

### 1. Equity outcomes and strategies

#### *Outcomes for improving performance for equity groups from 2015-2017*

- Increase the participation of, and improve educational outcomes for, under-represented equity group cohorts
- Improve student retention and success rates of students from under-represented equity groups through a pro-active supportive approach
- Increased number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student completions

#### *Strategies for achieving the outcomes*

##### *Access*

We aim to raise the educational aspirations and capabilities of students from low-socio economic (low SES) and Indigenous backgrounds through outreach activities focused on secondary schools in the low SES corridors of Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley and South Brisbane and State-wide Indigenous communities. Our strategies include:

- Increase awareness of tertiary study as a post school option among students in Years 7 – 12.
- Provide opportunities for students in younger years to experience university and interact with university students, helping to overcome perception barriers.
- Provide opportunities for parents to engage with university staff and students.
- Build the academic capacity of secondary school students, helping to prepare them for success in Years 11 and 12 and beyond.
- Work with secondary schools teachers and HODs to embed critical thinking pedagogy within schools.
- Provide financial (scholarship) assistance for all commencing students who meet the financial hardship criteria.
- Indigenous student outreach and aspiration building programs, including university experiential programs that focus on the professions – *InspireU* and *Deadly Pathways/ Pathways to success*.
- Alternative Entry (first semester and mid-year intake) and Alternative Entry MD Schemes for Indigenous students.

##### *Participation, Progress and Attainment*

We will refine the University's Student Retention and Success Strategy, with particular focus on strategies for students from equity groups. Our strategies include:

- Support programs targeted at under-represented groups including the *RU Ready Survey* for commencing students, *Jumpstart Academic Preparation Program*, *Thrive @ UQ*, *Mates @ UQ*, *Steps to Success*, and *On Track*.
- Targeted support for Indigenous students including: case management model to improve student retention and performance; pastoral, professional and social support; advice on financial support available; professional development and career opportunities; hosting social and cultural events; and academic and learning support and advice.
- Reviewing our approach to supporting student employability and careers, developing an institution-wide strategy that is inclusive of the needs of students from under-represented groups.

## **2. Evaluation Plan**

- Success in increasing the participation, retention, and success rates of students from under-represented groups.
- Numbers of schools, organisations and students participating in outreach activities
- Percentage of Indigenous students choosing OP eligible pathways.
- Numbers of students from under-represented groups applying for tertiary study.
- Surveys of outreach activities measuring student study intentions, and their confidence and preparedness for school and university study.

## **3. Partnerships and collaboration**

UQ is a member of the Queensland Widening Participation Consortium. This close collaboration among Queensland Universities ensures that government and institutional resources are invested for maximum return and that best practice is both shared and fostered.

The University of Queensland will continue to work in close partnership with secondary schools in Ipswich, Lockyer and South Brisbane to implement an impactful program of outreach initiatives that benefit students in Years 7 – 12 as well as teaching staff within the schools.

UQ's program of Indigenous outreach, engagement and student support is founded on the input and involvement of Indigenous people. We work collaboratively with Queensland schools, community organisations and employers in delivering outreach activities to Indigenous high school students, their families and communities. We work closely with these groups to raise Indigenous students' aspiration for tertiary study and develop the capabilities to succeed.