

## **Curriculum Vitae: Bruce Frank Martin**

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### **Date of birth**

22 July, 1983

### **Education**

2007 – March 2010

- Undertaking a Bachelor of Arts degree, initially through the University of New South Wales, with majors in Anthropology & Sociology and Politics, as well as undertaking English and History. I have some 6 months full time equivalent study to complete my degree, which I am completing through the Open University.

1989 - 2001

- Completed primary education at a number of schools around Australia, finishing year 6 at Campbell Primary School, in Canberra.
- Years 7-11 at Canberra Grammar School.
- Completed year 12 at Lake Ginninderra College, Canberra.

### **Achievements**

- Canberra Grammar first five basketball, ACT swimming team, ACT representative basketball team, ACT under 16 waterpolo team, ACT Schoolboys waterpolo team, ACT under 20 waterpolo team, All Australia Junior waterpolo team.
- In July and August of 2000 I travelled to Yugoslavia, Hungary, Sicily and Italy as part of the Australian Junior waterpolo team, playing in various tournaments including the World Youth Cup.
- Awarded an Individual Athlete's Scholarship by the ACT Academy of Sport for 2001 and an Indigenous scholarship at the Australian Institute of Sport.
- ACT Indigenous sports-star of the year 2001.
- Appeared in Australian All Indigenous Athletes book, published in 2003.

### **Interests and activities**

- A main interest of mine is sport. I enjoy playing it rather than watching because it's sociable and keeps me fit. Other hobbies include reading, fishing, painting (indigenous art) and photography.

## Languages

- My first language is Wik Mungkan, the major Aboriginal language at Aurukun, a small indigenous community situated on the western side of Cape York. I speak and write English completely fluently. I have also studied two years of French and a year of German in High School.

## Work experience

I believe that in my work history, I demonstrate a particular and in some ways quite unique set of skills in a very complex cross-cultural environment. I am bilingual and bicultural, and I believe I demonstrate a high level of interpersonal and social skills, together with good written and oral communication skills.

- From July – December 2009 I worked for the Cape York Land Council on a number of projects, including the Wild Rivers legislation, and land tenure and management arrangements in Cape York. My role focused on community engagement around these issues for the western Cape York communities, including Mapoon, Napranum, Aurukun, Coen and Pomppuraaw. I gained considerable experience in negotiating skills and in dealing with the media during this work, as well as high level consultation and information dissemination skills and experience, most particularly in Aurukun.
- From 2007 to June 2009, I was studying at the University of New South Wales, as I outline below.
- In 2005 and 2006, I worked with the Wuchopperen Aboriginal Medical Service in Cairns. My roles included working with Indigenous people in Cairns as a youth and family counsellor around substance misuse and men's health issues. I gained considerable experience and I believe a high level of skills in dealing with people under stress, developing a rapport with them, and working with them to address their particular issues.
- In 2004 and 2005, I worked for the Department of Families (now the Dept. of Community Services) in Cairns, as a youth worker and support officer for young people that were in the care of the Department. The work required a high level of skill in dealing with Indigenous families and individuals under considerable stress. I worked primarily with recidivist offenders who had been brought down to Cairns from Cape York while they were awaiting sentencing. This included supervision of young people, as well as providing transport to and from their programs. Each case presented different issues; sometimes I would provide support in a classroom environment, whether it be a school or at TAFE. Other times I would provide emotional support on camps or in programs, but mainly acted as a mentor to these young people. I also worked with young children who were in State care because their families could not provide sufficient care for them at that time. During this period I worked with young indigenous

people only, from Cooktown all the way up to Bamaga.

- From July 2003, through to February 2004 I worked in the community of Aurukun as a Youth worker. I was employed by the Aurukun Shire Council to work with young offenders, organising programs so that they were able to undertake their conditional bail requirements within the community rather than having to stay in Cairns to complete them. While I was in Aurukun I feel a learnt some important skills in not only dealing with young offenders, but just as importantly working with their families, as well as all those involved in court proceedings. I also developed report-writing skills, for example in preparing reports on offenders' backgrounds for the court.
- I have also held a number of jobs in the hospitality industry, more recently to provide additional income while studying in Sydney. These ranged from being a waiter to managing the bars at a hotel in Surrey Hills, Sydney and a restaurant in Canberra. I have also had experience as a labourer in Sydney, undertaking work for the Sutherland Shire in Cronulla to support myself in waterpolo training.
- I have done volunteer work at the Canberra Show, and also for the Red Cross and Community Aid Abroad.
- In September of 1998 I was one of a small number of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous young Australians who participated in an international peace and reconciliation conference in England, funded by the Edmund Rice Foundation in Sydney. As well as speaking at the conference, I also travelled around Ireland. I spoke at a number of schools and community groups about Australia, in particular aspects of my life and my Aboriginality.
- In September of 2003 I addressed the Prime Minister John Howard on behalf of the Wik people, at the Cape York Land Summit.

#### **Volunteer and community activities**

#### **Referees**

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