The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium (NATSIHEC) Executive is hosting a national forum on 13-14 October to improve education and employment outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the higher education sector.

The forum will engage experts and leaders in university and industry to determine the most effective reform strategies in three priority areas:

- Increasing Indigenous student participation and outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM);
- Increasing the number and capacity of the Indigenous academic workforce; and
- Whole-of-university approaches to improving Indigenous higher education outcomes.

The roundtable will build upon the latest available evidence, and strategise into measurable actions to progress national policy and funding in these priorities.

**Professor Peter Buckskin**  
University of South Australia  
Forum Convenor  
Chair, NATSIHEC

**Dr Peter Anderson**  
Monash University  
STEM Convenor

**Professor Steven Larkin**  
University of Newcastle  
Academic Workforce Convenor

**Ms Leanne Holt**  
Macquarie University  
Whole-of-University Reform Convenor

www.natsihec.edu.au/forum
INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What's the evidence telling us?
2. What gaps exist in data and evidence?
3. Where are successful programs currently operating?
4. What are success factors - can they be replicated?
5. What are the main barriers - how can their effects be minimised?
6. Which are the top priorities for reform - short/long term?
7. What are influential policy drivers after 2016?
8. What are connections between the 3 priorities?
9. Implementing strategies: What, how, who, when, $ required?
10. What are indicators of success?
11. How to use project findings to influence reform?

ROUNDTABLE FORUM BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education Implementation Plan
- STEM: Improved Indigenous Outcomes in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Explanatory Statement, Monash University
- Indigenous Academic Workforce: Roundtable Briefing Notes, University of Newcastle, Charles Darwin University
- Whole of University Approach Discussion Paper
DAY 1. THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER

Forum registration available from 9.00 am, Level 1

9.30 Plenary: Terrace 1-2
Welcome to Country: Mr Stephen Goldsmith, Kaurna Nation
Forum purpose and outline: Professor Peter Buckskin and project leaders
Opening remarks:

- NATSIHEC: Professor Peter Buckskin, Chair
- Department of Education and Training: Mr David Fintan, Group Manager, Higher Education
- Universities Australia: Indigenous Education Strategy, Dr Nathan Cassidy

10.30 Morning tea: Level 1

11. Concurrent workshops: Presenting the evidence
Workshop plan for the two days
Confirm research questions / what problem is being solved?

1. What's the evidence in each priority telling us?
2. What gaps exist in the available data and evidence?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop 1: STEM</th>
<th>Workshop 2: Workforce</th>
<th>Workshop 3: WoU</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clare Room (Level 6)</td>
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### THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER (PM)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.30</td>
<td>Lunch / networking – Ground floor restaurant</td>
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<td>1.30</td>
<td>Concurrent workshops: Effective practices</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Where are successful programs currently operating?</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>What are the success factors – can they be replicated?</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>What are the main barriers to good practice - how can their effects be minimised?</td>
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<td><strong>Workshop 1: STEM</strong></td>
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<td>Barossa Room (Level 7)</td>
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<td>3.30</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Plenary</td>
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<td>Key messages: Report back on evidence and practice:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- STEM</td>
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<td>- Academic workforce</td>
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<td>- Whole of University reform</td>
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<td>Day 1 wrap-up, dinner &amp; day 2 arrangements</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Day 1 forum concludes</td>
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<td>6.30</td>
<td>Forum dinner</td>
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*Dinner concludes 9.30pm*
DAY 2. FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

9.00 Plenary: From Evidence to Action
Recap from Day 1, Plans for Day 2 – Professor Peter Buckskin
Indigenous higher education funding reforms: Indigenous Student Success Programme (ISSP)
Ms Fiona Sawyers, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Tertiary Education & Policy Coordination Branch; Education, Community Safety and Health Division)
Plenary forum discussion on initial project priorities

10.30 Morning tea

11. Concurrent workshops: Priorities and strategies for reform
   1. Which are the top priorities for reform - short/long term?
   2. What are the most influential policy (& funding) drivers after 2016?
   3. What are the connections between the 3 priorities?

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12.30 Lunch / networking – Ground floor restaurant

Lunch concludes 1.15 pm
FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER (PM)

1.15 Concurrent workshops: Priorities for ACTION

4. Implementing strategies: What, how, who, when, $ required?
5. What are indicators of success?
6. A communication strategy – how to use project findings to influence future reform?

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2.30 Break / evaluation

3.00 Plenary

Delegate recommendations from workshops:
- STEM
- Academic workforce
- Whole of University reform

Panel response: NATSIHEC, DET, UA, PMC

Future actions / conference statement

Forum conclusion

4.00 Delegates depart forum

The Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education Project is sponsored by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.