

## Indigenous Education Policy

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### 1. Background

In 2009, the Australian Government formally endorsed the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This endorsement was an acknowledgement by Australia that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples had sovereign rights over their heritage, their present and their future, which were to be aided and supported by the Australian Government and community.

Central to this Declaration are the rights of Indigenous peoples to education without discrimination (Article 14) and to have Indigenous cultures and aspirations reflected in education (Article 15).

Gateway Business College (GBC) aspires to be a significant presence in Australian higher education and is determined to encourage and facilitate Indigenous education through its courses and programs. This policy sets out the framework through which we will provide this support and encouragement.

### 2. Purpose

Through application of this policy GBC will establish practices and frameworks which encourage and facilitate Indigenous education and ensuring that all curricula include Indigenous material as appropriate.

This policy provides guidance for the development and management of Indigenous education and aims to align the College's educational activities with national Indigenous education policy and guidelines.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to all staff and students at GBC.

### 4. Definitions

**Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander:** Any person who:

- is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;
- identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and
- is recognised by the Indigenous community in which they live as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

**Indigenous education:** Education which creates equitable opportunities and outcomes for Indigenous Australians, and enhances the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous Australia throughout the wider community.

**Indigenous People:** "...Populations composed of the existing descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country wholly or partially at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the

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world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement or other means, reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation..."

*(United Nations Economic and Social Council, Commission on Human Rights, ref E/Cn.4./Sub.2/L.566, 1982).*

**Indigenous Australians:** The Indigenous people of Australia who are otherwise known as "Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders."

### 5. Principles

- We acknowledge Indigenous Australians as the original Australians and ongoing custodians of 'Country' who occupy a unique place within Australian society. GBC will take pride in, and actively seek to identify with, Indigenous Australia.
- Because of past educational practices many non-Indigenous Australians know very little about Indigenous Australia. GBC will wherever possible and practical include Indigenous education as part of the curriculum.
- GBC endorses the principle of equity for Indigenous peoples and we will deliver appropriate and effective educational services for Indigenous students and ensure our staff are flexible and innovative in educational and service delivery.
- We are committed to the provision of the resources required to support Indigenous education and will consider the provision of Indigenous scholarships at the appropriate time.
- We will ensure Indigenous consultation in planning and implementing this Indigenous Education Policy.
- We will, where appropriate and practical, strive to have Indigenous membership on all significant committees, advisory groups and working parties. We will endeavour to ensure that Indigenous education issues are specifically included in all major strategies and plans.
- We will be accountable to the Indigenous community regarding our plans, activities and achievements for Indigenous education.
- We are committed to an environment which is non-discriminatory and free of harassment for Indigenous people.

### 6. Procedures

GBC will:

- increase Indigenous undergraduate enrolment rates at GBC to levels commensurate with those of other Australians;
- ensure proper support is available at GBC to ensure Indigenous undergraduate progression, success and completion rates are commensurate with those of other Australians;
- ensure the inclusion of appropriate Indigenous content in curriculum across GBC;
- raise the prominence of Indigenous culture across GBC;
- increase Indigenous student participation in GBC governance and decision making;
- Report to Academic Board each semester on the number of indigenous students enrolled and their academic performance including any recommendations for change to support provisions.

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GBC will 'Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and pay respects to Elders past and present' at all significant College events where this is appropriate including but not limited to orientation day, graduation ceremonies, conferences, meetings of the Governance Board and Academic Board, seminars, presentations, open days, and other public events.

Recommendations:

General: I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present.

For further clarification see:

<https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/spirituality/welcome-to-country-acknowledgement-of-country#axzz4ptOEpvR7>

<https://www.reconciliation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Welcome-to-and-Acknowledgement-of-Country.pdf>

## 7. Review

This policy framework will be reviewed by the Corporate Governance Board and Academic Board every three years, or more frequently should the Board deem it necessary.

Document History			
Document Name	Indigenous Education Policy		
Document Owner	GBC	Date Developed	27.06.2017
Initial Approver	GBC Policy Development Committee	Date Initial Approval	14.08.2017
Reviewed by	Academic Board	Date of Approval	12.09.2017
Related Documents	Anti-Discrimination Policy Academic Language and Learning Support Policy Admissions Policy Community Engagement Policy Course Development and Approval Policy Orientation Policy Student Welfare Policy Students at Risk and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy		
Version No.	Summary of Changes		
1.	6. Procedures; revised information for clarity		