

KOORI CENTRE

SECOND PROGRESS REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PHASE TWO

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Recommendation 1	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre continues to pursue benchmarking, as a source of comparative information and an impetus to continuing improvement. (Section 3.2.2)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	Meetings have continued with Yooroang Garang and the Jabal Centre at ANU re administration processes and procedures. In 2007 the Benchmarking partnership has been expanded to include Barramielinga Indigenous Support Unit at CSU Dubbo Campus, which has high numbers of Indigenous student enrolments and provides cultural and academic support and administers ITAS on behalf of DEST.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<p>Consultation will be undertaken with an Indigenous Support Unit in an international university where the Koori Centre already has an established relationship and one which offers programs and support similar to that of the Centre.</p> <p>While the time frame for the project has been extended because of staffing changes at the Koori Centre and at the Jabal Centre, it is anticipated that the report will be drafted on Administration Benchmarking findings and outcomes at the end of 2007.</p> <p>Targets set for Benchmarking for teaching and research are yet to be undertaken but are planned for 2008, following completion of the Administration Benchmarking project.</p>
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	<p>The Administration Benchmarking process has been a fruitful and informative one. Sharing of information between Yooroang Garang and the Koori Centre has strengthened the existing relationship and created a greater understanding of each Centre's individual needs and challenges particularly in the provision of ITAS and AFB courses.</p> <p>An external perspective has enabled staff to reflect on their Administrative roles and responsibilities as well as reviewing and streamlining the procedures associated with these roles. It has also provided an opportunity to celebrate those things that staff are doing well and has created opportunities for them to advise Benchmarking partners on how to incorporate some of these approaches into their operating procedures.</p>

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Recommendation 2	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre staff should continue to be encouraged and mentored to apply for both University and national teaching excellence awards. (Section 3.3.2)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<p>In addition to the three awards which were received by staff and noted in the earlier report, three staff members have since applied for Vice Chancellor's Awards.</p> <p>Staff have also been encouraged to apply for internal and external Teaching awards in 2007.</p>
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	The Centre will be submitting an application to the Carrick Institute for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning in 2007.
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	<p>Of the most recent awards applied for, 1 (shared by 2 staff members) has been successful and this has been a positive process both for the recipients and for providing inspiration to others for future years.</p> <p>The Centre believes that extensive partnerships and mentoring with senior academic staff across the University will contribute to increased award applications.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 3</p>	<p>The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre liaise with the Faculties of Arts and Education and Social Work jointly to provide opportunities for students to undertake a sub-major and/or honours in Indigenous Studies. (Section 4.2.2)</p>
<p>Action taken by the Koori Centre</p>	<p>Seven new units of study were introduced over 2006 and 2007 by the Koori Centre, in consultation with the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the Faculty of Arts, with a view to offering an Indigenous Australian Studies major. Of these units 1 is at Honours level.</p> <p>Representatives from Faculties now attend the Indigenous Advisory Committee chaired by Professor Derrick Armstrong. This forum is used to inspire opportunity for increased cross-listing units with the Indigenous Studies Major.</p> <p>Centre staff are regular attendees on relevant undergraduate committees in both Faculties.</p> <p>It should also be noted that in collaboration with the Faculty of Education and Social Work the Koori Centre introduced 5 new HSIE units of study into the Bachelor of Education (Secondary: Aboriginal Studies) in 2006. This was to increase the career opportunities for our Indigenous students and to meet the growing demands at school level for HSIE trained teaching staff.</p> <p>The Koori Centre also introduced a new postgraduate degree: <i>Master of Indigenous Languages Education</i>, in consultation with the Faculty of Education and Social Work, which commenced in 2006.</p>
<p>Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)</p>	<p>Student evaluations will be conducted for new units of study introduced in 2007.</p> <p>Creation of an Aboriginal Studies brochure is ear-marked for 2007 which will enable greater promotion of the new units of study both internally at Faculty level and to international students through the International Office, which is working closely with the Koori Centre in raising our profile amongst that cohort of students.</p> <p>Specific marketing initiatives are being developed and should result in greater enrolment numbers.</p>

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The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	Enrolment numbers for the units of study were low in 2006, but this was anticipated for the first year on offer, but in course evaluations conducted during that year, student feedback was positive: "I expected this course to be interesting and a real eye opener and it was."; "I was happy to find a very effective balance of proper lectures with time/opportunity to discuss what the material means to individuals."; "Very helpful in other aspects of uni life, other subjects. Good extension from the core unit."; "This is an excellent course and I am going to recommend it to others who are interested."; "I have a greater knowledge of research procedures & ethics - will be invaluable to me as a language educator."
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Recommendation 4	<p>The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre develop an incremental approach for the implementation of WebCT. (Section 4.4.4)</p>
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<p>In 2006 two units of study, one mainstream and one block-mode were enhanced to incorporate WebCT components, specifically: course outlines, lecture notes, assessment items, calendars, discussion boards and group email. The integration of WebCT tools into <i>Indigenous Creative Expression</i> has already commenced in 2007.</p> <p>8 staff members received training in WebCT in 2006.</p>
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<p>On-line components for <i>Indigenous Creative Expression</i> to be completed by the end of first semester 2007, with a view to full distance delivery for international students in 2008.</p> <p>Additional units of study and the Teaching Aboriginal Studies Graduate Diploma are to be updated with WebCT elements for delivery in 2008 and 2009.</p>
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	<p>Positive feedback on WebCT components has been received from students through the unit of study evaluation process eg: "Lecture notes on WebCT was a great help"; "Well organised and efficient"; "WebCT gave a good opportunity for people who were on the run struggling to get to lectures so early;" "Helpful, easily accessible"; "Very helpful, the email feature is also really good. Nice to have notes on-line as well – can listen more in lectures."</p>

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Recommendation 5	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre continue to pursue the offering of core units in Aboriginal Studies through Summer and Winter School, both to meet demand and as a means of raising revenue. (Section 4.6.3)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<i>Introduction to Indigenous Australia</i> was delivered in Summer School in 2005 and <i>Indigenous Creative Expression</i> was offered in 2006.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<i>Indigenous Creative Expression</i> will be offered again in 2007/2008 Summer School, the WebCT components of this unit will be completed by this date.
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	Student feedback from the evaluation process has indicated that students welcome the opportunities that Summer School delivery creates, particularly if offered prior to the December close down period. "I had a fantastic time, and feel as though this was the best possible way to end my time at Sydney Uni"; "The two week block was fantastic – allowed us to be comfortable with each other, which helped discussion and presentations."

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Recommendation 6	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre pursue the development of systems to gain management information on the progress of Cadigal and other Indigenous students. (Section 5.3.9)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<p>In 2005 the Koori Centre recruited for the Cadigal Admin Support Officer, this position has been responsible for compiling information on mainstream students in report format, including those who have entered the University through the Cadigal Special Entry Program. In consultation with the Academic Skills Coordinator this has allowed for greater monitoring of academic outcomes and identifying students at risk.</p> <p>The new Koori Centre student database also enables more careful monitoring of student access to tutoring sessions and the academic skills workshops both of which are administered by the Centre.</p>
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<p>Review of the Cadigal Admin Officer role will be conducted in early 2007.</p> <p>All first year Indigenous students entering through the Cadigal Special Entry Program will be allocated a tutor through the Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme (ITAS) and tutors will be required to report on student progress to the Cadigal Admin Support Officer.</p> <p>Increased liaison between the Cadigal Admin Support Officer and Faculty undergraduate coordinators will ensure another element of student tracking and monitoring.</p>
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	Thorough evaluations are yet to occur.

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<p>Recommendation 7</p>	<p>The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre investigate the establishment of a peer mentoring program by students, modelled on programs established in many faculties as part of the First Year Experience Program. (Section 5.6.4)</p>
<p>Action taken by the Koori Centre</p>	<p>Informal mentoring arrangements have been organised, dependant on student numbers and availability, where the Koori Centre facilitates contact between first year students and more senior students from their Faculty with a view to providing “mentoring” support through the difficult first semester.</p> <p>Second year students and above are invited to talk to first year students at various times throughout the year, for example during O-Week and at Indigenous Student Information Days and at the student lunches which are organised twice each year.</p> <p>As an extension of this mentoring idea to target pathways (from school to uni) for Indigenous students in schools, the Koori Centre, in consultation with Klub Koori trialled a mentoring program at Alexandria Park high school (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience – AIME). In 2007 this has been expanded to include 7 schools and in excess of 140 high school students.</p>
<p>Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)</p>	<p>The Koori Centre will continue to administer funds for AIME as well as provide guidance and support for the program, and promote its activities both internally and externally to the University.</p>
<p>The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken</p>	<p>The informal mentoring arrangements between first years and more senior students work well, but needs further promotion and expansion. Mentoring partnerships have been very successful to date.</p> <p>The support offered by the Koori Centre for AIME has built upon the existing strong relationship between the Centre and the student association. The Coordinator of the program works closely with administration staff of the Centre and this is a positive fruitful relationship, which will continue in the coming years as the program expands.</p> <p>The Koori Centre regards this as a unique opportunity for recruitment of Indigenous students to the University of Sydney.</p>

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Recommendation 8	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre both strengthen and advertise their seminar series. This would increase the awareness of research being undertaken by the Koori Centre and generally assist in raising the Koori Centre profile across the University. (Section 6.2.2)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	Throughout 2005 and into 2006 the Koori Centre ran a postgraduate seminar series which was promoted on the Centre/s website and through internal KC networks. While attendance was low, this is considered to be a very useful vehicle for promoting research interests of the Centre and raising our profile on campus. The program format is currently being updated for delivery in 2007.
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	University Staff whose teaching and research is centred around Indigenous Australian issues will be invited to present and participate in the program. This will be advertised on USyd Happenings and through other outlets such as UniNews, and News and Events pages of University web sites.
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	2007 strategies to be reviewed later in the year. It is envisaged that this series will provide opportunities for creating research partnerships between the Centre and Faculties and Departments across the University.

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Recommendation 9	<p>The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre negotiate with the relevant faculties to share the Research Higher Degree student EFTSU. (Section 6.3.3)</p>
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<p>It should be noted that, currently, academic staff are unable to supervise PhD research students because of qualification restrictions, however, two staff are due to complete their PhDs in 2007.</p> <p>Koori Centre academic staff continue to informally support and give valuable feedback to postgraduate research queries on Indigenous issues, and provide further advice to undergraduate queries.</p> <p>A/Prof Diana Day is a higher degree by research mentor with the Koori Centre, Yooroang Garang and for Indigenous students on campus.</p> <p>Limited discussion with Faculties suggests some unwillingness to share EFTSU but it should be noted that there are very few RHD students investigating issues related to Indigenous Australians.</p>
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<p>Opportunities to be explored in 07/08 for qualified staff to supervise Hons. theses and advise on Masters.</p> <p>Further formal discussion on potentially sharing RHD student EFTSUs, however majority of staff currently unable to formally supervise doctoral students.</p>
The Koori Centre's evaluation of the success of action taken	<p>Completion of higher degrees by research remains the most important Koori Centre academic staff research priority.</p> <p>Substantial progress towards 3 doctorates. Anticipated award of 1 MSc and 1 MEd. Hons by research in 2007. This is a key success for the Koori Centre.</p>

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Recommendation 10	The Review Team recommends that the Koori Centre develop a relationship with a faculty to enable it to benefit from University grant schemes and DEST quantum. (Section 9.4.2)
Action taken by the Koori Centre	<p>Research and fieldwork for “A Retention Model for Indigenous Undergraduate Success: Pilot Evaluation of non-traditional entry student experience in the first undergraduate year” has been undertaken across many Faculties of the University and is now complete.</p> <p>In 2007 the Koori Centre contributed to two DEST grant applications in partnership with the Faculty of Education and Social Work and the Faculty of Economics and Business.</p>
Further action planned but not yet implemented (if appropriate)	<p>The report for “A Retention Model for Indigenous Undergraduate Success” will be completed in first semester 2007.</p> <p>The Koori Centre will continue to seek grant opportunities with Faculties and Departments as well as government departments and industry.</p>
The Koori Centre’s evaluation of the success of action taken	The outcomes for two grant applications are yet to be advised. Success of this action will be evaluated when the outcomes are known.