



#### ABOUT CURTIN

Curtin University is widely recognised for practical research that is firmly focused on solving real-world problems. Underpinning Curtin's research endeavours are strong partnerships with industry, business and government, which result in outcomes that greatly benefit the broader community locally, nationally and globally. Curtin University has been listed in the prestigious Academic Ranking of World Universities 2013 (or Shanghai Jiao Tong) for the fifth year in a row. Maintaining this ranking over a number of years confirms the University's standing among the top 500 universities in the world.



## RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PRACTICE

The NCSEHE has been established within the JCIPP and aligned with the Curtin Learning Institute to enable a balance between research and current equity practice in teaching and learning.

The centre's focus is based on three programs of research activity:

#### (i) Equity Policy and Program Evaluation

The centre will provide leadership and support in developing a national approach and relevant resources that will enable evaluation of the true impact of initiatives that seek to increase participation of people from low-SES backgrounds and other equity groups in higher education.

#### (ii) Equity Policy and Planning Research

By enabling high-quality national research and engagement on higher education policy and practice, the centre will ensure its research includes analysis of all student equity groups including people from low-SES, Indigenous, remote and rural communities, and people with disability. It will also work on producing and disseminating relevant publications and conducting engagement activities.

#### (iii) Student Equity Data

Researchers at the centre will:

- collect and analyse national equity data and survey data on student transition to higher education
- manage a central online website for presenting data on student equity performance in higher education; in particular, the mapping of higher education participation data in Australia
- provide access to sources for data and data-driven research on equity policy and programs from around Australia and the world.



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## CONTACT

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# NATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENT EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Closing the gap between  
equity policy, research and practice

# A CENTRE FOR EQUITY POLICY, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE



The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) began operation in 2008, hosted by the University of South Australia. In May 2013, Curtin University won the bid to take over the centre until December 2015, and received funding to achieve its aim of informing public policy design and implementation and institutional practice, to improve higher education participation and success for marginalised and disadvantaged people.

The NCSEHE's objectives are:

- to be at the centre of public policy dialogue about equity in higher education
- to 'close the gap' between equity policy, research and practice by:
  - > supporting and informing evaluation of current equity practice, with a particular focus on identifying good practice
  - > identifying innovative approaches to equity through existing research and the development of a forward research program to fill gaps in knowledge
  - > translating these learnings into practical advice for decision-makers and practitioners alike.

## Student equity and participation

The NCSEHE's focus is on student equity in higher education; however, this will not prevent the centre from addressing issues that arise at the interface between higher education and other sectors as needed.

The work of the centre will not be limited to the issue of low-SES participation, focusing more broadly on equity issues as they relate to the range of groups that are marginalised and/or disadvantaged in higher education.



## PEOPLE



**Sue Trinidad**  
Director and Program Leader

### **Professor Sue Trinidad PhD** DIRECTOR AND PROGRAM LEADER

Prior to becoming the centre's Director, Professor Trinidad was Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor and Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities at Curtin from 2007 to 2012. In these roles she provided academic leadership for all educational programs for the schools of Education, Media, Communications, Creative Arts, Architecture, Social Sciences and Asian Languages, and Art and Design. As an established scholar in the areas of higher education pedagogy and change management; the use of technology; and student learning, her research covers higher education and leadership, and more recently with the use of technology for regional, rural and remote areas to provide equity access to all students regardless of their geographical location.



**John Phillimore**  
Program Leader

### **Professor John Phillimore PhD** PROGRAM LEADER NATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENT EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN CURTIN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Professor Phillimore is the Executive Director of the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy (JCIPP) at Curtin and works on a range of public policy issues including federalism, higher education policy, public sector management, innovation and technology policy, and the Australian welfare state. For the two years immediately prior to joining Curtin in mid-2007, he was the head of intergovernmental relations in WA, where his responsibilities included advising the Premier and Cabinet on COAG and other federalism-related policy issues.



**Mike Dockery**  
Program Leader

### **Associate Professor Mike Dockery PhD** PROGRAM LEADER NATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENT EQUITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW, JOHN CURTIN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

Associate Professor Dockery is Principal Research Fellow with the JCIPP and the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre. He currently leads the Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation's project on Indigenous mobility. His other research focuses on the school-to-work transition; the effects of work and other labour market experience on happiness and wellbeing; Indigenous labour market and social outcomes; and the effects of housing assistance on labour market outcomes.

## GOVERNANCE

The NCSEHE Advisory Board was appointed in consultation with the former Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (now the Australian Government Department of Education). The Advisory Board performs a key governance role for the centre, ensuring accountability, transparency and performance. A separate Advisory Committee will oversee the research and dissemination program.

The Advisory Board comprises:

- **Hon. Fred Chaney AO**  
Chairman
- **Professor Bruce Chapman**  
Professor of Economics and  
Director, Policy Impact  
Australian National University
- **Winthrop Professor Carmen Lawrence**  
School of Psychology  
The University of Western Australia
- **Professor Colleen Hayward**  
Head of Kurongkurl Katitjin  
Centre for Indigenous Education and  
Research and Pro Vice-Chancellor  
(Equity and Indigenous)  
Edith Cowan University
- **Paul Nicholls**  
Director of Strategic Projects (R&D)  
Curtin University
- **Craig Ritchie**  
Australian Government  
Department of Education
- **Professor Kerri-Lee Krause**  
Universities Australia Nominee  
University of Western Sydney
- **Dr Nadine Zacharias**  
President, Equity Practitioners in  
Higher Education Australasia



Join us online at [ncsehe.edu.au](http://ncsehe.edu.au) to view projects, research, news updates and the latest information in the equity space.

**Professor Sue Trinidad**  
Director, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education

