

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

Charles Darwin University

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

- An increase in the number of Indigenous students commencing HE programs to 15% of CDU students by 2025.
- A first-year Indigenous student retention rate (post census) of 60% by 2025 with the long term aim to achieve parity.
- A rise in the HE Indigenous student retention rate to 60% by 2025, with a long-term aspiration to reach parity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous student retention.
- A first-year all-undergraduate student retention rate (post census) of 75% by 2025.

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

Pre-access (outreach to schools and communities)

ASPIRE

ASPIRE is CDU's flagship equity scholarships and low SES pathway programme. It selects eligible students in Year 9 and supports them financially and through tailored engagement activities in Years 10-12 and, should they progress to CDU in their first year of HE study.

Children's University

This program coordinates and promotes a range of extra-curricular learning activities for school children, thereby enhancing their overall learning and also encouraging the idea of University as a normal possibility.

Access (pre-entry and admissions)

Enabling Programmes

CDU delivers a range of enabling and preparatory courses, designed for improving rates of completion and progression to HE.

Indigenous Pre-Law Program

This project provides dedicated staff resources to develop a range of supported HE entry pathways for Indigenous students and those from remote regions. The indigenous pre-law program is a collaboration between the University and the Bilata Legal Pathways Program.

National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program

The National Disability Coordination Officer Program in the Northern Territory is hosted by CDU (Casuarina and Alice Springs Campuses). The NDCO Program works strategically to inspire people with disability to participate in tertiary education and aims to ensure that people with disability can successfully participate in tertiary education and subsequent employment.

Participation (transition and progression during studies)

Equity Scholarships

Equity scholarships as financial support to students who face challenges completing their studies, practical placement scholarships for students experiencing financial disadvantage and required to undertake an unpaid practical or work placement as part of their degree, and completion scholarships for students experiencing financial disadvantage and require financial assistance to complete their course.

HE Student Learning Support

Given the diversity of CDU's student cohort, the university uses a range of methods for supporting student learning beyond the formal course engagement. A dedicated Academic Learning & Literacy group delivers support to students and CDU delivers Peer Assisted Study Scheme (PASS) in person and online. CDU has extended online, one to one tutoring to all students and on a 24/7 basis.

Delivering Success Research Project

This longitudinal research project monitors the impact of changes to learner engagement strategies, particularly in first year units with traditionally high attrition, and makes consequential recommendations for good practice.

Office of Indigenous Student Services

CDU's Office of Indigenous Student Services (OISS) provides a wide range of supplementary programs and services targeted at Indigenous VET and HE students including:

- Dedicated Indigenous Academic Support staff, facilities and infrastructure across three Campuses (i.e. Casuarina Campus 'Gurinbey Centre'; Katherine Rural Campus 'Yangan-garr Centre'; and Alice Springs 'Akaltje Centre');
- Tutorial Support to eligible VET and HE students requiring content specific advice and support to ensure success;
- Away From Base services and support for all meals, travel and accommodation to ABSTUDY approved VET/HE mixed-mode/external Indigenous students; and ongoing rural, regional, remote and very remote Indigenous Academic Support outreach and engagement with new, continuing and prospective students.

Student Support Services

CDU will continue to provide specialist support for students with disabilities through the Access & Inclusion services. Additionally, students from various equity groups are able to access support services and programs in the areas of: Careers & Employment, Counselling and Off-campus Accommodation.

Progress and attainment (successful completion and preparation for graduate employment).

Development of an online tool which to provide a suite of meaningful, contemporary career development learning resources including career assessments, aptitude tests, interactive career tools such as a resume builder and interview simulator, hiring manager advisory and career coaching resources.