

ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN 2020

University of South Australia (UniSA)

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

UniSA's 2020 Access and Participation plan reflects the University's commitment to equity and diversity, which is a core part of the University's culture and is enshrined in its Act of establishment. UniSA strives to build awareness of higher education in the community, foster pathways to higher education for students from diverse backgrounds and support all students to succeed at university.

UniSA aims to achieve the following outcomes for people from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds:

- Foster a collaborative approach to community partnerships and deliver capacity building initiatives to increase awareness of higher education
- Improve access to higher education and enhance learning experiences by providing supported pathways and alternative entry options into enabling and degree programs
- Reduce barriers by offering appropriate study support, pastoral care and scholarships to students
- Provide a supportive and nurturing environment to improve participation and success at UniSA.

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

As part of the implemented COVID-19 control measures in our community, the University has suspended face-to-face teaching delivery on all campuses, until further notice. However, the University remains committed to delivering key activities to support people from a low SES background, including:

- Providing a suite of enabling programs through UniSA College, including Foundation Studies, the Aboriginal Pathways Program and Diplomas.
- Delivering outreach programs to secondary school students in low SES areas (including regional areas) through [UniSA Connect](#), with a focus on career awareness programs and STEM initiatives. UniSA Connect will also continue to provide professional learning and curriculum development opportunities to teachers at schools in low SES areas.
Enhancing student learning experiences by providing an enhanced online learning platform.
- Facilitating a flexible and inclusive learning environment which provides students with increased access to new technologies to support their learning experiences.
- Providing appropriate study support to students through a variety of means including online resources, peer-to-peer support, workshops, and one-on-one sessions.
- Ensuring pastoral care is provided to students through Counselling support, Access and Inclusion initiatives, mentoring, and upskilling of staff.
- Preparing students for their future careers by providing career advice, online resources and workshops, and working to embed employability concepts into the curriculum.

- Fostering collaborative, lasting and mutually beneficial partnerships in both metropolitan and regional areas to positively contribute to the life of the communities and build community members' capacity to access higher education.
- Actively promote the range of equity scholarships available to support students.
- Continued partnership with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), providing Aboriginal high school students with the support to succeed at high school and offering UniSA students the opportunity to be mentors.
- A range of programs and activities delivered through the APY Lands Project, including language and culture programs, professional development workshops, production of first language texts and development of bilingual education.
- Increase participation, retention and completion rates of Aboriginal students through specific actions outlined in the University's Reconciliation Action Plan.

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

Internal business intelligence data on overall enrolments, commencing enrolments, success rates, retention rates and completions will be used to evaluate the strategies and activities. In addition, individual programs will be evaluated using qualitative and quantitative measures, as appropriate.

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

UniSA's partnerships with the following organisations will improve equity performance by building community connections that support students' capacity to participate in higher education.

- Department for Education (South Australia)
- Northern Adelaide State Secondary School Alliance and the Western Adelaide Secondary School Network
- Metropolitan and regional secondary schools
- A range of schools across the Public, Private and Catholic Education sectors
- SAPOL
- Adelaide Football Club
- Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME)
- CareerTrackers
- Batyr
- ConocoPhillips Science Experience
- Department of Education (Aboriginal Lands Partnership)
- Pitjantjatjara/Yankunytjatjara Education Committee
- Ernabella Anangu School