

2022 Riawunna Review - Terms of Reference

Background

The University of Tasmania values the Riawunna Centre and the contributions made by its people, and is committed to critically supporting the continuous improvement and innovation of Riawunna's programs and services.

The University completed a review of its *Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement (SPAЕ)* in 2020. The SPAЕ maintains eight key domains for 2021-2024, with the Riawunna Centre making a significant contribution across each of these:

Undergraduate Students – promotes and delivers pathway programs to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students across Tasmanian secondary schools and colleges to increase enrolments; an enabling (Murina) program to provide an alternative pathway for enrolment and to build learning skills; academic support to undergraduate students through tutorial assistance and face to face advice; scholarships and bursaries; and dedicated cultural/study spaces across all campuses.

Learning and Teaching – contributes to the inclusion of Aboriginal knowledges in undergraduate courses

Employment – currently hosts a number of identified positions and a large proportion of the University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce

Research – assists academic researchers across the University with cultural advice and support in community engagement

Higher Degrees by Research – supports growth in numbers of high achieving graduate students

Community – promotes engagement and enrolment, maintains, develops and communicates a visible and welcoming cultural presence, maintains cultural spaces, facilitates protocols and acknowledgement of Indigenous cultures across the University

Governance – contributes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives across a number of University committees

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting – provides qualitative and quantitative data to support a range of University funding, performance and quality and improvement processes

Vision

This Review will examine the alignment of Riawunna's structure, programs and operation with the University's strategic priorities including the SPAЕ 2021-2024, the *University of Tasmania Strategic Plan 2019-2024*, and *People Strategy 2019-2024*.

Outcomes of the Review will reflect and inform Riawunna's vision and development to ensure innovation and success in responding to the support needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, the educational development needs of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, the cultural development needs of the University of Tasmania, and successful engagement with Indigenous people locally, nationally, and internationally.

Scope

The Review will consider Riawunna structures, resources, operations, reports and outcomes since the previous (2015) review, to identify key priorities and opportunities, and to make specific recommendations for implementation by the Academic Division of the University across a number

of key focus areas. Consideration will be made of the success of Riawunna's programs and approaches in relation to appropriate performance measures and outcomes, and examples of good practice. The review will also consider Riawunna's response to COVID 19 and comment on opportunities to build on successful initiatives.

Focus

1. Promotion and delivery of academic advice and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students

The review will examine current modes of support offered, identify present strengths and opportunities for continued improvement. This will include:

- 1.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student success initiatives (services and programs) delivered by Riawunna and other internal and external stakeholders since the Riawunna Review 2015
- 1.2 Riawunna tutoring program
- 1.3 The roles and co-ordination of Aboriginal Student Success Officers, Aboriginal Student Advisors and Aboriginal Community Engagement Officers
- 1.4 The monetary value, equity and benefit of current scholarships, bursaries and grants
- 1.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing

2. Approaches to enhancing diverse pathways to success for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through higher education

The review will consider the effectiveness and strengths of Riawunna's pathway programs, especially the Murina program, and recommend future directions. This will include:

- 2.1 School outreach programs aiming to increase retention, high achievement and enrolment
- 2.2 Community outreach programs aiming to promote engagement, enrolment and recognition of cultural knowledge and practices
- 2.3 The value, context, and priorities of the Murina program for student success and community development outcomes
- 2.4 Pathways that Riawunna facilitates for students into higher degrees, cadetships, training and employment
- 2.5 The role of Riawunna in promoting, developing and retaining Aboriginal employees
- 2.6 The role of Riawunna as a cultural interface for relationships between the University and Aboriginal Community

3. Responsibilities for cultural initiatives and support for students, staff, and community

The review will identify the effectiveness and strengths of Riawunna's cultural engagement programs, and recommend opportunities for continued improvement. This will include:

- 3.1 Cultural and social support delivered or facilitated by Aboriginal Community Engagement Officers and Riawunna programs more generally
- 3.2 The role, functions and effectiveness of cultural/study spaces across campuses
- 3.3 The value of Community/cultural events and their impact on student success, community engagement and development, and cultural competency at the University

- 3.4 The role Riawunna in supporting Indigenisation of curriculum and recognition of Aboriginal knowledges and perspectives in learning, teaching and research across the University
- 3.5 The role of Riawunna in relation to cultural protocols and practices at the University

4. The role of the University in supporting Riawunna's success

The review will consider current College and Divisional (including the Office of the PVC Aboriginal Leadership) relationships with Riawunna, and opportunities for enhancing collaboration to maximise positive impact for students, staff and Community. This will include:

- 4.1 Current communications methods and strategies, including face to face, digital and other communications with students, staff and community
- 4.2 Management and collaborative relationships cross Colleges and Divisions
- 4.3 Effectiveness of ISSP-funded initiatives delivered outside of Riawunna
- 4.4 Participation in committees and other governance structures
- 4.5 Contribution to reporting and data management

Method

The review will be conducted by the Panel of two external and two internal members, with at least 50% Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander membership. Information on the Review, including the Terms of Reference, will be made available to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students, and throughout Divisions and Colleges.

If possible, external members will be available to visit each University of Tasmania campus to undertake individual and group meetings as requested. In the event of travel restrictions, Zoom meetings will be facilitated. Written submissions will also be accepted.

A Report will be provided to the Provost summarising the Panel's response to the Focus Areas, informed by input gathered through meetings and submissions, and including recommendations.

Administrative support for the Panel will be provided by the Office of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Aboriginal Leadership.