
BRIEFING NOTE TO THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

**SUBJECT: INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAM
2020 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL**

FROM: Professor Greg Lehman, PVC Aboriginal Leadership

CRITICAL DATE: 31 May 2021 – due date for submission

RECOMMENDATION

That the Vice-Chancellor:

- accept the Performance Report and certify (sign) the Financial Acquittal (Attachment 2 p4) to allow the Provost's Office to submit both documents to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) at ISSP@niaa.gov.au by the due date.

RATIONALE

Situation

- This Report responds to performance metrics nominated by the NIAA (Attachment 3) and is guided by the University's *Strategic Plan for Aboriginal Engagement 2017-2020 (SPAЕ)*.
- Due date for submission specified in Attachment 3 has been extended from 30 April 2021 to 31 May 2021 with agreement from the NIAA.
- The University demonstrates in the Performance Report that it meets the conditions for eligibility for ISSP funding. In 2019, the University met requirements for an Indigenous Education Strategy and Governance Mechanism. With the completion of an Aboriginal Employment Plan in 2020 we met, for the first time, the requirement for an Indigenous Workforce Strategy. This is a significant achievement for the University.

Complication

- Submission of a compliant Financial Acquittal certified (signed) by the Vice-Chancellor, together with a Performance Report, is a prerequisite for continuing ISSP funding to the University.
- The Financial Acquittal demonstrates that ISSP funding has been used according to the *Indigenous Student Assistance Grant Guidelines 2017* and estimates the other funds that have been used to contribute towards supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student and staff outcomes.
- ISSP funds are intended to be supplemental to an institution's core responsibilities toward achieving parity in Indigenous student outcomes and employment. Increased commitment of Divisional and College funding will be necessary during

Professor Rufus Black
VICE-CHANCELLOR



APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

DATE: 26 May 2021

2021-2024 to enable implementation and embedding of initiatives contained in the *SPAЕ*, and consequent improvements in performance indicators.

Resolution

- The attached Performance Report and Financial Acquittal are of an appropriate standard for certification and submission. Continuing improvements are being sought in the quality of program descriptions and metrics.
- New models for co-funding and supplementary funding for ISSP-related initiatives are being developed in collaboration between the Academic Division, Finance, and the Colleges.

CONSULTATION

- The Performance Report is signed by all available members of the ISSP Governance Committee.
- The Financial Acquittal has been signed by the Financial Controller.

AUTHORITY TO APPROVE

- Certification by the Vice-Chancellor is a requirement of the ISSP Funding Agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: 2020 ISSP Performance Report
- Attachment 2: 2020 ISSP Financial Acquittal
- Attachment 3: 2021 letter and estimated ISSP entitlement

Prepared by: Professor Greg Lehman
Position Title: PVC, Aboriginal Leadership

Endorsed by: Professor Jane Long
Position Title: Provost
Date: