

Indigenous Education Policy

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.

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.
- 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 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;
- raise the prominence of Indigenous culture across GBC;
- increase Indigenous student participation in GBC governance and decision making.

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 sessions, graduation ceremonies, conferences, meetings of the Governance Board and Academic Board, seminars, presentations, open days, and other public events.

Recommended statement of acknowledgement:

"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."

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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. Records

Records associated with this policy will be maintained according to the Records Management Policy.

8. Related legislation

- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Act 2011
- TEQSA Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021
- Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).
- The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (the National Code 2018)

9. Review

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

Version Control

Document History			
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