



National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium

Aboriginal Corporation

# NATSIEHC NEWSLETTER

March 2019

Welcome to the inaugural monthly NATSIEHC newsletter.

The newsletter is an initiative of the recently elected NATSIEHC Executive Committee to keep NATSIEHC members regularly informed of the work being undertaken by the Executive Directors as well as provide relevant information about developments in Indigenous higher education and research.

## NATSIEHC Executive Committee

The NATSIEHC Executive comprises nine (9) Directors and includes five (5) office bearers and four (4) Vice-Presidents leading portfolio priorities: Research; International; Academic; Corporate, Student & Community Engagement. We are pleased to announce that Elder Aunty Caroline Briggs (RMIT) fulfils the role of Vice-President (Eldership). Details of the 2019 NATSIEHC Executive Committee are available at <http://natsiehc.edu.au/about/executive/>

At our first National Caucus meeting held at AIATSIS 25-26 February 2019, the Executive Committee' aims for 2019 are:

### Internal aims:

- Provide effective and strategic leadership
- Work to achieve consensus in our decision-making
- Provide clear communications, transparency and compliance in reporting
- Establish Vice-President portfolio sub-committees (any member can join and should contact the relevant portfolio member direct)
- Update and refresh the NATSIEHC website
- Increase NATSIEHC membership
- Seek member input regarding Indigenous higher education matter and news through the national meetings and sub-committees

### External aims:

- Shape the national policy framework in which Australia's universities function in order to affirm and improve Indigenous higher education
- Strengthen our advocacy role
- Provide strategic advice to UA Board and DVC Committees
- Continue our relationships with TEQSA, ARC and NHMRC and develop new relations with other relevant bodies
- Provide advice to PM&C and DET and advocate for improvements in Indigenous higher education

It's going to be a very busy but hopefully productive year. Importantly, this will not be possible without the support and active input of all NATSIEHC members.

#### PRESIDENT

Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson  
Professor of Indigenous Studies

#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Dr Leanne Holt  
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Strategy)  
Walanga Muru

#### IMMEDIATE- PAST PRESIDENT

Professor Peter Buckskin PSM FACE  
Dean  
Aboriginal Engagement and Strategic Projects

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## NATSIEHC 2019 PRIORITY

NATSIEHC's 2018 Report Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education [http://natsiehc.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NATSIEHC\\_AIHE\\_Final\\_Report-Jan-2018\\_updated\\_031218.pdf](http://natsiehc.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NATSIEHC_AIHE_Final_Report-Jan-2018_updated_031218.pdf) identified three primary areas of reform:

1. Determine approaches to improve Indigenous outcomes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM);
2. Increase the Indigenous academic workforce; and
3. Support whole-of-university approaches to improving Indigenous higher education outcomes.

The NATSIEHC Executive at its Strategic Planning meeting on 30 January 2019, identified the Indigenous HE Workforce Strategy as its priority project for 2019, specifically, increasing Indigenous academic and professional employment consistent with recommendations in NATSIEHC's 2018 Report Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education

## UNIVERSITIES AUSTRALIA & NATSIEHC Executive Joint Board Meeting - 7 February 2019

Universities Australia (UA) the peak sector body and voice of Australia's universities, on 7 February 2019 hosted a joint meeting in Canberra between its Board of Directors and the NATSIEHC Executive to discuss a range of matters. UA Chair Professor Margaret Gardner, provided an update on progress against the UA Indigenous Strategy 2017-2020 and published the Indigenous Strategy First Annual Report February 2019, full details of which are available at <https://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/Media-and-Events/submissions-and-reports/Indigenous-Report-UA-Indigenous-Strategy-first-annual-report>

The joint meeting achieved a number of key outcomes:

UA and NATSIEHC have agreed to develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding committing to:

- In response to a decline in Indigenous applications, UA will lead a joint communications strategy sharing success stories of Indigenous students at different levels of study, as well as opportunities for academic and professional employment;
- UA has mapped NATSIEHC's Accelerating Indigenous Higher Education Report against the UA Indigenous Strategy to inform UA's efforts, including through the DVC Committees;
- UA will partner with NATSIEHC on a proposal for HEPPP National Priorities funding to investigate factors in Indigenous student success and attrition
- The President of NATSIEHC being an observer at the UA Plenary as well as two PVC Indigenous nominees



## INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM (ISSP) – Post Implementation Review July-Dec 2018 Outcomes

### Background

During 2015-2016 the Department of PM&C consulted extensively with the HE sector including NATSIHEC to develop reforms to supplementary assistance to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander university students. Consequently, the ISSP commenced 1 January 2017. The Federal government committed to undertake a post-implementation review from mid-2018.

### ISSP Review

The Department received 38 responses to a discussion paper circulated to eligible providers, peak bodies and other relevant stakeholders, including student representative groups, as well as promoted and available on DET's website. The Department also held five teleconferences with stakeholders and met with NATSIHEC. Full details of the Review outcomes are available at: <https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/.../outcomes-issppi-review.docx>

## THE UA CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHT 25 Feb-1 Mar 2019 Labor's Promise on Higher Education

Delivering an address in an explicit election year context, Opposition Education shadow minister Tanya Plibersek told the Universities Australia conference on 27 February 2019 that a Labor Government will increase university funding by \$10bn over a decade. She also renewed the party's promise to reinstate demand driven funding of undergraduate places for the 2020 academic year.

Ms Plibersek committed Labor to reforming international education exports, promising an expanded advisory body, including the VET sector and a new five-year plan. She also presented long-awaited details on the post-compulsory education review, which "will be as significant" as Julia Gillard's Bradley Review and Gough Whitlam's Kangan Review. Announcing the terms of reference, the inquiry would address:

- a high quality, efficient, effective, and modern post-secondary education system
- an equitable, sustainable, and transparent funding model
- public institutions (TAFEs and universities) at the centre of post-secondary education
- courses and qualifications responsive to changes in labour market and society and fit-for-purpose
- student access to institutions and courses to increase their skills, capabilities and knowledge
- appropriate links between post-secondary education and work; with workplaces sites of high-quality learning; and portable qualifications
- accessible apprenticeship system, adapting to technological change and supported by all benefitting parties
- increased participation of under-represented and disadvantaged Australians
- addressing needs of post-secondary students and institutions in regional and remote Australia
- a strong, competitive, diverse and sustainable international education sector
- careers advice with appropriate value on VET
- adequate funding for post-secondary infrastructure
- national regulatory systems including agency roles, institutional accountability, the qualifications framework and consumer protection



## NATSIHEC INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

NATSIHEC's involvement in the global mobilisation of First Nations Peoples participation in higher education has increasingly provided members with an opportunity to engage in several major initiatives developed and designed to align with the principles and aspirations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Outcome State. This work will inform NATSIHEC's engagement with Universities Australia (UA), in particular, with the NATSIHEC Vice President (International) Professor Boni Robertson appointment to the UA DVC International Working Party along with Professor Henrietta Marrie. In its quest to progress NATSIHEC's trajectory as a national and international lead entity in higher education a NATSIHEC International sub-committee will be established. NATSIHEC International is also in the process of establishing a Strategic Plan with discussions having been held regarding the convening a Strategic Planning meeting of the International Working Party in Sydney in March 2019. All NATSIHEC members interested in attending the meeting should contact NATSIHEC Secretary Ms Maree Graham via: [maree.graham@uts.edu.au](mailto:maree.graham@uts.edu.au) or NATSIHEC Vice President (International) Professor Boni Robertson via: [b.robertson@griffith.edu.au](mailto:b.robertson@griffith.edu.au)

The following information is provided for the benefit of NATSIHEC members on the various elements:

### The World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC)

NATSIHEC members are encouraged to participate in the annual WINHEC meetings and associated forums such as The World Indigenous Research Alliance (WIRA), International Research Journal, World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) and Board of Governors. Hosting the WINHEC Annual meeting in 2019 is the Centre for International Indigenous Affairs and the Centre for Indigenous Studies at the Dong Hwa University in Taiwan. . Information regarding registrations, travel, accommodation, local protocols and program are on the 2019 WINHEC website. Members wishing to progress enquires regarding accommodation can contact Dr Hsieh via her email: [jolan@gms.ndhu.edu.tw](mailto:jolan@gms.ndhu.edu.tw). Dr Hsieh has advised that further information re the 2019 WINHEC meeting will be accessible via the website: <http://winhec.org/about-winhec/>

### World Indigenous Nations University (WINU) and WINU Academic Awards

The WINU International Board of Governors has decreed that each year nominations will be sought from member countries for the WINU Meritorious Awards established to recognize academics, knowledge holders and Elders in communities who have made outstanding contributions to Indigenous education at the local and national level. The WINU Vice Chancellor will shortly send out the call for nominations for academic awards. Costs for recipients to attend the annual Conferral Ceremonies need to be met either by the recipient themselves or the national Indigenous higher education representative body which made the nomination.

### The International Board of Accreditation

The International Board of Accreditation was established by WINHEC in 2003. Since then the International Board have formally accredited 33 First Nations Peoples education institutions and programs, with Wollatuka (Newcastle University and the Batchelor of Indigenous Tertiary Education (BITE) both being included.

## World Indigenous Research Alliance (WIRA)

The WINHEC eJournal is a peer-reviewed publication celebrating Indigenous Knowledges. The WINHEC Annual General Meeting determines the theme for the following Journal Edition. The Co-Chair of WIRA Dr Paul Whitanui (Victoria University, Canada) has extended an invitation to members of NATSIEHC to consider applying for membership of WIRA or the Editorial and Review Committee for the Journal. Further information regarding WIRA, the International Indigenous Research Journal is via Dr Whitanui direct on: [whitanui@uvic.ca](mailto:whitanui@uvic.ca)

## The International Peoples Organization (IPO)

NATSIEHC has been heavily involved in promoting the membership and progression of the IPO for over a decade actively engaging in advocacy of the rights of Indigenous peoples at the local, national and global level. NATSIEHC has participated in the UNPFII as a member of the IPO and in its own right for many years, having developed and delivered Statements around Indigenous education.

Further information regarding the 2019 UN PFII can be obtained via:  
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/18-2.html>

## EVENTS CALENDAR

NATSIEHC as a professional organisation has applied to become a member of the Council for the Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences (CHASS), which is hosting an Early Career Researcher (ECR) event in Brisbane on 3 April 2019. All NATSIEHC members are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is a great line-up of speakers and more information is available at: <http://chassecrbrisbane2019.eventbrite.com.au>

Please lock into your calendars and register your attendance at forthcoming NATSIEHC member events scheduled for 2019. In particular, the NATSIEHC National Caucus meeting to be held at QUT. All calendar events are available at <http://natsiehc.edu.au/calendar/>

## SECTOR APPOINTMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

*(Sector Appointments and Achievements reported by the Campus Morning Mail).*

The 2019 calendar year commenced with a number of appointments to positions of Indigenous leadership in the higher education sector:

### QUT

**Peter Anderson**, becomes Professor and Director of the Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit, described as a “new role with broader remit”.

**Angela Barney Leitch** becomes PVC (Indigenous Strategy). She joins QUT from the Queensland Department of Education where she was director of indigenous policy and partnerships.

### Griffith University

**Cheryl Godwell-Pepper**, formerly Manager, Office of Indigenous Student Services, Charles Darwin University has been appointed Director, Gumurri Student Support Unit, Griffith University.

If you have any information or news you wish to share with members please contact our fabulous Secretary: Maree Graham at [maree.graham@uts.edu.au](mailto:maree.graham@uts.edu.au)