Southern Cross University Strengthening Participation Action Framework

Southern Cross University's Strengthening Participation Action Framework is a whole of University statement of SCU's commitment to improve the access, participation and success of students from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Southern Cross University
A new way to think

1 Raising Aspiration and Widening Access

Southern Cross University works in partnership with regional and local schools, the VET sector and communities to inspire people to the possibility of attending university and to help them make informed choices at key life transitions to lead them there.

Actions will be:

- Grow the High School Outreach Program through partnering with further low SES schools in the University's region, expanding school and campus visits and offering a university residential experience.
- Evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of the High School Outreach Program in increasing aspiration and participation in higher education of students from equity groups.
- Develop collaborative programs with other universities and the VET sector to increase the attainment and aspiration of students from equity groups.

2 Creating Pathways and Access

Southern Cross University currently exceeds the sector average for the participation rates of students from low SES, regional, rural, remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. In order to maintain this level of participation and in particular to increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school leavers and adults entering university, we will provide a diverse range of alternative entry pathways and access arrangements.

Actions will be:

- Build transparent advanced standing arrangements between the VET sector and Southern Cross University with a particular emphasis on growing the number of TAFE articulation pathways promoted to applicants via advanced standing precedents.
- Increase the number of Equity Scholarships available to students from low SES, regional, rural, remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- Actively promote the existing multiple alternative entry pathways available to SCU applicants.
- Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples entering SCU via the STAR entry scheme.
- Implement admission bonus schemes that recognise applicants from low SES, regional, rural, remote and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds.
- Investigate opportunities to offer Associate Degree (and other nominated programs) to applicants who do not meet the entry requirements for the program into which they have applied.

3 Support and Success

Southern Cross University works to enhance and enrich student transition to and engagement with university learning and study for its diverse student body. We aim for a growing number of students successfully completing their studies.

Actions will be:

- Identify attrition and success factors and propose response actions for students from
  - o Low SES and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds
  - o Preparing for Success Program pathways.
- Increase the numbers of first year students participating in the student mentoring program.

4 An Inclusive University

Southern Cross University commits to providing opportunities in an inclusive, culturally safe environment. Students and staff alike learn and grow from diversity and SCU aims to foster and encourage the opportunities that a diverse culture can bring.

Actions will be:

- Investigate and identify proven inclusive curriculum strategies current at Southern Cross University.
- Promote and affirm diversity through celebrations, workshops, promotional materials and events on campus.
- Implement a 'community of practice' framework and materials to undertake a number of different types of cultural competency conversations and workshops at Southern Cross University.

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