

NATSIHEC NEWSLETTER

*October 2020*

FROM THE PRESIDENT – Dr Leanne Holt

It continues to be a busy year and our thoughts are with our Victorian colleagues who have had a challenging few months in lockdown. We look forward to the time when we can all physically come together once again.

As you would be aware by now the Job Ready Graduates Bill has been approved by the Senate. Taking into consideration your contributions from our Virtual forum held late August we submitted submissions to both the Department of Education and Employment Legislation Committee: Higher Education Support Amendment (Job Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020 outlining the possible impacts of the changes to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and staff, and Indigenous Studies. Now that the Bill has been approved, we continue these discussions with the Department of Education to determine strategies that will respond to our continued concerns related to the Bill. We will keep you updated.

Further to this we submitted a submission to the Department of Education and Employment Legislation Committee: Provider Category Standards Amendment. We have now been invited to present expert evidence to the committee in person. Professor Larkin and I will be attending this week.

We are currently organising our next members meeting and AGM, with the date set for **Friday,** **11 December 2020.** A formal notice and agenda with times will be sent out shortly. At the AGM we will have vacancies for our President Elect and Vice-President roles – Academic; Research; Student, Policy and Workforce; and International. Can I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank our current Vice-President’s and Executive for their dedication and work that they have committed to their NATSIHEC Executive roles. Also, thank you to Professor Fredericks who agreed to fill the vacant Immediate Past President role earlier in the year and has made a strong contribution to our agendas. I encourage members to consider nominating for vacant positions, it is a great opportunity to contribute to sector wide priorities and support the future progress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander higher education and research, while building a strong professional network.

Given the challenges that we have faced this year across the sector both inside our universities as well as in our communities, the NATSIHEC Executive committee has agreed to waive membership fees for 2020. Advice will be forwarded to you shortly formalising this arrangement. Given that NATSIHEC operates on a slim budget, this has been made possible by the generosity of RMIT who we thank for their financial contribution that paid for the development of our new website – [www.natsihec.edu.au](http://www.natsihec.edu.au) . The website will continue to be enhanced but it looks very professional and is getting lots of hits.

We continue to work with Universities Australia on advocacy for Indigenous higher education and research, Indigenous voice and leadership, and on the Universities Australia Strategy Refresh. There will be the opportunity at the members meeting to contribute further to the Refresh work.

Recently we have been consulting with the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA) in relation to ensuring that universities remain committed to increasing Indigenous workforce and leadership. The majority of universities across the sector have been significantly financially impacted by the current pandemic. This has resulted in major staff cuts and other cost savings. It is crucial at this time that our comparatively small workforce remains protected during this time and we are doing all we can to ensure that this is supported from the highest level. We also recently spoke to NIAA about rolling over excess Indigenous Student Success Program (ISSP) funds given that many of our budgeted activities were not able to be implemented (events, travel, hospitality, etc.). Last week NIAA sent out a template for universities to complete to apply for the roll over to be approved by the end of the year. We are hoping that this will avoid excess funds being absorbed back into the university and is maintained for the important work we do with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students aligned to the ISSP guidelines.

Although we continue to be faced with significant challenges, I am confident that our resilience, passion and determination will see us continue to succeed for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and communities. There is a lot of innovation currently happening across the sector and I am excited to see what our future brings as we move forward together.

At the AGM I will move to the role of ‘Immediate Past President’ and Professor Steve Larkin will resume as Current President into 2021. I am really pleased that NATSIHEC has built such strong relationships across the sector and with key stakeholders, I believe that we are respected for the work that we do and are often consulted with. If any members would like to discuss the work that we do or have questions related to the positions we have taken on policies or initiatives OR if you would like to discuss nominating for one of the vacant positions 😊 I am always available to discuss, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

All the best

Dr Leanne Holt  
President, NATSIHEC

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| **PRESIDENT** | **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT** | **PRESIDENT ELECT** | **TREASURER** | **SECRETARY** |
| Dr Leanne Holt  Macquarie University | Professor Bronwyn Fredericks  University of Queensland | Professor Steve Larkin  Batchelor Institute | Jason Brailey  RMIT | Maree Graham  University of Technology Sydney |
| **VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)** | **VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)** | **VICE-PRESIDENT (INTERNATIONAL)** | **VICE- PRESIDENT (CORPORATE, STUDENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT)** | **VICE-PRESIDENT (ELDERSHIP)** |
| Professor Clair Anderson  University of Tasmania | Professor Peter Anderson  Queensland University of Technology | Professor Boni Roberson  Macquarie University | Cheryl Godwell-Pepper  Griffith University | Aunty Carolyn Briggs  RMIT |

**NHEC**

**VICE-PRESIDENT UPDATES**

**VICE-PRESIDENT (CORPORATE, STUDENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

On the 29th September 2020, the NATSIHEC President, Dr Leanne Holt and Vice-President – Corporate, Student and Community Engagement, Cheryl Godwell-Pepper attended the Australia and New Zealand Student Services Association (ANZSSA) Advisory Council meeting to offer an introduction, overview and highlight of NATSIHEC’s role and contribution towards foremost priorities and issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and stakeholders nationally. The members and executive were incredibly interested in the work undertaken by NATSIHEC and are keen to continue the conversation and explore future opportunities to work in direct consultation and collaboration with NATSIHEC on relevant matters.

**VICE-PRESIDENT (RESEARCH)**

The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) has released the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (AIATSIS Code) with A guide to applying the AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. The AIATSIS Code supersedes the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies 2012 (GERAIS). It is important that this is circulated within our institutions - it can be found here [https://aiatsis.gov.au/research/ethical-research/code-ethics](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/TQyoCzvkmpfPJZnDi4-szv?domain=aiatsis.gov.au)

Just released in February report on Indigenous success in Higher Degrees by Research- Commissioned Research Department of Education and Training  - An important report as we continue to build the numbers of Indigenous HDR students across our institutions - it can be found via the link [https://eprints.qut.edu.au/199805/](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xrA9CANpnDCm7XV0H8GDL3?domain=eprints.qut.edu.au/)

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|  | [Report on indigenous success in higher degree by research: Prepared for Australian Government Department of Education and Training | QUT ePrints](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/xrA9CANpnDCm7XV0H8GDL3?domain=eprints.qut.edu.au/)  Moreton-Robinson, Aileen, Anderson, Peter, Blue, Levon, Nguyen, Lan, & Pham, Thu (2020) Report on indigenous success in higher degree by research: Prepared for Australian Government Department of Education and Training. Indigenous Research and Engagement Unit, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.  eprints.qut.edu.au |

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|  | [Code of Ethics | AIATSIS](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/TQyoCzvkmpfPJZnDi4-szv?domain=aiatsis.gov.au)  AIATSIS holds the worlds largest collection dedicated to Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories. Current projects Our research contributes to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and has a direct benefit to the communities we work with.; Ethical research We provide leadership in ethics and protocols for research related to Aboriginal ...  aiatsis.gov.au |

See below Agenda for the upcoming WINHEC meet and AGM – as you can see our timeframe commences quite early in the morning as we had to allow for timelines around the world, in particular our colleagues in Norway. On the bright side it means that chances are it won’t clash with other meetings….

**WINHEC**

If you have not had the opportunity to attend a WINHEC meeting before this is a great opportunity to see what is being done in education by Indigenous nations across the world. The link to register is below and further information along with a link will be sent post registration.

<https://it-mqu.formstack.com/forms/winhec2020agm>

[](http://winhec.org/)

**DRAFT AGENDA – WINHEC 2020 MEET and AGM**

**VIRTUAL MEETING HOSTED BY AUSTRALIA**

**Wednesday, 25th November (AEST – Australia; Aotearoa; Taiwan) / Tuesday, 24 November (Alaska; Canada; Hawaii; Norway; USA)**

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| **7:00am** | Official Opening Ceremony |
| **8:00am** | Flinders University, Australia, Presentation |
| **8.30am** | Country Reports |
| **10.00am** | Close |

**Thursday, 26th November (AEST – Australia; Aotearoa; Taiwan) / Wednesday 25 November (Alaska; Canada; Hawaii; Norway; USA)**

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| **7:00am** | Daily Cultural Opening |
| **7.15am** | AGM |
| **8.15am** | WINHEC Accreditation Session |
| **10.00am** | Close |

**Friday, 27th November (AEST – Australia; Aotearoa; Taiwan) / Thursday, 26 November (Alaska; Canada; Hawaii; Norway; USA**

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| **7:00am** | Daily Cultural Opening |
| **7.15am** | Elders and Youth |
| **8.00am** | WIRA/J |
| **8.45am** | Presentation of Reports |
| **10:15am** | Closing |
| **11.00am** | **Close of meetings - WINHEC** |

**Saturday, 28th November (AEST – Australia; Aotearoa; Taiwan) / Friday 27 November (Alaska; Canada; Hawaii; Norway; USA)**

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| **7:00am** | WINU Webinars for students and academic programs |
| **10.00am** | **Closing of WINU meetings** |

**UTS Microcredential – Supervising Indigenous Higher Degree Research**

[*Supervising Indigenous Higher Degree Research*](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/mviKC2xMRkUxEjzxungwgz?domain=open.uts.edu.au/)

UTS is launching a new microcredential - *Supervising Indigenous Higher Degree Research* - in mid-November. We figured with the *Universities Australia Indigenous Strategy* indicating the need cultural training for non-Indigenous supervisors of Indigenous students (and non-Indigenous students doing Indigenous research) that this short course might be of interest to academic staff in other universities.

We also hope that it will support the recently developed ACGR *Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education*.