

# 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 Form](#)

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

Name	Position	Contact details
	Manager, Indigenous Support Program	<a href="mailto:wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au">wollotuka@newcastle.edu.au</a>

### Approval Authority

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

**Approval – This Revision**

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

**Review History**

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