funded service; and Local and Regional Education Consultative Group and currently sits on the Board of the Barang Regional Alliance.

The longevity and growth of her commitment is demonstrated by her recognition in 1994 as the NSW NAIDOC Aboriginal Youth of the Year to the 2015 award as the inaugural Hunter Region Equity and Diversity Champion and 2022 Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning (Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education category).

As the Indigenous Cultural Competency Coordinator of the Indigenous Cultural Competency Model Project for Universities Australia, and as the Senior Officer at ACARA coordinating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures Cross-curriculum Priority for the first national K-10 curriculum, Kath has managed multiple teams collaborating nationally; negotiating with Area specialists; community stakeholder groups; seven state/territory education jurisdictions; while remaining consistent with federal education ministerial oversight. Kath was the first Australian, first woman, and first Aboriginal person to be awarded a Toihuawera Visiting International Fellowship at the University of Victoria, Wellington New Zealand.