ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

RMIT University

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

<u>RMIT's Action Plan for Low Socio Economic Students is available on RMIT's website.</u> <u>Also see context statement and associated plans supporting Diversity and Inclusion.</u>

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

PRE-ACCESS

Raise aspiration and engagement with tertiary education opportunities

- I Belong (at Uni) program for students from the Schools in the Network Access
 Program/SNAP scheme. I Belong is a deep immersive on-campus engagement which showcases career and learning opportunities in various occupations and industries
- SNAP Champions (SNAP Peer mentors)
- Parent information for SNAP students

ACCESS

Ensure admissions are inclusive of Low SES prospective students

- SNAP bonus points to re-rank
- VTAC Special Entry Admission Scheme (SEAS)
- Direct Admissions Low SES consideration

PARTICIPATION

Activities include:

- Special orientation programs, welcome and onboarding contacts and events (SNAP students, other low SES students and Indigenous students)
- Scholarships financial support including for student accommodation
- Equitable Learning support for LSES first year and continuing students
- Mental health, wellbeing and resilience building for LSES first year and continuing students
- Inclusive teaching and assessment capacity building
- Targeted employment support from year 1
- Indigenous student support

ATTAINMENT

- Targeted careers and employment support in final year and post completion

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

University KPI: 14.5 % of commencing domestic students higher education are from low SES backgrounds

Diversity and Inclusion Framework Indicators¹: target is alignment with 'all student' indicators of performance.

- Student progress rate
- Good teaching score
- Overall satisfaction

National Equity Performance Data²

- Access
- Participation
- Retention
- Success
- Attainment
- 4 **Partnerships and collaboration**: who the university will partner and collaborate with and how this will improve equity performance.

Partners include:

<u>SNAP secondary schools</u> - these number 228 secondary schools in Victoria (as at February 2018).

Improves equity performance by:

- supporting targeting of aspiration raising I Belong program
- SNAP inclusive admissions scheme

Victorian Department of Education and Training

Improves equity performance by:

- Facilitating the participation of low SES and Indigenous secondary school students in RMIT's I Belong aspiration-raising on-campus program

Smith Family

Improves equity performance by:

- linking Learning for Life supported students with RMIT's I Belong aspiration raising program
- linking HEPPP funded scholarships with students supported through the Smith Family Learning for Life initiative

Western Chances

Improves equity performance by:

- linking students supported through Western Chances with HEPPP funded scholarships

<u>Australian Centre for the Moving Image</u>, <u>National Gallery of Victoria</u>, <u>Melbourne Museum</u>, National Trust (Old Melbourne Gaol), <u>SYN Media</u>, <u>Engineers Without Borders</u>

¹ lagged indicators

² lagged indicators

Improves equity performance by:

- proving SNAP students with real world organisations and discipline-based experiences and insights.