

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee of the Griffith University Council was held at 1.30pm – 3.30pm on Thursday, 25 October 2012 in Meeting Room 4.08, L07, Logan campus.

MINUTES

PRESENT

Uncle Graham Dillon (Chair)
Professor Marilyn McMeniman (DVC & Provost)
Uncle Thomas Sebasio
Aunty Anne Chapman
Ms Bronwyn Dillon
Ms Maira Watson (for Phil Mairu)
Professor Adrian Miller

APOLOGIES

Ms Kerry Bodle
Mr Harry van Issum
Ms Jennifer Herd
Uncle Bill Chapman
Ms Tish King
Uncle Bob Anderson
Professor Boni Robertson
Aunty McRose Elu
Mr Shane Barnes
Mr John Graham
Mr Corie Duff

Ms Jenny O'Neill (for item 5.0)
Ms Rosemary Marson (Secretary)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, the Chair invited Aunty Anne Chapman to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meets.

1.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 3/2012 meeting of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee (ATSIAC), having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

**SECTION A: RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO COUNCIL AND ITS
SUB-COMMITTEES**

NIL

SECTION B: ACTION UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

NIL

SECTION C: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS

2.0 GUMURRII STUDENT SUPPORT UNIT (SSU)

The Head, Gumurrii Student Support Unit provided a written report to the ATSIAC on the following activities and initiatives.

2.1 Update on Premises – Gold Coast (G11) and Nathan (N06)

The construction of the facility at the Gold Coast Campus will be completed by the end of April, 2013. The original completion date was late December 2012; however weather conditions during crucial construction periods have caused delays.

Staff have been relocated to the newly refurbished Administration Centre on Nathan Campus in the Patience Thoms building (N06). The outdoor area is still not completed and construction will commence once the students have completed their academic semester. The area will be completed prior to the Christmas Break.

2.2 Simon Fraser University (SFU), Vancouver, Visit to Griffith in January 2013.

Mr William Lindsay (Director, Office for Aboriginal Peoples, SFU) is visiting Griffith University (January 21 – 25) with a delegation of four students and First Nations Elders. The purpose of the visit is to give potential applicants a taste of life at Griffith University, with the intention that these students will return for an international exchange for a semester in 2014.

An invitation will be extended to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee to meet with the delegation on Tuesday 22 January, 2013.

2.3 Harmony Week 2013

The theme for Harmony Week in 2013 is *What's Your Story?* A committee has been established to coordinate a university-wide approach. Draft programs are being established and will be forwarded to the ATSIAC, with a view to the Advisory Committee becoming involved in the implementation of some of the activities.

2.4 'Hands Up' Tertiary Preparation Program 2013

Planning has commenced for the implementation of the 2013 *Hands Up! Tertiary Participation Program*. The program has been extended to three weeks to include a more intensive academic preparation for participants. The dates for the program are 21 January – 7 February 2013.

2.5 HEPPP 2 – The Family Project Graduation – November 15, 2013

The participants have almost completed the six modules for the program that covers basic computing skills, Microsoft office, digital imaging and basic research in genealogy. Feedback indicates that the program is successful and participants have demonstrated a keen interest. The Student Guild at the Gold Coast is hosting a function for the participants on completion of the program on November 15, 2012. The second intake of the program will commence in March 2013, with mature aged learners from the targetted demographic area.

2.6 The ATSIAC thanked the Head, Gumurrii Student Support Unit for this detailed report.

SECTION D: MATTERS NOTED, CONSIDERED, OR REMAINING UNDER DISCUSSION**3.0 HIGHER EDUCATION ACCESS AND OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE**

3.1 The ATSIAC noted that the report of the national review into Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People was released in September 2012. Members recalled that the review panel was established to examine how higher education outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people contribute to nation building and the reduction of Indigenous disadvantage.

3.2 Members of the ATSIAC recalled that Griffith University provided a detailed response to the panel, following the release of the Context Paper by the panel on 19 September 2011.

3.3 The ATSIAC noted that the *Report of the Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People* highlights the role that higher education plays in improving health, education and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The report is available at:

<http://www.innovation.gov.au/HigherEducation/IndigenousHigherEducation/ReviewOfIndigenousHigherEducation/Pages/default.aspx>

3.4 The DVC & Provost advised the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee that the University has compiled a detailed response against these areas and that the documentation will be forwarded to ATSIAC for noting.

4.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

4.1 The ATSIAC was advised that the Griffith's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has been endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and was launched at the Nathan campus on Tuesday, 11 September 2012.

4.2 The ATSIAC noted that the RAP includes a number of actions which are listed under the following headings:

Respect - *Acknowledgement of First Peoples to build mutual and reciprocal respect based on shared cultural knowledge*

Relationships – *Fostering mutual understanding through meaningful connections – our community is as strong, enabling and vibrant as the relationships we develop, nurture and celebrate*

Opportunities – *Increasing educational and career access and success for Indigenous students and staff*

4.3 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee requested that updates on the implementation of the RAP be forwarded to the Advisory Committee for consideration at the 2013 meetings.

5.0 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY'S INDIGENOUS CADETSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT

5.1 The ATSIAC welcomed the Indigenous Student Placement Officer to the meeting, who spoke to the report *Indigenous Employment Projects Report, October 2012*. The ATSIAC was reminded that Griffith's Indigenous Cadetships and Graduate Employment program has enjoyed considerable success since it commenced operation in 2003. Including the following achievements:

- Receipt of \$14,684,751 in funding over nine years

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- Awarded Australian Learning and Teaching Citation for outstanding cadetship outcomes
 - Awarded GUMURRII Building Bridges Staff Reconciliation Award, 2009
 - Placed more cadets than any other University in Qld in the National Indigenous Cadetship Project Pilot Program, 2003 – 2004
 - Progressed to achieve highest cadetship outcomes of any Australian University
 - *Aspire, Inspire, Achieve – Career Success Stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Graduates* publication, 2011
 - DFAT scholarship for Indigenous Griffith Students to commence in 2013 named after our booklet, *Aspire, Inspire, Achieve* and brokered by IEP cadet and graduate, Nick Williams
 - Brokered, developed and maintained IEP contacts or partnerships with over 1,100 employers
- 5.2 The ATSIAC noted that Griffith's Indigenous Cadetships and Graduate Employment program has been available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait students who are eligible to apply for workplace cadetships through the Indigenous Cadetship Support provided by of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Indigenous Cadetship Support matches Indigenous university students with an employer for the duration or remainder of their undergraduate degrees. The support provided to students has included Study Allowance (\$300 per week, less tax); Paid Professional Work Experience (12 weeks per year); and Book and study expenses allowance (\$1,000 per year).
- 5.3 The Indigenous Student Placement Officer alerted members of the ATSIAC to recent advice from the Federal government that funding for the NICP is to be withdrawn from 2013. The ATSIAC noted the sustained and significant impact that the cadetship program has had on retention and graduate outcomes for the University's indigenous student cohort.
- 5.4 Members of the ATSIAC reminded the Indigenous Student Placement Officer that the provision of Work-Integrated Learning (WIL) opportunities, of which the cadetship program forms a part, is an embedded aspect of Griffith's undergraduate student experience and that the academic Group Pro Vice Chancellors are responsible for maintaining this area within their groups. The ATSIAC suggested that the Indigenous Student Placement Officer work with colleagues within the Student Success Unit to consider appropriate ways to approach the Group Pro Vice Chancellors with a view to seeking their support for the ongoing inclusion of an indigenous cadetship program within their group's WIL framework.
- 6.0 REPORT ON INDIGENOUS RESEARCH NETWORK
- 6.1 The Professor of Indigenous Research (Professor Miller) reported on recent activities and initiatives within his portfolio, including:
- Reviewing the membership of the Indigenous Research Network to include associate and full member categories;
 - Undertaking preliminary work towards establishing an Indigenous Research Seminar Series in 2013; and
 - Establishing a series of Research Symposia that will include workshops and aim to build capacity within this cohort.
- 6.2 The ATSIAC agreed that a Report from the Professor of Indigenous Research should be a standing item on the Advisory Committee's Agenda.
- 6.3 The ATSIAC congratulated Professor Miller on his recent success in securing funds via the NHMRC grant schemes.

7.0 REPORT FROM INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PARTNERSHIPS

- 7.1 Aunty Anne Chapman reported on the Elders' visit to Taiwan as part of the World Indigenous Nationals Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) meeting in Taiwan, September 2012. The Griffith representation included the Professor, Indigenous Community Engagement Policy and Partnerships and two Elders from Griffith University Council of Elders.
- 7.2 Aunty Anne advised that the meeting had been successful with the following alliances established: Global Indigenous Elders Alliance, the Global Indigenous Research Alliance, and the Global Indigenous Youth & Student Alliance. The ATSIAC was reminded that the Global Indigenous Elders Alliance was an initiative of the Griffith Council of Elders.
- 7.3 The ATSIAC was also advised that the World Indigenous Research Alliance was launched under the direction of Professor Robertson (ICEPP).
- 7.4 The Chair thanked Aunty Anne for her detailed report.

8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

- 8.1 The Chair advised the ATSIAC that the key items of interest were included in the Agenda.

9.0 DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR & PROVOST REPORT

- 9.1 The Deputy Vice Chancellor & Provost reported on the status of the incorporation of the Griffith Council of Elders and advised that the documentation is currently with the University's Legal Services.

10.0 ATSIAC WORK PLAN FOR 2012

- 10.1 The ATSIAC noted the summary of the 2012 ATSIAC Work Plan, as detailed below:

2012 ATSIAC Work Plan	
Activity/ Project Name	Continued input into the Federal Review of Higher Education Access and Outcomes for ATSI People
	Ongoing oversight and input into the implementation of the Griffith Reconciliation Action Plan
	Successful completion of Self Review of ATSIAC and submit Final Report to Council by 31 October 2012
	Continued input into the reports of the Gumurrii Student Support Unit
	Continued input into, and monitoring of, the ATSI pages and articles within the Griffith website
	Ongoing monitoring of the Facilitating a Whole-of-University Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Curriculum Development: Leadership Frameworks for Cultural Partnership project
Budget requests	Continued catering costs to be covered by DVC & Provost

11.0 INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (IHEAC) ELDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ATSIAC congratulated Uncle Thomas Sebasio on his award as IHEAC Elder of the Year for 2012. This is a prestigious award given in recognition of Elder Leadership in Higher Education and the Community. The ATSIAC noted that Uncle Thomas joins Uncle Graham Dillon and Aunty Rosmund Graham as previous recipients of this award.

12.0 2013 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

Members noted the 2013 schedule of meetings. Meetings are held on **Thursdays from 1.30pm – 3.30pm.**

Meeting Date 2013	Campus	Venue Allocated
21 March	Nathan	N54_2.01
30 May	Gold Coast	G34_2.02 or N54_2.01
22 August	Nathan	N54_2.01
7 November	Nathan	N54_2.01

Confirmed:

(Chair)

Date: