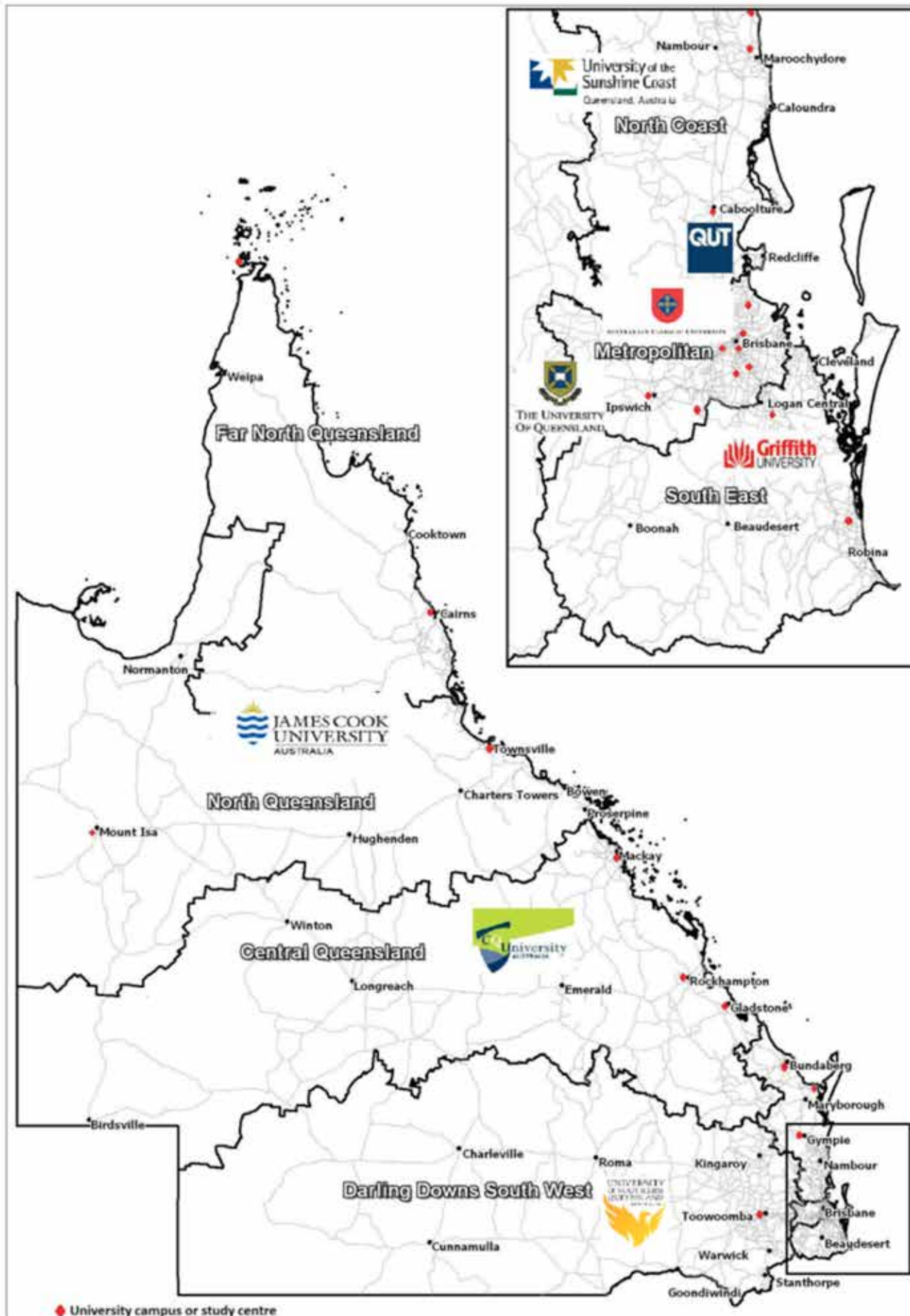




Widening Tertiary Participation:
a state-wide collaborative approach
Queensland, Australia

October 2013

Queensland regions and university partners



Widening Tertiary Participation: a state-wide collaborative approach

Queensland context

- > Second largest Australian state by land area (1,730,000 sq km/ or 670,000 sq miles).
- > Third largest population (4,500,000 people).
- > 30% of households located in low socio-economic status (SES) areas (Nationally 25%).
- > 40% population live in regional and remote locations.
- > Large and rapidly growing Indigenous population - 160,000 people / 3.6% of population.
- > Low SES and Indigenous (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island) Queenslanders underrepresented in school completion, school achievement and enrolment in higher education – as low as 3 higher education commencements per thousand population in remote western regions compared to 18 per thousand in high SES locations.

Collaborative approach embedded in MOU

Eight universities in Queensland and the Queensland Department of Education Training and Employment agree to collaborate in their efforts to stimulate interest in tertiary study, and to widen the tertiary participation of low-income people and Indigenous people. – MOU 2011

Six projects

- > Coordinated school outreach – each university responsible for a cluster of identified low SES schools
- > Indigenous specific engagement
- > Connecting with adult learners and vocational training providers
- > Going deeper in places of need
- > Career development
- > Joint initiatives.

Funding

- > Australian Government Higher Education Participation and Partnership Program funding.
- > \$A 21 million over 3 years to undertake coordinated School Outreach and Indigenous Engagement projects across the state. Funding distribution based on region size and needs.

Further details

MOU and background paper can be downloaded from:

qut.edu.au/about/equity/widening-participation

Other Enquiries: Geoffrey Mitchell, Widening Participation Project Manager:

Geoffrey.mitchell@dete.qld.gov.au

Regional context

- > Outer urban populations to north of Brisbane (state capital).
- > 18 schools from government, Catholic and independent sectors.
- > Regional responsibility shared with QUT.

School Outreach

ACUgate: ACU's suite of programs focusing on awareness, aspirations and access include:

- > Curriculum enrichment and support – particularly in Maths, Science and English;
- > On-campus engagement visits;
- > Career development activities including online careers program;
- > Uni Step Up - students in low-SES schools complete first year university units whilst still at school;
- > Principal's Recommendation Program – facilitating non-traditional entry from school to university.

Indigenous Engagement

Engagement with Indigenous school students through ACUgate programs with parents and the wider Indigenous community including:

- > Indigenous Games day;
- > Art and Spirituality Program;
- > Campus visits;
- > Parent forums;
- > Come to Dinner – linking school students, parents and community members with Indigenous university students, graduates and support staff.

More information

acu.edu.au/equitypathways





Central Queensland University

Regional Context

- > Large region of approximately 500,000 square kilometres (approx. 200,000 sq miles).
- > Includes regional centres, rural, remote and very remote locations.
- > 33 secondary (high) schools and over 110 primary (elementary) schools.

School Outreach

- > Learner Progression Framework – Year 6–12 students engage with programs relative to their age, cognitive development and ability.
- > Programs include filmmaking, career development, experiential workshops with academics, campus 'race' day, and information and advice regarding access and support.

The Mobile Education Trailer (MET)

- > Purpose-built as a mobile classroom able to travel vast distances – focus on interactive and experiential activities for Year 6/7 students (11–13 yr olds).
- > 4,322 primary school students visited the MET in 2012
- > *The students were really engaged by the personal laptops and the visual tour. Overall I loved it. I think it was so engaging and the kids just wanted more.* – Primary teacher feedback



Indigenous Engagement

- > Schools program designed and delivered by Indigenous practitioners.
- > New Community Aspirations Program for Indigenous Australian Communities highlighting alternate pathways to tertiary education.
- > The Correctional Centres Undergraduate Program developing tertiary pathways for students residing in correctional centres (prisons).

More information

cqu.edu.au/current-student/Widening-Participation



Regional context

- > Outer urban populations to south of Brisbane (state capital).
- > Large migrant, refugee and culturally and linguistically diverse populations.
- > 47 high schools and feeder primary schools – State Government and Catholic.

School Outreach

- > Embedded in Griffith's long-standing Uni-Reach program to scaffold Yr 6-12 engagement.
- > Strong focus on career development starting with Year 6 (11-12 yr olds).
- > Multi-layered student engagement combining: school-based activities (multiple); on-campus experience days for students and their families; disability support and integrated cultural perspectives.
- > Multimedia resource development tailored to specific programs and/or local communities.
- > Sponsored professional development and resources for school personnel.
- > Parent/family engagement embedded in program.
- > Year level programs – careers development, discipline-specific outreach and engagement, transition to high school.
- > Cohort specific programs – low SES, students with disabilities, Pacific Islander students, migrants and refugees.
- > Engagement of Griffith student mentors, mostly from partner schools, in program delivery as positive role models.

Indigenous Engagement

- > Community based pre-tertiary workshops with specific Indigenous groups in region.
- > Focus on building foundation learning skills.
- > Culturally safe and supportive learning through family tree project.

More information

griffith.edu.au/student-equity-services/out-reach-activities

griffith.edu.au/gumurrii-student-support-unit



Regional context

- > Largest and most remote region including coastal cities, inland towns, remote and very remote Indigenous and island communities.
- > Large Indigenous populations across region.
- > Over 50 low SES secondary schools and 100 low SES primary schools in region.

School Outreach

- > On-campus events, school and community outreach and online activities to engage students across region.
- > Resource development targeted to local communities including local Indigenous role models and business leaders.
- > Strong integration of school outreach and Indigenous engagement initiatives.
- > Yr 10 week-long camp attended by 110 rural and remote students from 38 schools in 2013.

I've never seen anything so powerful as what happened on the Residential Camp. These students who weren't thinking of university, and now they're all planning on going and are really excited. –High school principal, small inland school

- > Over 4,000 students engaged in Get into Uni activities.

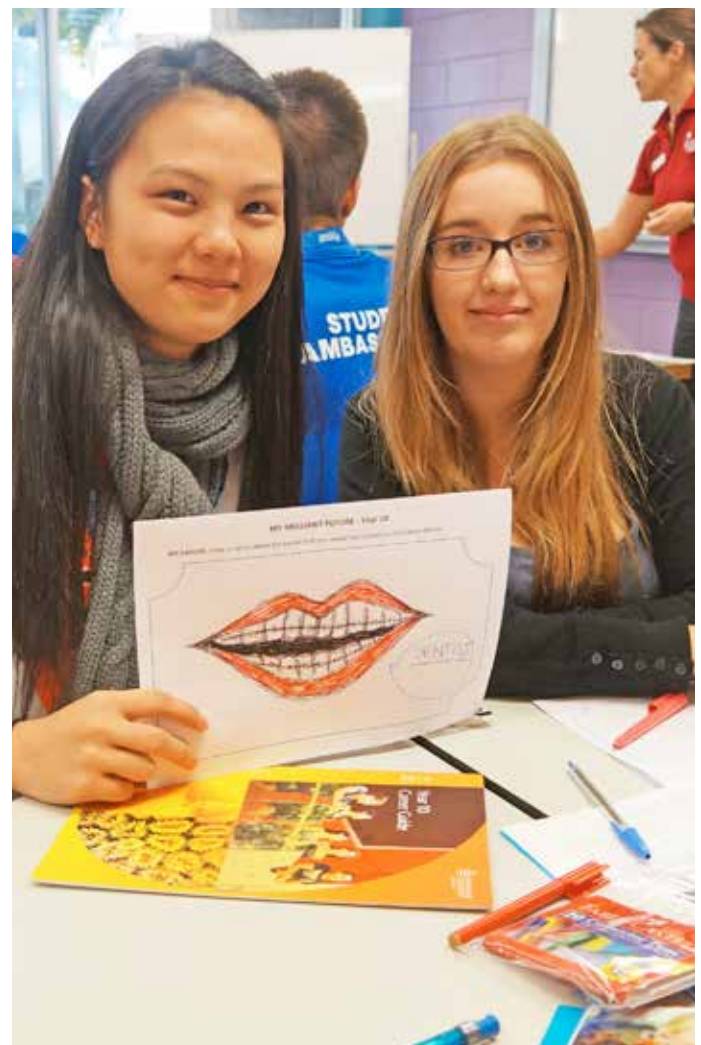


Indigenous Engagement

- > Eight place-based community hubs coordinate outreach activities and links to schools, vocational colleges, local industry and community groups.
- > Campus visits include students, parents and Indigenous organisations.
- > Over 240 students attended Indigenous Leaders of Tomorrow activities.
- > Uni preparation program delivered into remote towns and communities.

More information

jcu.edu.au/socialinclusion/





Queensland University of Technology

Regional context

- > Outer urban populations to north of Brisbane (state capital).
- > Two urban and one outer-urban campus – co-location with vocational training college.
- > High priority schools include 11 secondary schools and 23 primary schools.
- > Regional responsibility shared with ACU.

School Outreach

- > On-campus experience days and residential camps involving approximately 6,000 school students a year.
- > Curriculum enrichment activities including: mobile Extreme Science and Engineering Vans; Robotics kits and activities, Health Clinic activities; Creative Industries activities; STEM challenge events; professional development for teachers including an Indigenous-focused maths literacy program (YuMi Deadly Maths) delivered to 20 schools in the region.
- > Focus on school and community career development including provision of free independent advice to assist people of all ages to access tertiary pathways.



Indigenous Engagement

- > Engagement and support for Indigenous community to enable access to tertiary education regardless of age.
- > Dedicated Indigenous career practitioner working with individuals and community organisations to facilitate informed tertiary education choices.
- > Partnership with local vocational education and training providers.

More information

qut.edu.au/about/equity/widening-participation





THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Regional context

- > Outer urban populations to west of Brisbane (state capital)
- > Significant diversity including Indigenous and Pasifika populations. Region impacted by decline in traditional industries and recent natural disasters.
- > 16 secondary schools, primarily from the government sector.
- > Four campuses - in urban, outer urban and regional locations.

School Outreach

- > On-campus (Uni – Yes I can) experience days, facilitated by university students.
- > In-school presentations and workshops
 - A day in the life of a uni student
 - Tools to succeed
 - Goal setting
 - Fostering self- control, self-reflection and self-confidence
- > Understanding tertiary education (for parents).

Indigenous Engagement

- > A range of aspiration-building activities with schools, Indigenous communities and health and sporting organisations including:
 - Preparatory programs
 - Residential camps
 - Youth leadership programs
 - Indigenous Youth Sports Program: the week-long program attracted 130 participants from across the region in 2013.

More information

Contact: outreach@uq.edu.au



Regional context

- > Mostly rural locations including remote western centres.
- > Significant diversity including refugee and Indigenous populations.
- > Low SES secondary schools and 69 primary schools from the government sector.
- > Three campuses in regional, outer urban and coastal locations.

School Outreach

- > On-campus engagement visits and community engagement bursaries.
- > Career awareness activities including primary school engagement (Smart Steps: Jobs to Go) and the 'Western Careers Run' to distant inland towns and communities.
- > BEAMS – Building Engagement and Aspiration through Mentoring in Schools - in class curriculum driven program in primary and secondary classrooms.
- > Intensive uni-preparation summer course provides high school graduates and others with second chance to get into university.

Indigenous Engagement

- > DARE - Dream Aspire Reach Experience - developing aspirations through mentoring and engagement with parents, teachers and the Indigenous community. Focus on cultural competence and self identity. 15 schools, 120 Yr 10 students, 22 USQ student mentors in 2012.
- > Indigenous Connections – day-long events featuring high profile Indigenous speakers, motivational workshops and learning experiences (2013 - 820 students from over 20 schools).

More information

usq.edu.au/socialjustice



Regional context

- > Coast and hinterland locations including pockets of deep disadvantage.
- > Number of Indigenous communities.
- > Approximately 40 schools engaged.

School Outreach

- > University experience days for over 16 secondary schools.
- > Curriculum enrichment through maths, science, writing and art programs including Creative Writing Excellence Program; Science Investigation workshops, awards and professional development; Robotics; Space Challenge; and Western Desert Art Program.
- > Career exploration and advisory activities.

Indigenous Engagement

- > AIME Indigenous mentoring program – 136 students participated in 2012.

Thank you!! AIME is my favourite part of high school. I had the worst first years at high school and AIME makes everything better.
– Yr 11 student

- > Future Indigenous Leaders program.
- > Cherbourg Digital Literacies Project engages students, parents, school staff and community members in developing digital literacy.

More information

usc.edu.au/university/faculties-and-divisions/administrative-areas/student-life-and-learning/widening-participation-in-higher-education

