

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

Charles Sturt University

1 Equity outcomes and strategies

Charles Sturt University supports the aspiration, retention and success of students from low SES backgrounds through a number of programs, projects and initiatives. Charles Sturt's 2020 equity strategies embed demonstrably effective and evidence-based actions which maximise opportunities for low SES students to progress beyond their first year to achieve success.

In alignment with Charles Sturt University's Strategic Plan, Charles Sturt's 2020 Access and Participation Plan encompasses four key goals which support the stages in the student lifecycle:

- Goal 1** Increase aspiration for tertiary education in low SES cohorts across the Charles Sturt University regional footprint.
- Goal 2** Increase domestic undergraduate enrolments of students from low SES backgrounds.
- Goal 3** Strengthen first year and continuing student experiences, with demonstrable impact on the retention of students from low SES backgrounds.
- Goal 4** Ensure retention beyond first year for students from low SES backgrounds and support students through their undergraduate studies into postgraduate studies or employment, post completion.

2 Key activities

The table below outlines 2020 programs and activities targeting low SES students which are mapped to the relevant goal as per the above. These programs and activities are funded through the University's HEPPP funding allocation as well as from the University's general operating funds.

Goal	Activity <i>*Indicates where bushfire support is included in the activity either as financial support or where the student's participation and progress has been impacted and support referral is provided.</i>	Pre-Access	Access	Participation	Attainment	Funding
1	Future Moves & Strong Moves – Charles Sturt's successful <i>Future Moves</i> and <i>Strong Moves</i> (Indigenous specific) outreach programs engage with students from low SES backgrounds from 86 partner schools in Charles Sturt's footprint to raise aspiration for university and support students to consider tertiary education a realistic option for their future. Activities include on campus activities, school outreach, residential programs and community events.	√	√			HEPPP
2	HSC Revision Sessions – The <i>HSC Revision Sessions</i> provide HSC subject support to Year 11 and 12 students from low SES backgrounds to support their successful completion of the HSC and encourage enrolment in tertiary education.	√	√			HEPPP
2	Enabling pathway programs* – Charles Sturt's Diploma in General Studies and Charles Sturt University Pathway courses provide guaranteed entry into a number of Charles Sturt undergraduate degrees for students who may not have otherwise met the entry prerequisites to university. These programs are in addition to Charles Sturt's other Admissions Pathways that are available to students from low SES backgrounds, including: the Indigenous Access Program, Charles Sturt Advantage early entry program, Regional Location Adjustment and the Experience Matters entry		√			Charles Sturt general operating funds

	program. Students who have experienced adversity while completing school are also able to apply for Charles Sturt's Access Schemes.					
2	Scholarships & Grants Program* – Access to university for students from low SES backgrounds is also supported through Charles Sturt's Scholarships and Grant Program. The program is designed to support students from commencement to completion and has a strong focus on supporting low SES students and providing funding for opportunities or university commitments students may not be able to otherwise afford.		√	√		HEPPP Charles Sturt general operating funds
3	Academic Skills/Online Study Advisors/Mentoring – Direct early intervention academic skills and mentoring support, provided at entry and through to completion to enhance academic success.			√	√	HEPPP Charles Sturt general operating funds
3	Online Engagement – Always On* – The <i>Always On Retention Campaign</i> is a series of scaled, communication interventions delivered at regular intervals aimed at students disengaging from their studies and is delivered in collaboration between academic and student support teams.			√	√	HEPPP
3	Study Link – Short online subjects to support students across a range of generic and subject specific academic skills.	√	√	√		Charles Sturt general operating funds
3	University Retention Plan* focused on improving retention and success of low SES students. The Plan includes activities which support students to transition to study and facilitates engagement with their subjects through pre-census assessment design and integrated student support.			√	√	HEPPP
3	Inherent requirements for Health Courses – this pilot project focuses on Charles Sturt's largest online health courses with high proportions of low SES students. The project will ensure students are well informed about the inherent requirements of study on enrolment to better support the initial and ongoing student experience and ultimately support student retention and success.			√	√	HEPPP
3	Disability support – In addition to its core disability support activities, Charles Sturt provides on campus and online support for students with a disability to strengthen first year experience, influence retention (including beyond first year) and reduce the impact of a disability or condition on their studies.			√	√	HEPPP Charles Sturt general operating funds
4	Career Development – Charles Sturt's <i>Careers Service</i> supports students' career goals through targeted professional development and support. The <i>Earn as You Learn</i> program builds student confidence and skills in gaining employment during and post study.			√	√	Charles Sturt general operating funds

3 Evaluation

Programs and activities are supported by a Program Evaluation and Reporting team who assist project team members in ensuring appropriate data is collected and analysed to measure the project's potential impact on student outcomes. Each project is required to prepare an annual plan outlining agreed impact and outcomes measures that are reported on a quarterly basis to the HEPPP Steering Committee.

4 Partnerships and collaboration

Charles Sturt University will continue to build on its extensive existing partnerships with community organisations, industry and the professions to deliver support services including but not limited to: regional partner schools, the VET sector, Three Rivers University Department of Rural Health, National Indigenous Science Experience Program partnership with Macquarie University, Studiosity, Country Education Foundation and our Indigenous Communities.