



NATSIEHC NEWSLETTER

May 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

An even stronger partnership to extend Indigenous opportunity in universities

NATSIEHC and Universities Australia (UA) have worked closely in recent years to shape the sector's Indigenous strategy. In April 2019, NATSIEHC and UA deepened their partnership with the signing of a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Under the [UA Indigenous Strategy](#) launched in early 2017, universities across the nation adopted ambitious growth targets for Indigenous recruitment, retention and success.

It also includes Indigenous research strategies, building the academic workforce and leadership, and deeper ties with Elders and local communities.

Universities Australia Chief Executive Catriona Jackson said the signing of an MOU between the two peak bodies would take this important partnership to its next stage of development.

"A productive partnership has been nurtured over several years and we are delighted to take this next step to formalise the strong relationship between the organisations," she said.

"We know that strong partnerships and leadership with and by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is absolutely fundamental to sustained progress in this work."

"We thank the leadership of NATSIEHC for taking this next step with us and for the terrific investment they have made over many years in a strong and genuine relationship that is essential for success."

NATSIEHC President Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson said the formalising of the partnership with an MOU was a logical next step in the development of the relationship.

"Universities can shape change across societies, and we thank UA for its commitment to pursue these shared ambitions and goals," she said.

"Having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented at every level of the sector will be crucial to the next set of advances we must make together."

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
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IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Labor Party has announced new closing the gap targets aimed at increasing First Nations' People's participation in higher education. This is a clear reflection of NATSIEHC's efforts influencing the necessary changes in the political arena.

Labor's policy can be accessed on the ALP website at <https://alp.org.au/media/1859/fair-go-for-first-nations-policy-booklet.pdf>

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL NATSIEHC MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE

The NATSIEHC Executive Committee includes four (4) Vice-Presidents each of whom lead higher education portfolio priority areas: Research; International; Academic; Corporate, Student & Community Engagement. The Vice-Presidents have established respective portfolio sub-committees in order to progress areas of greatest priority. Expressions of interest remain open to any NATSIEHC National Caucus members who wish to join any of the sub-committees.

The Vice-Presidents have provided the following brief portfolio updates for the information of members:

Corporate, Student and Community Engagement portfolio:

Chaired by the NATSIEHC Vice-President Cheryl Godwell-Pepper, the sub-committee will give consideration to all priority issues and matters relating to Indigenous Corporate, Student and Community Engagement matters experienced throughout Australian universities.

In accordance with NATSIEHC's identified priority for 2019 (i.e. *Indigenous Academic and Professional Workforce*), the sub-committee will give consideration to opportunities and initiatives that look to successfully attract, retain and progress Indigenous students as Academics and/or Professionals nationwide.

The sub-committee membership currently comprises:

- Cheryl Godwell-Pepper, Vice-President - NATSIEHC Corporate, Student and Community Engagement;
- Braedyn Edwards, President - Union of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students; and
- Keane Wheeler, Director - Oodgeroo Unit QUT.

Notably, the sub-committee will work in close consultation and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and more specifically, with direct input from the NATSIEHC President-Elect, Dr Leanne Holt and in recognition of her standing with Universities Australia - DVC's Sub-Committee for Corporate.

The Corporate, Student and Community Engagement Sub-Committee meetings are proposed to take place 4-8 weeks in-advance of each NATSIEHC National Caucus meeting and/or as required.

To express interest in joining and/or to offer any input on *Corporate, Student and Community Engagement* matters, please email Cheryl Godwell-Pepper at: c.godwell-pepper@griffith.edu.au

International portfolio:

Chaired by the NATSIEHC Vice-President Professor Boni Robertson, the sub-committee will give consideration to all priority issues and matters in the International arena relating to Indigenous education. Of current relevance, NATSIEHC, as an NGO from Australia and as a member of the IPO, prepared a Statement and an Intervention to present at the 18th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held between 22 April - 3 May 2019 UN Headquarters, New York.

The Special theme for this year's Permanent Forum is: "Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection".

This year, the NATSIEHC Statement and Intervention are aligned to:

Agenda Item 4: Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection - *Education and Language*. The NATSIEHC Statement and Intervention, presented by NATSIEHC Executive Director Ms Maree Graham, was developed in reference to Indigenous Peoples rights to education and wellbeing as enshrined in the UNDRIP and the principles articulated in para 15 of the WCIP Outcomes Document. NATSIEHC profiled in part, the synergy between education, traditional language and its role in maintaining Indigenous knowledges, and re-iterated the importance of Governments entering into partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to overcoming continued disadvantage and to address more broadly, the disparities experienced in education. This continued disadvantage is seen as impacting upon the ability of Indigenous Peoples in Australia to achieve equitable outcomes across all social indicators; to protect cultural heritage and language maintenance; and to achieve socio-political standing when compared with the broader Australian society. Of most importance is the ability for Indigenous peoples to exercise their sovereign rights as the First Nations People of Australia.

To express interest in joining and/or to offer any input on *International* matters, please email Professor Boni Robertson at: b.robertson@griffith.edu.au

Research portfolio:

Chaired by the NATSIEHC Vice-President Professor Peter Anderson, the sub-committee will give consideration to all priority issues and matters relating to Indigenous Research and Higher Degree Research Training throughout Australian universities.

NATSIEHC's current priority is aligned with the review of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) currently being jointly undertaken by the ARC, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Statistics (Stats NZ), and the New Zealand Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment. The Discussion paper can be accessed on the ARC website : https://www.arc.gov.au/sites/default/files/media-assets/anzsrc_review_discussion_paper.pdf

The ANZSRC is a set of three related classifications developed for use in the measurement and analysis of research and experimental development (R&D) in Australia and New Zealand. It has three main types of classification: Type of Activity (ToA), Fields of Research (FoR), and Socio-Economic Objective (SEO).

NATSIIHEC will be submitting a response to the review which has been lead and developed by NATSIIHEC President Distinguished Professor Aileen Moreton-Robinson. This will be shared with the members once submissions are made public.

NATSIIHEC also works closely with the Australian Council of Graduate Research Inc (ACGR) which is the collective representative leadership and management body comprising of Deans or Directors of Graduate Research.

The purpose of the Council is to promote excellence in research training and scholarship and to seek to maintain and continue to improve national standards for all graduate research degree programs. The council provides Graduate school Deans and Directors from across the sector opportunities to share ideas and interventions pertain to graduate students. The council in conjunction with the NATSIIHEC released the ACGR *Good Practice Guideline for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education* which are available at <https://www.acgr.edu.au/good-practice/graduate-research-good-practice-principles/>

To express interest in joining and/or to offer any input regarding any aspect of the *Research* portfolio please do not hesitate to email Professor Peter Anderson at: p2l.anderson@qut.edu.au

Academic portfolio:

In line with NATSIIHEC's 2019 priority of *Indigenous Academic and Professional Workforce*, the *Academic* portfolio sub-committee will explore Teaching and Learning priorities and opportunities to grow our Academic workforce.

This sub-committee will meet 4-8 weeks prior to each NATSIIHEC National Caucus meeting and as required.

To express interest in joining and/or to offer input regarding any aspect of the *Academic* portfolio please do not hesitate to email Associate Professor Clair Andersen at: Clair.Andersen@utas.edu.au