

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

Charles Sturt University

1 Equity outcomes and strategies:

CSU will use HEPPP funds – in conjunction with its other programs – to continue growing the proportion and number of students from low SES backgrounds and students with a disability in 2019. We will also aim to continue growing the proportion and number of Indigenous students, and those from regional/remote areas among the student population, as these are crucial in growing overall low SES background student numbers.

2 Key activities:

Pre access: This centres on the successful *Future Moves* widening participation program, working with schools students from low SES backgrounds, incorporating *Danygamalanha* and *Strong Moves* to focus on building Indigenous participation in higher education. The program includes learning on campus, school outreach, residential programs and community events to raise aspiration for university and support students to consider it a realistic option for their future.

This involves:

- Strategic partnerships with 86 schools to deliver in-school workshops for students K-12
- Delivery of on campus workshops and events (Years 5-12)
- Indigenous specific 'Strong Moves' in-school workshops and on campus events
- On campus 'Strong Moves' residential camp
- STEM specific activities for students in years 8-12, including SOLVE maths workshop and NISEP science workshop (in collaboration with Macquarie University))
- Community events for students and their parents/carers

Access:

Pre-entry and Admissions

- Indigenous Access Programs
- CSU Pathway Programs
 - Diploma of General Studies

Scholarships

- The scholarships and grant program is designed to support students from commencement to completion. Our program has a strong focus on supporting low socio-economic students and providing funding for opportunities or university commitments they may not be able to otherwise afford.

Our program provides support with the cost of:

Relocation

- Accommodation
- Technology
- Textbooks
- Work placements
- Residential school attendance
- Conference attendance and professional membership costs
- Emergency grants
- Graduation

CSU will provide opportunities for scholarships and grants specifically targeted at a range of students in equity groups. It will also continue its successful *Diploma of General Studies* and *Indigenous Access Programs*, offering alternative pathways into university for students in these and other groups.

Participation:

Participation, Progress and Attainment

- Academic Learning Literacy and Numeracy (ALLaN) services
 - Resources, workshops, embedded support in curriculum and individual assistance for students and academic staff.
- Indigenous Access Success Program (IASP)
- Careers Development

CSU believes that it is important to build success and retention among equity groups through developing and implementing best practice in learning and teaching, and targeted student support. It will achieve this through meaningful innovation and development in online learning, professional development for sessional staff, 24/7 access to learning support services and outreach programs delivered to online students across Australia through the *Academic Literacy, Learning and Numeracy (ALLaN)* program.

Attainment: CSU's *Careers Service* will continue to support students' career goals through targeted professional development and support.

All aspects of these activities are supported by equity-focused leadership and central evaluative practice.

3 Evaluation:

CSU has established an evaluation framework as a basis for constructing evaluation linked to program outcomes. The evaluation framework is mapped to the Higher Education Standards Framework (HESF) and is based on a cascading program logic methodology. Short, medium and long-term outcomes are defined, and evaluated through the use of qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods include the use of focus groups, interviews and open response survey questions, and quantitative methods include the use of a student survey, with validated questions mapped to the evaluation framework. The student survey is sent multiple times during each calendar year and adopts a sample approach, with low SES undergraduate students included as part of the sample. The survey is modular, with a set of static questions that evaluate all students' overall experiences at university throughout the year, and a set of modular questions related to specific programs, that are included once during each year. Survey responses are analysed based on student attributes, and allow the experiences of low SES undergraduate students to be reported on and compared with the experiences of all students.

Evaluation findings and advice are provided to program managers to ensure they are able to enact continuous quality improvement based on the best quality evidence.

4. Partnerships and collaboration:

CSU will build on existing partnerships with Schools, key government departments (local, state and Commonwealth), communities, the VET sector, industry and the professions.