

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2018

Victoria University

- 1 **Equity outcomes and strategies:** for improving outcomes for people from a low SES background.
 - Increased participation and success for Low SES students through focusing on aspiration raising and transition programs with catchment schools with high numbers of Low SES students
 - Identify, track and monitor the performance of Low SES students at the university in order to intervene with appropriate support mechanisms at the appropriate time.
 - Build student lifecycle initiatives to support Low SES students from initial aspiration building and community connections, career development and employability programs, academic, welfare and financial support to reduce the barriers to successful course completions and successful future lives and careers.

- 2 **Key activities:** which will deliver an increase in the access, participation and success of people from a low SES background.
 - Aspiration building initiatives in high low SES schools – activities including:
 - Information sessions for parents, staff and students
 - University welcome sessions including tours of campus with introduction to the services and resources available
 - ‘Early Uni Pathways’ transition sessions for Year 11 students from low SES schools, in conjunction with school principals and careers practitioners.
 - Introduction to particular professions – eg the Law through a series of workshops, sessions and workplace experiences for low SES students
 - Implementation of the First Year Model which focuses on attracting and retaining non traditional and low SES students.
 - The First Year Model includes smaller classes with dedicated teachers teaching in 4 week blocks, clear identification of students at risk through learning analytics and followed up through retention strategy interventions.
 - Complementary activities which are embedded into the curriculum providing extension in writing, maths and career learning through interesting and engaging enhancements to regular learning and teaching.
 - Employment of students in the peer mentoring and student transition mentoring roles within the Learning Hubs, supporting the delivery of complementary support and enhancement activities.
 - Provision of an after hours online tutoring service with the capability to provide usage data by low SES students
 - Provision of pathways and transition programs for students entering the university into second year via a TAFE course
 - For those students progressing directly into second year and missing the first year model, this initiative focuses on familiarising students from low SES backgrounds with expectations of university study following their TAFE course.

- Careers advising throughout the student lifecycle – prior to, during and on exiting to work or further study
 - Programs in conjunction with Alumni Services where VU alumni are partnered with graduating students to build networks and open up career opportunities.
- 3 **Evaluation:** how the university plans to evaluate the effectiveness of the equity strategies.
- Collection and analysis of Low SES participation in programs and their successful outcomes throughout their studies, and in particular following their engagement with our equity strategies.
 - Evaluation of the success of the First Year Model in terms of Low SES student success
 - Evaluation of the staff and teacher engagement with Low SES students across the student lifecycle
 - Reporting against the university Student Retention Strategy measures for improving retention of Low SES students
 - Reporting against the university Student Employability Strategy measure for improving graduate outcomes for Low SES Students
- 4 **Partnerships and collaboration:** who the university will partner and collaborate with and how this will improve equity performance.
- Local schools with high Low SES student cohorts will facilitate the focus at university on the needs of low SES students and make the transition as smooth as possible
 - Footscray University Town connections with Low SES community members will enable us to focus on low SES cohorts who are not currently in employment or study and raise study aspirations within this group
 - VU Alumni providing mentoring and employability initiatives for Low SES students and graduates connects graduating students with the outside world of work and assist in building important network support outside the university.