

# ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2019

## Flinders University

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

Flinders University's mission of *Making a Difference: Changing lives and changing the world* reflects its commitment to equity and diversity and its long history of supporting and engaging with disadvantaged education communities across Australia with a focus on South Australia, Northern Territory and regional Victoria and NSW.

Flinders University plans to realise the following outcomes for students from equity groups:

- Increase access to and participation in higher education for students from low SES backgrounds by building aspiration, providing seamless pathways along the AQF and, providing entry into enabling and alternative entry into undergraduate degree programs
- Engage with schools, non-school and VET education providers, adult learners and communities throughout metropolitan, regional and remote areas of South Australia, Northern Territory and regional Victoria and NSW
- Focus on student success by increasing retention and completion rates at university by providing student centred and tailored approaches to support and pastoral care
- Improve employment outcomes for graduating students.

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

- Inclusive outreach to school students and adult learners from educationally disadvantaged communities. VET/TAFE SA partnerships – guaranteed entry, joint qualifications and pathways. Academic extension for gifted regional, rural and low SES students. Enrichment activities providing a taste of university life. Mentoring. Career Development activities. Regional focus: Enrichment Roadshows. Online Mentoring. School visits. STEM focus: STEM expos, busking, and career events. Indigenous focus: Deadly Start to High School. Life in the Uni lane. Aboriginal Student Leadership Camp. Aboriginal Student STEM Congress (Pre Access).
- Targeted approaches to regional and remote students, Aboriginal students, students from low SES backgrounds. Facilitated pathways for disengaged adult learners, projects with Flexible Learning Options (FLO) students. Alternative entry - Assessment Centre. UniTest. Enabling – Flinders Foundation Studies Program, UNiLeap. Indigenous Admission Scheme. Access Scholarships for commencing students, streamlined enrolment processes and support for Indigenous Entry Scheme. (Access)
- Welcome activities (Pre – orientation - Transition Experience, Indigenous events at Yunggoorendi). Flinders Student Success activities based on student voice surveys and suggestions. Learning Commons with academic and career support. Yunggoorendi Student Hub. Health Counselling and Disability Services. Scholarships for continuing students. Ping! – Weekly student e-newsletter. (Participation)
- Professional development for academic staff engaged in teaching students from equity groups. Flinders Support Network (FSN) – supporting student retention, the FSN uses learning and engagement analytics with commencing students across four categories of 'at risk' of disengaging from learning. Students are contacted through a range of appropriate communication channels and provided with assistance and support. Aboriginal Student Engagement and Training Initiative. Flinders Employability and Career Hub - newly developed interactive module for access groups. Enhanced PD for all equity groups. Improved Work Integrated Learning processes and opportunities. (Progress and attainment)

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

Institutional enrolment and planning data will be used to measure progress against targets and to aid in the development of widening participation initiatives.

The University program evaluation includes:

- individual post program activity evaluation
- annual internal reviews of all programs contained in the plan to improve processes and outcomes for students participating in the initiatives
- annual review of HEPPP plan against targets

Flinders University will use a variety of evaluation data for continuous program improvement including: Qualitative data; Quantitative Data; and, Focus groups and survey feedback.

Student success measures are part of the key accountabilities for the University Executive, Colleges and teaching programs and are reported to Academic Senate.

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

- South Australian Department for Education – Engagement with schools.
- Projects with at risk school students through Flexible Learning Options (FLO).
- TAFE SA – VET pathways, inclusive entry practices, articulation agreements. Dual offers and Dual awards – integrating VET and HE qualifications
- The Smith Family – Building aspiration with Scholarship families
- Indigenous pathways and connections
- Regional engagement with study hubs in Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Nuriootpa, and Port Augusta
- STEM outreach
- Zahra Foundation
- Anglicare
- AFL Sports Ready – Pathways into higher education
- Catholic Education South Australia – Outreach and engagement with schools
- Southern Adelaide & Fleurieu Secondary Schools Alliance (SAFSA) and the Community Education Partnership – Building relationships, pathways and increasing participation for students from low SES backgrounds
- Northern Adelaide State Secondary School Alliance – Building relationships, pathways and increasing participation for students from low SES backgrounds
- Western Adelaide Secondary School Network – Building relationships, pathways and increasing participation for students from low SES backgrounds.