Transforming Australia’s Higher Education System: What the Australian Government’s Reform Agenda means for disadvantaged students

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Education Reforms

Higher Education

Quality of teaching in schools

Literacy and numeracy

Closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage

Vocational Education and Training
Additional bachelor enrolments to meet the 40% attainment target by 2025 and the low SES 20% enrolment target by 2020

- Bachelor enrolments only

(*) Bachelor enrolments only

1. Only includes changes due to policy not population growth.
Participation & Partnerships Program

Equity Loading - $325m over four years:

- Financial incentive to expand enrolment of low SES students and to fund the intensive support needed to improve completion and retention rates.

  2010: $42.3 million
  2011: $84.9 million
  2012: $130.8 million
  2013: $133.3 million

- 2010 allocation - based on undergraduate enrolments, of students from low SES backgrounds
Partnerships Activities

- $108m over four years:
  - To raise aspirations of school student to access higher education.
  - Collaboration between universities, secondary schools, VET providers, State and Territory Governments, community groups and other relevant stakeholders.
  - 2010 $14.1 million
     2011 $28.3 million
     2012 $43.5 million
     2013 $44.4 million
Outreach programs, NSW

UniAdvice
UOW Discovery Days
The Rural Ambassador Program
The Year 10 Future Finder evenings and Year 12 Careers Expos
The UOW Links Program
The Mature-age Careers Conference
UniConnection
PASS program
University Access Program
Education Access Scheme
UAI Bonus Points scheme
TAFE Articulation Scheme
EdStart

Etc etc etc
Partnerships/Outreach

**Where we are now**

Many small scale outreach programs, many funding sources

Focussed on enrolment at specific institutions

Targeted mainly at Yrs 11 & 12

One-off

Rarely evaluated (for outcomes)

**Where we want to be**

Coherent & Systematic

Focussed on raising overall higher education participation

Earlier intervention (Yr 9 and earlier)

Sustained, people rich, cohort based

Evidence-based and systematically evaluated (including outcomes)
## Partnerships (cont)

### Where we are now
- Many small scale outreach programs, many funding sources
- Focussed on enrolment at specific institutions
- Targeted mainly at Yrs 11 & 12
- One-off
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### Where we want to be -
- Coherent & Systematic
- Focussed on raising overall higher education participation
- Earlier intervention (Yr 9 and earlier)
- Sustained, people rich, cohort based
- Evidence-based and systematically evaluated (including outcomes)
Link to compacts and performance funding

- Targets for each institution on broadening participation
- Performance funding linked to achievement of targets
- Each institution rated against own performance, not compared with other institutions
- All institutions expected to contribute to improving overall participation
SES discussion paper

“Socioeconomic status is an abstract concept for which there is no agreed international definition” James (2008)

“Socioeconomic status is a concept that is defined by its context; we need to avoid measures that ‘context strip’ individuals, effectively discounting their social and cultural circumstances, which contribute to who they are” Gale (2008)

“Socioeconomic status is typically used as a short hand expression for variables that enable the placement of persons, families, households and aggregates such as statistical local areas, communities and cities in some hierarchical order, reflecting their ability to produce and consume the scarce and valued resources of society” Western (1998)
## Dimensions of SES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational attainment</th>
<th>Economic resources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Community</td>
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“Young people from backgrounds of higher parental occupational status, better parental educational attainment and greater family wealth were more likely to have completed Year 12, to have entered higher education from Year 12 and to have participated in higher education by age 19.”

Long et al. (1999)
Other needs

- Indigenous peoples
- Income support
- Regional provision
Thank You