



NCSEHE | National Centre for Student
Equity in Higher Education



Curtin University

2018 WORLD ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION DAY

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education
Curtin University, Western Australia — 28 November 2018

#WAHED2018

Make tomorrow better.

Welcome

Professor Sue Trinidad

Director, National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education



The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (NCSEHE) is proud to be part of a new global initiative, hosting the inaugural World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED) event at Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia.

National and international stakeholders will network to positively impact worldwide equitable access to higher education. One hundred and thirteen organisations from over 30 countries are engaged in WAHED, with a total of 21 events to be held today, as well as 24 registered supporters.

Here in Australia, and across the world, this event brings together a wonderful network of passionate people who care about higher education access, participation and completion for all who have the ability to do so. All students should be given the opportunity to successfully gain a higher education degree no matter their circumstances.

Today you will hear many stories of where investing in equity in education has tremendous life-changing benefits and long-term dividends. Equity in education—defined as the extent to which economic, social, and cultural status influences student outcomes—varies significantly across the world.

It is more crucial than ever that a more concerted effort is made to make access to education more equitable. As the WAHED event clearly illustrates across the world, to reach this goal we need innovations in thinking and practice, and the engagement of new stakeholders from within, and outside, higher education. The WAHED event is the start of something truly amazing in connecting us globally and I do hope you enjoy; as we all know 'EQUITY MATTERS'.

As with any event, there are many people to acknowledge and sincerely thank — from the presenters, to the NCSEHE staff and Adjunct Fellows who have all worked tirelessly to bring together such a wonderful event, to the 138 delegates from around Australia joining us here today.

Thank you to Professor Simon Forrest (Curtin Elder in Residence) and Professor John Cordery (Curtin University Provost) for their welcome, and Professor Glenn Withers (Professor of Economics, Research School of Economics, College of Business and Economics, Australian National University) for his keynote speech on the value and benefits of Australian universities.

It is wonderful to hear the student voice in an inspiring session chaired by Professor Sally Kift (President, Australian Learning and Teaching Fellows) where the students share their personal stories of overcoming barriers to success as these are at the heart of student equity in higher education.

My sincere thanks to Professor Lesley Parker, Chair of the NCSEHE Advisory Committee and the Equity Fellows program, and the 2018 NCSEHE Research Fellow Maria Raciti (University of the Sunshine Coast). Maria has been a wonderful addition to the NCSEHE during 2018, researching *How the perceived risks of going to university influence the decision by people from low SES backgrounds to participate in Australian higher education*. Thank you to Matt Brett (2017 NCSEHE Equity Fellow and 2018 Visiting Fellow) and Nadine Zacharias (2016 NCSEHE Equity Fellow and 2017/18 Senior Research Fellow) for their lead in the process of collating and presenting today Student Equity 2030: *The Best Chance for All*. This important work provides strategic directions and recommendations that will inform public policy to shape a stronger and more equitable higher education sector for 2030 and beyond.

Finally, we are pleased to participate in the live link to Aston University, Birmingham to join the official launch of WAHED UK *Beyond Borders — Widening access to higher education through international co-operation*.

I do hope you enjoy celebrating World Access to Higher Education Day 2018.

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Username: wahed@curtin.guest
Password: o6fGm~

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What is World Access to Higher Education Day?

World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED), led by the National Education Opportunities Network (NEON), and supported by NCUK, will network multiple conferences globally to focus the attention of stakeholders from across the world on the issues of access and diversity in higher education.

WAHED will have the following objectives:

- engage stakeholders from across the public and private sector in equitable access to higher education
- act as a global platform that can add value to work being undertaken at local level, and also can lever in greater support for equitable access work at national and international level
- establish goals to orientate action to make access to higher education equitable across the world
- launch a new global Higher Education Access & Diversity consortium
- articulate 'access to higher education' as including the completion of quality higher education and progression into post-higher education study/work for learners from underrepresented groups.

WAHED components:

- A network of international conferences occurring on WAHED 2018 — Worldwide organisations/institutions will host events on WAHED 2018.
- Worldwide 'access & diversity slam' — Individual countries will showcase innovative access and diversity activities in their own countries.
- Global student voices campaign — Bringing together the voices of students from diverse communities and their stories from across the world.
- Launch of the Global Higher Education Access & Diversity Consortium — It is envisaged such a consortium will focus in particular on building the evidence base and using this to advocate for change and driving forward innovation in practice.

About the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education

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 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 assist in closing the loop 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.

In keeping with its purpose, the NCSEHE is connecting Commonwealth student equity policy with the activities of higher education institutions and national equity outcomes through its input into comparative assessment of institutional strategies, systemic assessments of policy achievements and assessments of national policy-making in view of this evidence.

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

1. Equity Policy and Program Evaluation
2. Equity Policy and Planning Research
3. Student Equity Data.

The NCSEHE's key purpose is "to inform public policy design and implementation, and institutional practice, to improve higher education participation and success for marginalised and disadvantaged people."

Connecting equity policy,
research and practice.

Program

12:30 PM	Registration, refreshments on arrival
1:00 PM	Welcome to Country - Professor Simon Forrest
1:10 PM	Introduction, overview and welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin University Provost, Professor John Cordery • NCSEHE Director, Professor Sue Trinidad • Minister's Address: The Hon. Dan Tehan MP • NCSEHE Chair, Ms Erin Watson-Lynn
1:30 PM	<i>Student Voice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual student stories • Student Panel — Chaired by Professor Sally Kift
3:00 PM	2019 Combined EPHEA and NAEAA Conference introduction: Ms Gabrielle O'Brien and Ms Kylie Austin
Afternoon tea, meet and greet <i>Student Voice</i> participants	
3:45 PM	Keynote: Professor Glenn Withers
4:15 PM	Introduction of NCSEHE Research Fellow by Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker AM
4:25 PM	NCSEHE Research Fellow presentation and Q&A: Associate Professor Maria Raciti <i>How the perceived risks of going to university influence the decision by people from low SES backgrounds to participate in Australian higher education</i>
5:00 PM	NCSEHE Equity Fellows past and present: Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker
5:15 PM	Student Equity 2030 — <i>The Best Chance for All</i> : Dr Nadine Zacharias and Mr Matt Brett
5:45 PM	Live cross to launch WAHED UK, including conference welcome by Dr Graeme Atherton and Professor Helen Higson
6:20 PM	Summary, conclusion and close: Professor Sue Trinidad
6:30-8:00 PM	Social reception and SPERA Conference welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSEHE Research Grants Program report — <i>People seeking asylum in Australia: Access and support in higher education</i>: Dr Lisa Hartley and Associate Professor Caroline Fleay, introduced by Professor John Phillimore • Welcome to 34th National SPERA Conference: Mr Brian O'Neill

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Speakers



Graeme ATHERTON

Dr Graeme Atherton studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Trinity College Oxford and has been working in the field of education research and management since 1995. After six years leading Aimhigher work in London, he founded and now leads both AccessHE and NEON in the UK. Graeme holds Visiting Professorships at London Metropolitan University and Sunway University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is a member of the European Access Network (EAN) Board and has produced over 120 conference papers and publications.



Kylie AUSTIN

Kylie Austin is the Senior Manager, Student Equity & Success at the University of Wollongong. Kylie has led the equity strategy and the implementation of institution-wide HEPPP funded projects for the last 10 years. In addition to this, Kylie is also the NSW Chapter convener for EPHEA. Kylie is also completing her PhD, which is focused on the development of mutually beneficial partnerships to improve outcomes for individuals who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.



Matt BRETT

Matt Brett was a 2017 NCSEHE Equity Fellow and is currently Director of Academic Governance and Standards at Deakin University. He has worked at La Trobe University and the University of Melbourne in policy, planning and student services roles. He has published widely on a range of student equity related issues. He prepared the sectors first institutional Mental Health Strategy in 2008, now adopted as industry standard.



John CORDERY

Professor John Cordery has held the position of Provost at Curtin University since July 2015. Professor Cordery came to Curtin from the University of Western Australia, where he was Professor in Management & Organisations within the UWA Business School and held a range of leadership positions, including Chair of Academic Board. Professor Cordery's academic background is in applied psychology, where his research has focused on ways of maximising the effectiveness of groups and teams in complex organisations.



Caroline FLEAY

Caroline Fleay is Associate Professor at the Centre for Human Rights Education, Curtin University, where she teaches human rights and conducts research into the experiences of people seeking asylum. She has written extensively about the impacts on people seeking asylum of indefinite detention and being released into the community with minimal supports. Caroline is currently a Board Member of the Refugee Council of Australia and continues to campaign on the rights of people seeking asylum.



Simon FORREST

Professor Simon Forrest, Curtin Elder in Residence, was born and raised in Wadjuk country (Perth) and has connections to country at Goomalling (Balardong), Swan Valley (Wajuk), Mt Magnet (Badimaya) and Leonora (Wongutha). He taught in Aboriginal communities and rural towns, and worked in the public sector in senior managerial positions in education and curriculum and Indigenous affairs policy and implementation. Simon is WA's longest serving Aboriginal academic and was the Inaugural Head of KurongKurl Katijin School of Indigenous Australian Studies at ECU.

Speakers Cont.



Lisa HARTLEY

Dr Lisa Hartley is Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Human Rights Education. Her research is focused on questions of human rights and social change and cuts across the fields of refugee and migrant studies, sociology, and community and social psychology. Lisa's research interests include the experiences of refugees and people seeking asylum which is integrally connected with her community engagement work with community groups and people seeking asylum in Australia.



Helen HIGSON

Professor Helen Higson is Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Aston University where she leads on the implementation and delivery of the University's academic strategy, including academic resourcing and developing and supporting academic departments. As the Chief Academic Officer, Helen provides strategic leadership to ensure the University meets its objectives and is directly responsible for learning and teaching; employability; and student planning.



Gabrielle O'BRIEN

Gabrielle O'Brien has 20 years' experience in higher education across various areas. She has worked in both staff and student equity roles in three Queensland universities with particular focus on widening participation, access and retention for equity groups, gender equity, diversity training and disability. Gabrielle is also the President of the Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA), a position she has held for over 4 years and has been involved with since 2007.



Brian O'NEILL

Brian is President of SPERA, past President and life member of the Queensland State P-10/P-12 School Administrators' Association, and member of Education Queensland's Rural and Remote Education Reference Group. For the past 15 years he has been Principal of the Calen District State College, a small rural P-12 school situated between Mackay and Proserpine. With 33 years' experience working in Queensland rural schools, Brian is currently researching for his Doctor of Education, CQUniversity.



Lesley PARKER

Emeritus Professor Lesley Parker AM is Chair of the NCSEHE Advisory Committee and the Equity Fellows program Selection and Reference Committee. Lesley has dedicated many years to leadership, research, teaching and policy development in higher education. As well as serving as a member or chair of the councils of numerous schools, colleges and industry bodies, Lesley has authored many publications, especially in the area of gender equity in science and mathematics education, and was awarded the Order of Australia in 1998.



John PHILLIMORE

John is the Executive Director of the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy (JCIPP) at Curtin University, 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.



Maria RACITI

Associate Professor Maria Raciti is the 2018 Research Fellow with the NCSEHE, a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK) and co-leader of the USC Indigenous Studies Research Theme as well as the Transcultural and Indigenous Pedagogies Research Group. Maria's discipline area is marketing, and she uses marketing tools for the greater good — being the pursuit of equity, social justice and betterment.



Dan TEHAN

The Hon Dan Tehan MP is the Member for Wannon in Victoria. He is Minister for Education and was sworn in on 28 August 2018. Mr Tehan served as Minister for Social Services from 20 December 2017. Prior to this, he was the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Defence Personnel, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Cyber Security and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of Anzac.



Sue TRINIDAD

Professor Sue Trinidad is an established scholar and researcher in the area of higher education and currently leads the NCSEHE team and various research projects. Prior to becoming the NCSEHE Director, Professor Trinidad was Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities at Curtin during 2007-12.



Erin WATSON-LYNN

Ms Erin Watson-Lynn is Chair of the NCSEHE Advisory Board and Director, Asialink Diplomacy, at the University of Melbourne and a PhD Candidate in South Asia studies at Monash University. She is the co-founder of DICE Kids, whose Patron is Lucy Turnbull AO. Ms Watson-Lynn is also the founder of Generate Worldwide, which delivers Work Integrated Learning opportunities in India.



Glenn WITHERS

Glenn Withers is Professor of Economics in ANU Research School of Economics and the Crawford School. He helped to establish the Productivity Commission, the Crawford School, ANZSOG and was founding CEO of Universities Australia. He has been an adviser to private sector and community sector organisations in Australia and overseas, from the North West Shelf Consortium and the Business Council of Australia to the OECD and UNDP. He was awarded an Order of Australia for services to applied economics.



Nadine ZACHARIAS

Dr Nadine Zacharias was an inaugural Equity Fellow in 2016 and is 2017-18 Senior Research Fellow at the NCSEHE. With Matt Brett, she is currently leading the Student Equity 2030 policy consultation process to develop a new vision statement for student equity in Australian tertiary education. Nadine's research interests and expertise are at the intersection of equity research, practice and policy at institutional and national levels.

Student Voice

STUDENT PANEL CHAIR



Sally KIFT

Professor Sally Kift is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (PFHEA), a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law (FAAL), and President of the Australian Learning & Teaching Fellows (ALTF). She has held several university leadership positions, most recently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at James Cook University. Sally is a national Teaching Award winner, a Senior Teaching Fellow and a Discipline Scholar, Law. In 2017, she received an Australian University Career Achievement Award for her contribution to Australian higher education.

STUDENTS



Nicola-Jean BERRY

Nicola-Jean Berry grew up on the North West Coast of Tasmania. From the ages of 3 to 10 she spent time in and out of the foster care system, becoming a ward of the state at 11. Now 24, Nicola-Jean is a first year student at La Trobe University in Melbourne studying, social work in the hope that she can be the support for others that she did not have herself.



Laura CHRISTIE

From a regional background, with Aboriginal heritage in the Keewong mob from Ngyiaampa country, Laura Christie began university as a mature student. While studying business and behavioural science, Laura participated in a NCSEHE funded research project through the QUT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Vacation Research Experience Scheme. Laura is a student member of Indigenous Allied Health Australia and participates in the Career Trackers Internship Program.



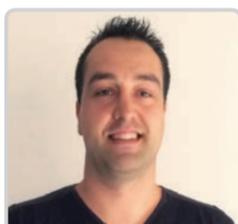
Cassio DA SILVA

Cassio Da Silva is studying a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electronic and Energy at Griffith University. Enrolling as a mature student in order to pursue a new career, Cassio cites peer mentoring as a foundation for his academic success. He now supports other students as a tutor, mentor and Griffith ambassador. Cassio has been involved in programs including Uni-Reach; Adult Learner Outreach; Uni-Key; Griffith Mates; and Launch into Life.



Tahlia DANKS

Tahlia Danks works to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their access to, and attainment in, higher education. First in her family to complete school and attend university, Tahlia has a unique perspective on higher education, spending the last five years working in school outreach for metropolitan and regional universities to ensure that other disadvantaged young Australians realise their full potential.



Joseph DAWSON

Joseph Dawson is a mature age student who studied a Bachelor of Biomedical Science at Federation University. During his undergraduate degree Joseph was awarded the Executive Dean's award, W&D Finance Biomedical Science prize (Albert Coates Award), Histology Group of Victoria Award, and the prestigious Federation University Medal for the top graduating student. He is now studying a Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery with the goal of become a rural GP.



Donna DOUVARTZIDIS

As the first in her family to attend university, Donna Douvartzidis embarked on a journey of academic and personal growth at the University of South Australia as a mature student after raising three children, with the support of UniSA College. Donna honourably graduated with a double degree in International Relations and Journalism in the Education, Arts and Social Sciences Division, and maintains a focus on women's rights.



Jed FRASER

Jed Fraser is a proud Bidjara and Mandandanji man. He is currently studying a Graduate Diploma of Public Health at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Jed is passionate about Indigenous education and works with Indigenous youth to inspire further post-school study. He received the 2018 QUT Alumni Special Excellence Leadership Award for his work in Indigenous communities and is an Ambassador for the Explore Uni program and The Oodgeroo Unit.



Helen MILLER

Helen Miller is a mature age student living in a country town in Queensland. Born with a physical disability, she competed in the workplace until an increasing loss of mobility ended her career in Financial Learning and Development. Helen aims to continue working in the virtual world of the internet and equips herself with the skills that higher education imparts. Without online study, Helen could not achieve her goals.



Jonathan SAE-KOEW

Jonathan Sae-Koew is currently completing a PhD in Psychology at Murdoch University, after achieving First Class Honours in Psychology and Philosophy at undergraduate level. Jonathan overcame significant barriers to his success; streamed out of ATAR, he still aspired to go to university. With the support of Canning College's Flying Start program and Murdoch's On Track, Jonathan has experienced significant personal growth, both mentally and academically, through higher education.



Amber SCOTT

Originally from regional Tasmania, and the first in her family to attend university, Amber Scott is studying law at the University of Tasmania, and convenes the Tasmanian Youth Local Government Conference. Having to overcome challenges including relocation from her home town, Amber's transition to higher education was assisted by the University Connections Program. Amber hopes to influence youth in her community to take a similar view on higher education.



Damon STEVENS

Damon Stevens is a University of Wollongong (UOW) student, graduating this semester in Law (First Class Honours) and International Studies (Distinction). Damon lives in the Illawarra, and was the first in his family to attend university. He works as an In2Uni Mentor and Peer Academic Coach at UOW, assisting primary, high school and university students—including those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds—to access resources and support.

2018 NCSEHE Research Fellowship

Associate Professor Maria Raciti (University of the Sunshine Coast) has been supported by the NCSEHE throughout 2018 to conduct a Research Fellowship project, aiming to understand the interplay between career construction in the 21st century, future work and the perceived risks of going to university for young people from low socioeconomic status (SES) backgrounds.

Making career decisions is becoming increasingly complex and fraught with risk. Perceived risks are endemic in the decision to go to university and Maria's Fellowship drilled down into the role of perceived risks in light of the contemporary career context where traditional ways of planning careers no longer work. With more occupations to choose from than ever before, young people experience confusion or even decision paralysis. With predictions that jobs in the future are more likely to need a university education, there is a need to accelerate efforts to increase participation of people from low SES backgrounds to prevent the further deepening of social inequalities.

The appointment has incorporated a secondment with the Australian Government Department of Education and Training, during which time Maria forged valuable

connections with widening participation decision-makers and exchanged perspectives on student equity.

Currently Associate Professor in Marketing in the USC Business School. Maria was the first Indigenous PhD graduate from CQUniversity, the inaugural USC OLT citation recipient, the inaugural Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) in the then USC Faculty of Arts and Business and is a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).

More information on the Research Fellowship project, *How the perceived risks of going to university influence the decision by people from low SES backgrounds to participate in Australian higher education*, is available here: <https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/2018-research-fellow-maria-raciti/>

NCSEHE Equity Fellows Program

The Equity Fellows Program was an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (DET) and was managed by the NCSEHE. The Program supported six Fellows during 2016/17 to undertake strategic, high-impact leadership projects targeted, sector-wide, at improving higher education access, participation and success for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

As part of their projects, the Fellows spent time working in, and with, the DET in Canberra, facilitating mutually beneficial engagement between the Department and the sector as a way of exchange and leadership opportunities. Bringing together higher education researchers with higher education policymakers and administrators was an innovative and creative feature of the Equity Fellowships, enabling both parties to learn from each other and to share different perspectives on student equity.

Two cohorts of three Fellows, in 2016 and 2017, have had direct influence and impact on equity in the higher education sector through:

- identification of equity issues in the Australian higher education system, and the development and facilitation of approaches to address these issues
- sector-wide leadership in promoting, enhancing and developing good practice in improving access, participation and success in higher education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- development of a collaborative arrangement for the

ongoing exchange of knowledge between the sector and the DET to inform the delivery of government programs and policy concerned with equity in higher education.

Equity Fellowship projects have also:

- raised the profile in higher education institutions of efforts to widen participation among students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- established and built upon national and international partnerships and collaboration in widening participation.

The Equity Fellows Program has played a fundamental role in developing and delivering the NCSEHE's objectives: strengthening the evidence base by informing research directions; collaborating with stakeholders to be at the centre of public policy dialogue; and promoting leadership and innovation in the equity sector.

More information on the Equity Fellows Program is available here: <https://www.ncsehe.edu.au/project/equity-fellows-program/>

Student Equity 2030

It is a decade since the last major review of the role that equity plays in Australian higher education, the *Bradley Review of Australian Higher Education*, and over 30 years since the core framework for equity was first defined in the 1990 White Paper, *A Fair Chance for All*. It is now time to take stock and rethink the vision for student equity in the context of the contemporary Australian higher education system and economy.

There is much to celebrate in the contributions of equity policy, practice and research to the success of the Australian higher education system and its impact on social wellbeing and economic productivity. An accessible, high-quality higher education sector that is integrated with global innovation systems has been a contributing factor to over a quarter-century of uninterrupted economic growth. However, inequality remains a concern, and many groups remain underrepresented in higher education.

During 2017-18 the NCSEHE conducted a series of workshops and webinars through the **Building Legacy and Capacity Project** — a strategic initiative to further extend the Centre's capacity in synthesising, codifying and disseminating learnings from student equity research and practice to inform future initiatives, studies and policy.

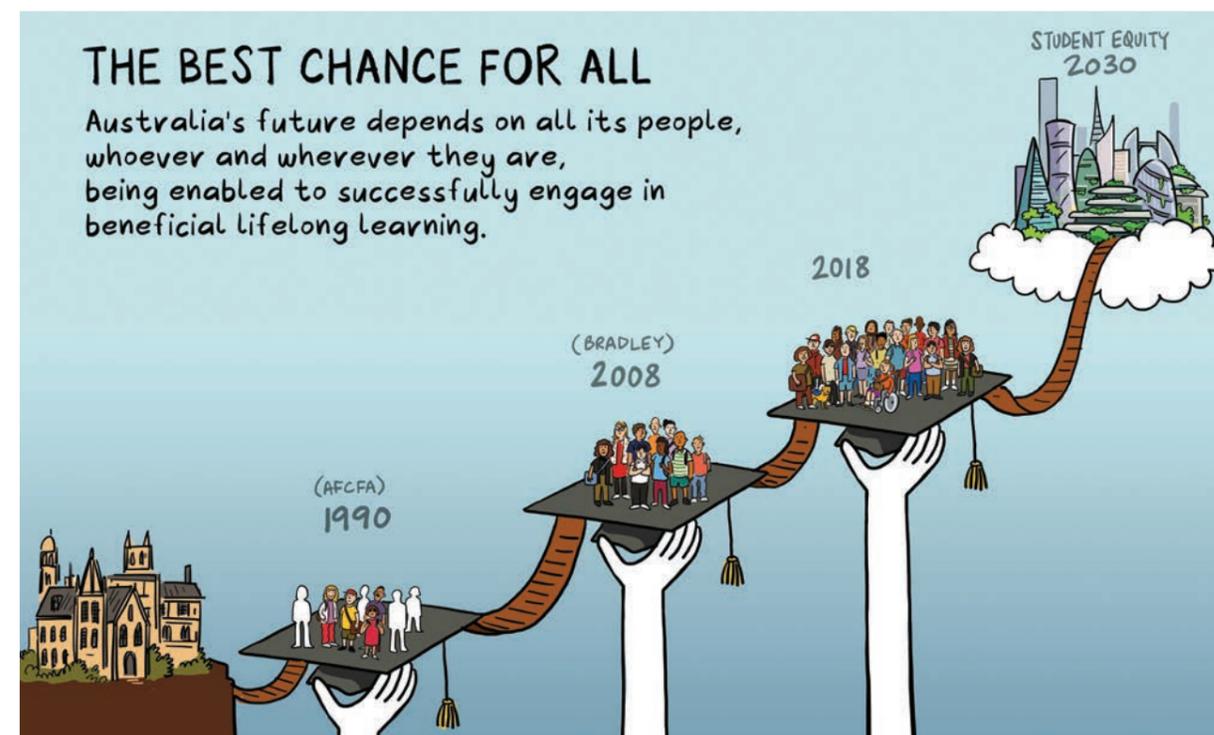
The final workshop in the Building Legacy and Capacity series brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers and policy influencers to advance a national conversation on *Equity 2030 — a long-term strategic vision for student equity in higher education*.

The 2018 *Student Equity 2030 Discussion Paper* built upon the existing work of the NCSEHE and the Building Legacy and Capacity Project, outlining key concepts, challenges and contradictions associated with achieving student equity in higher education in an era of near-universal participation. Possible options for resolving these challenges and contradictions were presented in the paper. Eight big questions were articulated to prompt discussion across the sector.

Written responses to the paper were complemented by a series of ten roundtable discussions, held in major Australian capital cities and regional centres where the key questions were explored in a collaborative and constructive conversational form.

A final report, *The Best Chance for All*, informed by feedback from written submissions and face-to-face workshops, will soon be published by the NCSEHE.

More information on these projects and publications is available on the NCSEHE website: ncsehe.edu.au



Share your own visions for Student Equity 2030 on the canvases located at the front of the lecture theatre, or through #StudentEquity2030.

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<https://worldaccesshe.com/>



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