

# 2020 NCSEHE EQUITY FELLOW

National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education



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## PROJECT INFORMATION

Building a stronger evidence base to support effective outreach strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students: Increasing impact and university participation

“This Equity Fellowship focuses on developing evidence to demonstrate success factors and highlight areas to strengthen outreach initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

Many universities run outreach initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students that attempt to elevate aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to go to university. Many of these programs involve week-long intensive camp experiences that bring school students onto university campuses for information sessions, workshops and events that attempt to demystify university culture and cultivate a sense of belonging to build and sustain student engagement.

However, research-based evidence of impact of these programs is limited; there is a relative dearth of publicly available, peer-reviewed research or evaluation on the effects of outreach initiatives. This project will fill that gap by strengthening the evidence and research base about the effectiveness of intensive camp outreach strategies targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and assist in strengthening outreach programs by identifying effective practice. Improving the evidence base for ‘what works’ in effective outreach camps will highlight the strengths of these programs and assist in improving and implementing stronger programs to support the transition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student into higher education. This will be achieved through a high-quality research project that will build the evidence base of effective outreach intensive activities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

I will draw on the important work done on evaluation to identify the range of strategies and initiatives that are used to increase higher education access specifically for Indigenous students, and then will summarise and evaluate the evidence of the effectiveness of the initiatives.”

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