Overview

University of Western Sydney (UWS) Indigenous activities cross a number of disciplines and a range of Schools, administrative sections and Research Centres. The activities represent a major focus for the University, particularly as its campuses are situated among the largest Indigenous community outside of the Northern Territory, with some 25,000 indigenous people living within Greater Western Sydney.

The University is committed to the advancement of Indigenous employment, engagement and education. A key part of the University’s Indigenous education strategy is the Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education. It offers a multi-campus support service for Indigenous students across its six university campuses and also manages a wide range of scholarship and support programs to assist Indigenous students with their studies.

The Office of Indigenous Employment and Engagement represents the other main area within the University that focuses on Indigenous affairs. It seeks to maximise employment opportunities for Indigenous students, whilst also building collaborative networks and commercial partnerships within the Greater Western Sydney region.

UWS aims to be the employer of choice within Greater Western Sydney for Indigenous Australians and to promote the benefits of inclusiveness and diversity in the workplace to all employees. This includes emphasising the knowledge, skills, histories, traditions and cultures of Indigenous Australians, which also fosters an environment that embraces and values individual differences.

Areas of Research Activities

UWS is active in Indigenous research, which encourages collaboration amongst staff, students and community partners. It has a strong record in winning many local, state and federal grants and also participates in a range of industry, government and community commissioned research projects.

Some research projects related to Indigenous issues include:

- Assessing the effects of cultural stereotyping and discrimination on Indigenous secondary students’ educational outcomes
- The Anaiwan people and the impact of their music on the development of contemporary Aboriginal culture in the New England Tablelands area of NSW
Capability Statement

- Success in Indigenous Education – an exploration of optimum conditions for academic and life success for Aboriginal school students
- Reflections on success and racial stress- exploring Indigenous PhD students’ educational experiences
- Teaching teachers Indigenous studies to improve Indigenous students’ academic performance
- Getting a sporting chance- exploration of the benefits of participation in school-based sports academies on the personal development of Indigenous Australians
- Improving the motivation, engagement and academic outcomes of boys from rural, remote and Indigenous communities
- Community engagement programs, alleviating educational disadvantage amongst families of low socio-economic status (SES), Indigenous people, humanitarian refugees, non-English speaking backgrounds

Teaching, Learning and Training

Indigenous teaching, learning and training specialises in the following areas:
- Equity and diversity in the workplace
- Indigenous cultures and protocols
- Empowerment and leadership
- Improving access to tertiary education for Indigenous students
- Indigenous policy and curriculum
- Mentoring Indigenous students through foundation and support programs
- Improving Indigenous students economic and social wellbeing through quality education
- Issues related to Indigenous education
- Social and economic impact of educational policy and practice
- Professional development courses for education leaders and teachers

Previous Clients and Projects

Academics at UWS are engaged in a collaborative effort with businesses, government departments, local councils, community groups and research partners. Previous projects and clients in the field of early Indigenous education include:
- Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) - Teaching teachers Aboriginal studies to improve Indigenous students’ academic performance.
- Department of Defence- provision of a pilot program in Cultural Training for the Defence Indigenous Cadetship program
- NSW Board of Studies- Aboriginal literacy research project
- Mission Australia Youth Pathways- a joint initiative with UWS, other government and non-government agencies and funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). A workshop designed to build indigenous student’s self esteem and cultural identity via artistic and cultural based activities.
- A variety of projects aimed at promoting quality teaching sponsored through the Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP)

For information on consultancy services, assistance in finding an Indigenous specialist to meet your particular needs or information on other opportunities please contact:

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