

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander - Establishing Status within the University Policy TRIM D09/1940P



INTRODUCTION

This policy applies to all individuals seeking to access benefits available to Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons within the University, and also provides a uniform means of establishing Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Status within the University.

Where uncertainty remains, the onus shall be on the applicant to prove Australian Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander status.

AUDIENCE

All individuals seeking access to benefits available to Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons within the University.

DEFINITIONS

In the context of this document:

Benefit in this document means access to any student place, scholarship or staff position specifically reserved for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander persons.

Relevant panel or responsible officer means the panel or officer designated as responsible in the policy or procedures under which the person is seeking to establish Aboriginality and/ or Torres Strait Islander status.

POLICY

1 Policy Provisions

- 1.1 Persons seeking to gain access to benefits designated specifically for Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander persons will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that they meet the following criteria for establishing Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status:
 - that they are of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent; and
 - that they identify as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person; and
 - that they are accepted as such by the community in which they live or have lived.

2 Detailed Steps, Procedures and Actions

- 2.1 Individuals seeking Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status shall provide documentary evidence which addresses the criteria, namely:

- a) evidence of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent
- b) Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent may be proven by:
 - i. birth records or genealogies verified by a suitable authority; or
 - ii. at least one completed Evidence of Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Status form signed by a prominent member of an incorporated Indigenous organisation.
 - iii. evidence of self-identification as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

To demonstrate self-identification as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person the applicant should identify themselves as such on application and/or enrolment forms as applicable.

- iv. evidence of acceptance as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person by the community

Acceptance as an Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person by the community should be confirmed on a completed Evidence of Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Status form signed by a prominent member of an incorporated Indigenous organisation from the community in which the applicant lives or has previously lived.

- 2.2 Documentary evidence provided by the applicant shall be assessed by the relevant panel or responsible officer.
- 2.3 The panel or responsible officer may conduct a full or random audit of evidence provided to ensure contact details and referees are correct and legitimate.
- 2.4 The panel or responsible officer may request further information and/or an interview with any applicant where it determines that further verification is required or uncertainty exists.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

[Establishing Aboriginality and/or Torres Strait Islander Status](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

Name	Position	Contact details
	Manager, Indigenous Support Program	wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au

Approval Authority

Approved by	Vice-Chancellor
Policy owner	Head of School, Wollotuka

Approval – This Revision

Amendments	Amendments arising from UON staff/BASTIER workshop held 14/09/2015 incorporated into content. Policy document reformatted
Approved by	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Date approved	12/01/2016
Date for review	12/01/2018

Review History

No.	Effective Date	Approved by	Amendment
1	12/01/2016	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)	Amendments arising from UON staff/BASTIER workshop held 14/09/2015 incorporated into content. Form updated. Policy document reformatted.