

2017 EQUITY FELLOW

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education



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PROJECT INFORMATION

Strengthening evaluation within Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia

Enhancing Indigenous pathways and transitions into higher education is a key equity priority in Australia. To do this effectively we need robust evidence assessing the process, impact and outcomes of Indigenous higher education policies and programs. In particular, the Productivity Commission and the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have emphasised the need to increase the quality and utility of evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts. This proposal aims to investigate ways of strengthening the evaluation of Indigenous higher education programs and policies in Australia.

Key research questions will include:

- What do we know about the quality and utility of evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia?
- What are the current challenges and opportunities associated with planning and undertaking evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia?
- What are the enablers and barriers associated with using evaluation evidence to inform policy and program development and reform aimed at supporting Indigenous participation and achievement in higher education in Australia?
- What strategies might be useful for strengthening evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts in Australia?

This project is multi-faceted and involves:

- Completing a comprehensive review of final reports, evaluation reports and academic papers arising from government funded Indigenous higher education programs;
- Primary research interviews with Indigenous scholars/leaders and higher education policy-makers about the quality and utility of Indigenous higher education evaluation data; and
- The development of national principles about evaluation in Indigenous higher education contexts that can be used by equity practitioners across Australia.

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