

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY





ACADEMIC FORUM:

**ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER
EDUCATION**

From Securing Success

Greater Western Sydney has one of the most significant urban populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and the University's campuses are located on the traditional lands of the Darug, Tharawal, Gandangarra and Wiradjuri nations. The University will focus particular attention on supporting the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and further celebrate the diverse and rich cultural communities that give Greater Western Sydney its energy and vibrancy.

Some Securing Success Goals

**To be a distinctively student-centred university,
Western Sydney University will:**

Create partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, staff and communities that ensure a culturally rich, relevant and engaged learning experience and encourage the showcasing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Some Securing Success Goals

To deliver a unique learning experience that is innovative, flexible and responsive, Western Sydney University will:

Ensure the development and inclusion of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate Attribute within all courses.

From Securing Success

Western Sydney University will strengthen its engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to improve educational outcomes, and expand partnerships with a diverse range of cultural groups to improve access to higher education.

Some Securing Success Goals

To be a leading advocate and champion for the Greater Western Sydney region and its people, Western Sydney University will:

Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Greater Western Sydney to improve educational and employment outcomes.

Contribute to the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through research and education.

Some Measures of Success

Participation rates of students reflecting the diversity of the community, including low SES, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduate Attribute embedded within all courses.

Level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in education and employment.

Graduate Attribute

Demonstrates knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australia through cultural competency and professional capacity.

Knowledge base

- Appreciates the culture, experiences and achievements of Indigenous Australians, thereby encouraging an Australian identity inclusive of Indigenous Australians.

Communication

- Communicates ethically and effectively within Indigenous Australian contexts.

Social and cultural

- Understands and engages effectively with the culturally and socially diverse world in which they live and will work.

Leadership and partnership

- Understands the circumstances and needs of Indigenous Australians, thereby encouraging responsibility in raising the standard of professional service delivery to Indigenous Australians;
- Possesses a capacity to engage and partner with Indigenous Australians.

Schedule

- 9.30am Introduction and Welcome
- 9.35am Opening Presentations
- 10.00am Table discussion
- 11.00am Short report back from each table
- 11.20am Summary and discussion of next steps.
Report to Academic Senate.
Morning tea will be available.

Table Discussion

Please identify your recorder and reporter.

Discuss any over-arching questions from the question and answer session.

Focus on two or more questions from the sheet, but broader discussion is welcome.

Two-minute report from each table, but please send or hand your detailed notes to Gill Brown (email: gillian.brown@uws.edu.au).

Questions

1. What can you do to create partnerships with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students, staff and communities in your role at Western Sydney University?
 - a. How can this be measured?

2. What is your vision for a unique learning experience that is innovative, flexible and responsive to understanding Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Culture?
 - a. What can be done to make this happen?

3. What can Western Sydney University do ensure equality in teaching and research in relation to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander content?
 - a. Who needs to lead this?

4. How do you know if a person is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander?
 - a. Does it matter? Why?

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