

GUMURRII Student Support Unit

Action Plan 2013 – 2016

ROLE

The primary purpose of Griffith University's GUMURRII Student Support Unit is to contribute to student success by providing culturally appropriate services and support and a safe learning environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students studying at Griffith.

GUMURRII has services located on each of Griffith's five campuses and staff assist undergraduate and post-graduate students in recruitment, orientation and learning support through to graduation.

2013-2016 Strategic Plan

This Plan identifies the priorities for GUMURRII over the next four years, and supports the University Strategic Plan, Equity and Diversity Plan, Reconciliation Action Plan, and recommendations from the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

The Plan will be monitored and reviewed annually and evaluated at completion.

GOAL 1

A continual increase in undergraduate and post-graduate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student rates of access, participation, retention and success such that the national average is exceeded.

Objective	Strategies	Performance Measures	Responsibility
1. To increase access and participation of prospective Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Griffith undergraduate and post graduate programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct interactive outreach programs and activities targeting middle to secondary school students• Conduct outreach programs targeting mature aged learners through job network centres and community events (eg NAIDOC)• Develop on-line opportunities for access to Griffith programs via direct entry• Explore flexible options for confirmation of Aboriginality	Access and participation rates Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- x number of on-site activities- x number of school visits- increase in post graduate numbers	Indigenous Partnership Officer
2. To increase retention, progression and successful completion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students at Griffith	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct Tertiary Preparation Programs (TPP) for all commencing students, including mid semester and post graduate applicants• Administer ITAS in accordance with DIISTRE requirements and recommendations for improved service delivery• Use the student data base system to identify post graduate students and potential undergraduate students for progression to post graduate studies	Success and completion rates	<i>Learning Assistance Officers</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor, monitor and nurture students, and work in partnership with the Indigenous Research Network (IRN) to contribute to successful post graduate studies • Work in partnership with Student Success Advisers (SSAs) and Schools to develop early intervention strategies through a case management approach for students at risk 		
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GOAL 2

Provision of culturally appropriate services and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students which are of consistently high standard.

Objective	Strategies	Performance Measures	Responsibility
3. The improvement and development of existing and new services and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the services and support currently offered by GUMURRII SSU through student and staff surveys and internal reviews• Ensure staff participate in staff induction programs and relevant professional development activities• Participate in University meetings such as Vice Chancellor campus meetings and other forums• Coordinate and encourage student engagement with other students across the University and with Community through Elders, study groups, yarning circles, Community events, etc• Critically analyse student demographics in order to take a more culturally targeted case management approach tailored to students' different needs and situations• Hold regular brainstorming workshops for GUMURRII staff to develop new and improved support services• Ensure ITAS tutors are qualified, culturally sensitive and motivated towards student success	<p>Improved student satisfaction scores</p> <p>Participation rates of staff</p> <p>Increased participation in activities</p>	<i>Office Manager</i>

GOAL 3

The development of common understandings about achieving student success through the establishment and maintenance of effective and ongoing working relationships between GUMURRII staff, University staff, students and Community.

Objective	Strategies	Performance Measures	Responsibility
4. Establish new and maintain existing relationships between GUMURRII and University staff through networking activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use emails as a preliminary introduction to GUMURRII services to key positions, such as Head of School, Student Administration, School Secretaries• Provide link to GUMURRII website on all emails• Seek follow up meetings with Heads of School• Develop and distribute GUMURRII information packs	Number of meetings organised	
5. Establish, build and maintain relationships with students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Engage and communicate with community to explain opportunities and benefits for potential students through school visits, career expos, community events and internal outreach programs• Maintain contact with current students via email, face to face presence, and campus activities (eg, “Walk and Talk”) to ensure ongoing support• Establish an Indigenous alumni through liaison with GISA, Griffith Student Alumni, Student Administration	Feedback and data collected Increase in numbers of students participating Number of alumni members	<i>Admin Coordinator/Unit secretary</i>

6. Contribute to enhanced cultural understanding and knowledge in Griffith staff and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with University Equity Champions • Contribute to University committees and other meetings regarding cultural protocols and knowledge • Continue consultations with Community groups and Council of Elders • Maintain relationships with Indigenous academics 	Number and range of meetings regularly attended	LAOs
7. Establish and maintain online website presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep GUMURRII website up-to-date and expand to include student successes • Include promotional material on website 	Monitor visits to website	