

1. Equity outcomes and strategies

a) Outcomes for improving performance for equity groups from 2015-2017

- Increase the participation rate for:
 - students from low-SES backgrounds from 8% to 12%, with particular focus on students from non-English speaking backgrounds
 - students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds from 0.9% to 1.5%
 - students from Rural & Remote backgrounds from 5% to 8%
- Increase retention and progression rates for equity groups to match those of the general student cohort
- Increase graduate employment rates for students from equity groups

b) Strategies for achieving the outcomes

- Build interest and capability to access higher education:
 - among Year 9-12 students from low-SES backgrounds through the LEAP-University Preparedness and the LEAP-Macquarie Mentoring (Refugee Mentoring) programs
 - among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through LEAP-Indigenous Engagement programs
 - among rural and remote communities through the LEAP-Links program
 - in science, technology, engineering and mathematics for year 5-12 low-SES students through the LEAP-Robotics and LEAP-National Indigenous Science Education programs
- Build capacity to succeed in higher education
 - among students from target equity groups through the development of appropriate entry pathways, including new enabling and foundation programs
 - among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through the Patyegarang Indigenous Advancement Strategy
 - among students with disabilities by creating a safe environment and sense of community, and through targeted support programs and individual case management
 - among students from low-SES backgrounds through targeted learning skills programs
 - among students from all equity groups through engagement/wellbeing programs and staff PD
- Build workplace readiness among target equity groups through partnerships with business and industry, for example the SBS and NITV Media Mentorship program

2. Evaluation Plan

- Using our existing evaluation framework developed with KPMG and Bridges to Higher Education, together with the national framework being developed by NCSEHE, ongoing evaluation will include qualitative and quantitative data collected through participant observation, focus groups, interviews, case studies, surveys and collection of statistical data related to the enrolment, retention and success of participants in programs

3. Partnerships and collaboration

- Continued partnerships with:
 - the NSW Department of Education (DEC), in particular Multicultural Programs Unit, DEC Director Secondary Education, and the Aurora Virtual Secondary School
 - DEC, Independent and Catholic schools
 - community agencies and non-for-profit organisations such as the Country Education Foundation, the Smith Family, Centrelink, local Councils
 - SBS/NITV
 - Bridges to Higher Education partner universities (University of Western Sydney, University of Technology, Sydney, University of Sydney and Australian Catholic University)
- Development of new corporate partnerships