

# ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

## [Macquarie University]

### 1. Equity outcomes and strategies: for improving outcomes for people from a low SES background.

#### a) Equity outcomes:

- Participation rate of students from low socio economic background increases at or above the sector rate.
- Retention and success rate of students from low socio economic background increases at or above the sector rate.

#### b) Strategies for achieving the outcomes:

- LEAP UP: Strengthen the capacity of students from low socio economic backgrounds to participate in higher education
- LEAP IN: Increase opportunities for students from students from low socio economic backgrounds to study at Macquarie University
- LEAP THROUGH: Enhance support to students from students from low socio economic backgrounds, from enrolment through to graduation
- LEAP ON: Improve graduate outcomes, employment and professional opportunities for students from students from low socio economic backgrounds

| <b>Pillar 1<br/>Outreach</b>   | <b>Pillar 2<br/>Pathways</b>   | <b>Pillar 3<br/>Participation</b>  | <b>Pillar 4<br/>Impact</b>  |
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| <i>LEAP UP</i>   | <i>LEAP IN</i>   | <i>LEAP THROUGH</i>  | <i>LEAP ON</i>  |
| <b>Objective:</b><br><br>Strengthen the capacity of students from students from low socio economic backgrounds to participate in higher education          | <b>Objective:</b><br><br>Increase opportunities for students from students from low socio economic backgrounds to study at Macquarie University                              | <b>Objective:</b><br><br>Enhance support to students from students from low socio economic backgrounds, from enrolment through to graduation | <b>Objective:</b><br><br>Improve graduate outcomes, employment and professional opportunities for students from students from low socio economic backgrounds                                  |
| <b>Goal A</b><br><br>Build awareness of and broaden aspirations around higher education study for students from low socio economic backgrounds of students | <b>Goal A</b><br><br>Provide opportunities for students from low socio economic backgrounds of students to access university through our diverse range of admission pathways | <b>Goal A</b><br><br>Provide targeted and appropriate transition support to university life for our equity group of students                 | <b>Goal A</b><br><br>Enhance employability opportunities for our students from students from low socio economic backgrounds by providing mentoring and professional development opportunities |

| <b>Goal B</b>  | <b>Goal B</b>  | <b>Goal B</b>   | <b>Goal B</b>  |
|--|--|---|--|
| Establish Macquarie University as a study destination of choice among prospective equity group students, their families/carers, teachers and communities | Provide a range of support services (including scholarships and financial support) to equity group high school students, their families / carers, teachers and communities | Synchronise the effective delivery of a range of university support services available to our equity group students to foster their sense of belonging and maximise their potential for success | Encourage student life-long learning and continuous engagement with MQ |

**2. Key activities: to effect an increase in the access, participation and success of people from a low SES background.**

- Work in collaboration with partner schools, partner community organisations, VET providers and partner universities to deliver LEAP programs.
- Build interest and capability among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to access and succeed in higher education through the detailed approach outlined in the Macquarie University Indigenous Strategy, 2016 – 2025.
- Develop appropriate entry pathways, including new enabling and foundation programs.
- Create a safe environment and sense of community, and through targeted support programs and individual case management, among students from low-SES backgrounds.
- Build workplace readiness among target students from low socio economic backgrounds through partnerships with business and industry.

**3. Evaluation: how the University plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the equity strategies.**

- Mixed method approach based on the evaluation framework developed with KPMG and Bridges to Higher Education, together with the national framework being developed by NCSEHE
- Ongoing evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative data collected through participant observation, focus groups, interviews, case studies, surveys and the collection of statistical data related to the enrolment, retention and success of participants in programs.

**4. Partnerships and collaboration: who the university will partner and collaborate with, and how this will improve equity performance.**

- Continued partnerships with: the NSW Department of Education (DEC), in particular the Multicultural Programs Unit, the DEC Director Secondary Education, and the Aurora Virtual Secondary School DEC, Independent and Catholic schools community agencies and non-for-profit organisations, including The Country Education Foundation of Australia, The Smith Family, Centrelink, local Councils .
- Development of new partnerships with schools, not for profit organisations, local employers and industry representatives.