

**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT SERVICES
HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (HEESP)**

FINAL REPORT

1. The Division of Student Services successfully applied for two HEESP grants of \$15,000 each to employ two part time employees to assist in the coordination of the activities of the Shepparton and Mildura Student Associations at each campus and to assist campus management in transition to tertiary study programs.
2. The Position Descriptions of both positions were virtually identical and are set out below:
 - **ORIENTATION**
Logistic support for the Orientation Program in February 2008.
 - **SOCIAL PROGRAMS**
Co-ordination of social events as determined by the Student Association.
 - **SPORTS INITIATIVES**
Liaison with local sporting organisations to provide discounted student access to community based sports centres.
 - **UNIVERSITY GAMES**
Co-ordination of student participation in the University Games held in September 2008.
 - **TRANSITION TO STUDY**
Assistance to the Director of the campus as required.
 - **INDIGENOUS STUDENTS**
Provide assistance in the transition to study of indigenous students.
 - **END OF YEAR AND/OR GRADUATION FUNCTIONS**
Co-ordinate any end of year/graduation functions the Student Association may wish to organise.
3. **ORIENTATION**
The Orientation Program at the Shepparton campus was well planned and attended which in part was a result of the work undertaken by the part time staff member together with existing University staff and the students of the Shepparton Students Association. It is difficult to compare numbers against previous years but the impression gained was that it was busier. Certainly, the pressure on existing staff and student volunteers was lessened because of the new HEESP funded staff member.

At Mildura, the part time staff member did not commence work till late April 2008 so there was no effect on Orientation (held in late February).
4. **SOCIAL PROGRAMS**
At both campuses, a full program of activities have been organised and reasonably well attended within the confines of the small budget allocation. I have had discussions with student leaders at both campuses and they were pleased with the level of activity generated.
5. **SPORTS INITIATIVES**
At Shepparton, an arrangement was forged with the local Sport Centre which allowed students to gain access to this centre, (swimming pool, gymnasium and aerobics) at discounted prices. A minority of students took up this offer.

At Mildura, the equivalent local centre was not prepared to offer discounted rates to students and so this service was not provided.

6. UNIVERSITY GAMES

Both part time staff members distributed information to students in regard to the University Games and a number of students at each campus participated. This was the first time such an involvement was achieved.

7. TRANSITION TO STUDY

Both part time staff members were involved in Transition of Study Initiatives organised by the Directors at both campuses. I am informed that both performed adequately.

At Mildura, the staff member went on an extended tour of outlying cities visiting secondary schools promoting the Mildura campus as a campus of choice.

The Director of Shepparton was so pleased with the Transition to Study aspects of the incumbent's performance that she was employed for an extra day a week to undertake additional duties.

8. INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

Both staff members assisted indigenous students as required by the Directors at both campuses and in liaison with the Ngarn-gi Bagora Indigenous Centre. Indigenous student numbers are low at both Shepparton and Mildura.

9. END OF YEAR AND GRADUATION FUNCTIONS

The staff member at Shepparton was instrumental in organising a successful graduation function in April 2008 attended both by graduands and staff. At Mildura the staff member was not employed until after the Graduation Ceremony had been completed.

End of year functions were well attended at both campuses.

10. CONSULTATION

I have been consultation with both the Directors at Mildura and Shepparton and the elected student leaders. All have agreed that the staff members employed have fulfilled their roles.

11. FUTURE

Given the success of the pilot program, I have decided to include the salary component of the two part time staff members in my 2009 budget submission and I am please to note that they have been approved by University Council.

I thank the Equity and Diversity Centre for providing these funds to our Division, which has provided most successful.



Mr Michael Torney
Executive Director, Student Services

Date: 22 December 2008