

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

Flinders University

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

Flinders University maintains its strong commitment to attracting and serving a diverse student body and improving access and equity outcomes for students from low SES backgrounds and regional, rural and remote communities across Australia with a focus on South Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria and New South Wales.

Flinders University will achieve the following outcomes for students from equity groups:

- Build aspiration and confidence to succeed in higher education, develop connected pathways along the Australian Qualifications Framework, provide entry into enabling programs and alternative entry into undergraduate degree programs
- Engage positively with all education sectors including schools, alternative education providers and VET providers, adult learners and communities throughout metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas
- Focus on student experience and success by increasing retention and completion rates at university through student centred approaches and strategies
- Improve access to employment for graduating students.

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

Pre Access

Deliver a range of pre-access activities aimed at building confidence and aspiration to enter a higher education pathway, including:

- Outreach to schools and communities including the River Journey Program, campus visits, Indigenous River Journey, school presentations, the Inspire Mentor program, STEM presentations
- Learning to Lead – leadership and career aspiration building.

Access

Ensure that admission to university is accessible, fair and equitable and that it removes barriers for students from low SES backgrounds by:

- Developing alternative pathways through non ATAR based, VET and other approaches through bridging programs and specialist entry schemes such as the Assessment Centre, uniTest, Portfolio Entry and the Schools Recommendation program
- Partnering with Regional Study Hubs to provide in region access to higher education for regional, rural and remote students.

Participation

Ensure a successful, supported and positive student experience that builds knowledge and a sense of belonging. Activities include:

- Transition Experience for parents and commencing students, Retention and Success Strategy, Access Scholarships, Health Counselling and Disability support, learning support, access to online support through Studiosity, community of practice for academic coordinators of first year topics
- Enhanced Orientation over five weeks – O Week, Connect Week, Skills Week, Cultural Week, Wellbeing Week. Welcome Hub available throughout semester one.
- Flinders Support Network - personalised support
- Bushfire Relief Grants for low SES students impacted by bushfires
- COVID-19 response – activities and services are being refocussed to ensure that additional support can be provided for low SES students

Progress and attainment

Ensure successful completion and preparation for graduate employment through the following:

- Careers Hub, Horizon Awards, Student Learning Support Systems, Alumni.

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.

- Australian Government
- South Australian Government
- Local Government- including City of Onkaparinga, City of Playford, City of Marion
- Regional, Rural and Remote communities through the RDAs, Regional Study Hubs and Rural Health Centres
- 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 partners - The Workabout Centre (Aboriginal Education Directorate with the Dept for Education)
- Regional engagement with study hubs in Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Nuriootpa, and Port Augusta
- 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.