

### 1. Equity outcomes and strategies

- a) Outcomes for improving performance for equity groups from 2015-2017
- For Indigenous population: (taken from the Victoria University Indigenous Strategy 2012-2016)
    - Increase Indigenous student participation at Victoria University to reflect the proportion of Indigenous people in the national population.
    - Ensure that Indigenous students achieve at least the same successful outcomes as non-Indigenous students
  - That students with a disability: (taken from the Victoria University Disability Action Plan 2011-2015)
    - Are able to gain access, be selected for courses and enrol and succeed in Victoria University courses on the same basis as students without a disability and in proportion to the national population of people with a disability.
  - Continue to attract and support students from Low Socio Economic Status backgrounds and improve the completion rates for this group of students.
- b) Strategies for achieving the outcomes (from the Victoria University Student Participation and Success Framework 2014 – 2016)
- Linking and liaising with secondary schools to assist in building the aspiration and capability to make a smooth transition to University study via a range of interventions including AVID programs, Pre-service teachers' programs, secondary student parent update sessions, Early Uni Pathways, Career Educators forums, marketing and recruitment outreach to schools, Achievement Scholarships for all schools in the catchment area.
  - Orientation and Transition programs introducing students to university from an academic and social perspective.
  - Commencing students (First Year Experience) strategy supported by Student Link (at risk program) and Academic Support and Development with peer support for learners in class and in the learning commons spaces.
  - Building resilience in the middle years providing enrichment and engagement activities including study abroad, student employment on campus, leadership and mentoring programs.
  - Preparing for work or further study in the graduate ready strategy, linking to alumni activities and building lifelong commitments to learning

### 2. Evaluation Plan

- All activities are evaluated in a formative and then summative manner so as to enable refinement and modification of the approach. Quantitative and qualitative data is being collected and this is being analysed at both local and national levels.
- Over the 2015 -2017 period, the changing context of higher education in Australia and the impact on student demand and completions will be factored in to consideration of the data collection.
- Data collected during this period will include:
  - Student participation by cohort – to assess the impact of the attraction and transition activities

- Student retention and success by cohort – to assess the impact of the range of interventions at commencement and throughout the middle years to graduation.
- Student experience – to assess the effectiveness of the range of interventions
- Staff experience – to assess the transferability and sustainability of these interventions.

### **3. Partnerships and collaboration**

- Collaboration with schools via Early Uni Pathways programs – partnership with 8 low SES secondary schools in the west of Melbourne. An additional 2 schools will be added in 2015.
- Pre-service teaching relationships and use of AVID program with over 15 schools in metropolitan Melbourne.
- Engagement with all Victorian Universities via the Toorong Marnong project to build Indigenous student participation and success at university.
- Engagement with the Learn, Access, Experience Professions (LEAP) program with all Victorian Universities to encourage low SES secondary students to explore a wider range of professions.
- Collaboration with the Western Bulldogs AFL football club to engage low SES and people with a disability in a range of university programs.
- Achievement scholarships for students in partnership with all secondary schools in the west of Melbourne.
- Marketing and recruitment and career education conducted in schools, community libraries and public spaces – including Footscray University Town collaboration between Victoria University and the Maribyrnong City Council - a project to revitalise Footscray, build community and deliver long lasting benefits to residents, traders, workers and to VU students.