



Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Skills and Employment

# Department of Education Skills and Employment

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# What I will cover today

- Background and context
- Current programs
- Things on the horizon
  - Changes as part of the Job Ready Graduates package
  - Disability Standards for Education
  - Equity Roadmap
  - Improving the equity evidence base

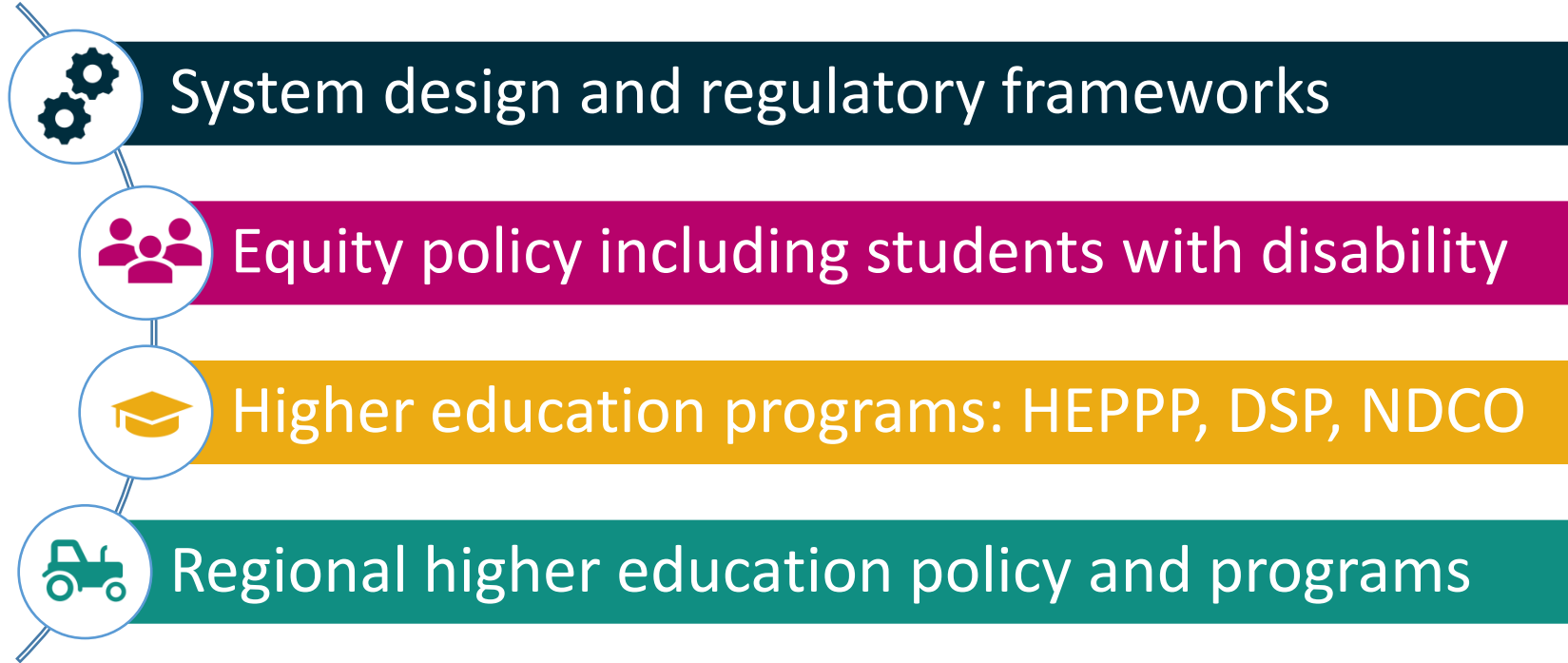


# About the Department of Education, Skills and Employment

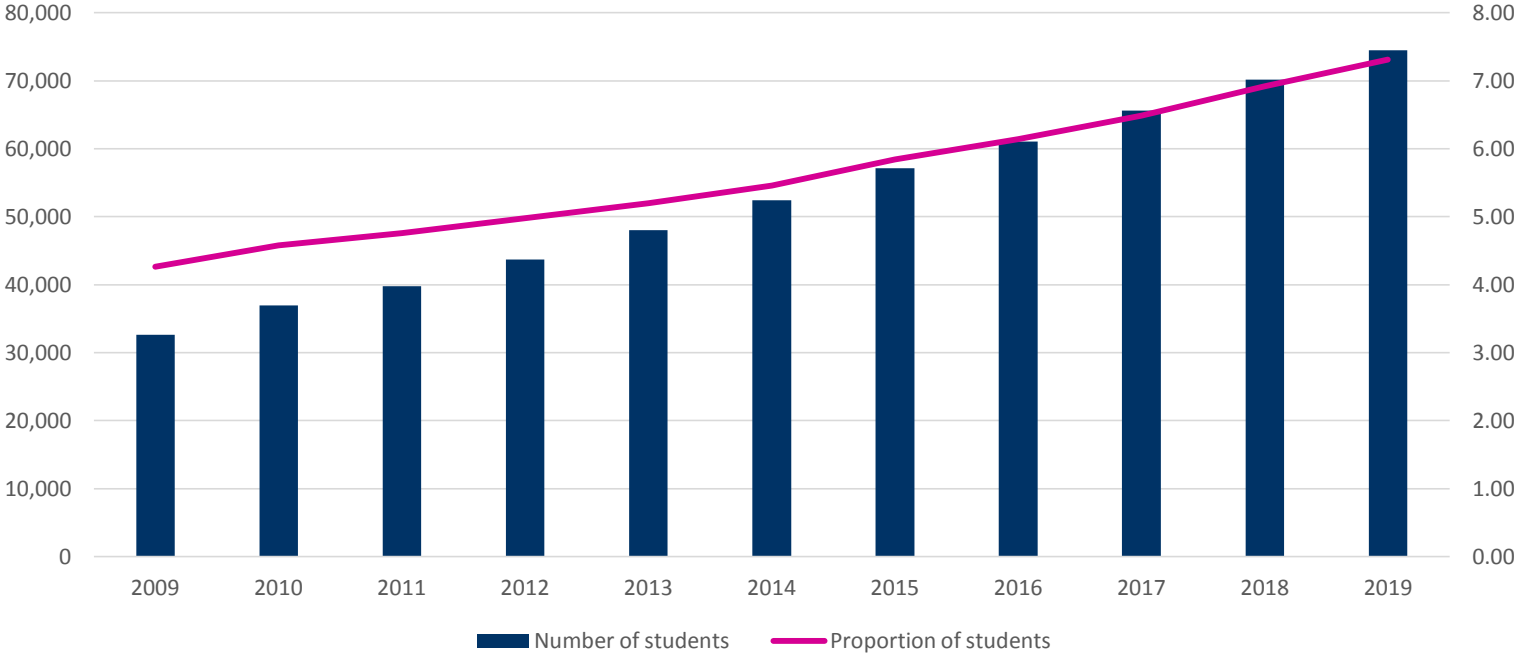


The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) works to ensure Australians can experience the wellbeing and economic benefits that quality education, skills and employment provide.

# Governance, Quality and Access Branch



# Strong growth in enrolment of students with disability



## Higher Education Disability Support Program (DSP)

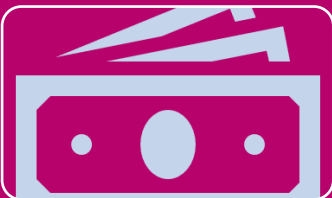
The Australian Government's Higher Education Disability Support Program (DSP) provides funding of \$7.8 million annually, to support higher education providers to undertake activities that assist in removing barriers to access and participation in higher education for students with disabilities.

# Changes to the Disability Support Program



Providers can now claim reimbursement of costs to:

- Train staff to support students with disability (especially mental health)
- Modify course content, teaching materials and delivery methods



Continued support for students with high cost needs

- Claims reimbursed for students whose needs exceed \$10,000/year
- This component responds to sector feedback



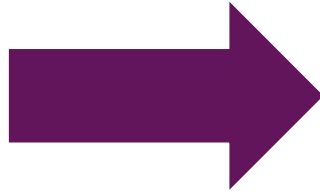
Reduced administrative burden

- No more small value claims
- Claims only required for support and equipment over \$10,000

# Changes to the Disability Support Program

Universities with a lower number of enrolled students with disability could claim a larger proportion of DSP funding by submitting a high volume of claims for lower value equipment and support

- Old DSP



Majority of funding will be allocated through an enrolments-based model – based on the number of domestic students with disability enrolled at an institution. This formula is a simple, stable, transparent and equitable way to distribute funds within the existing allocation.

- New DSP



# Changes to the Disability Support Program

The new model is not expected to have a marked impact on the distribution of funding by state, geographic classification, or university affiliation. However, some universities, based on historic claims records, could receive less funding under the new model.



The new program commenced from 1 January 2020. To facilitate this, the department has been providing the sector with information to enable them to start collating 2020 expenditure in a way to reflect the new program guidelines.

# Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training

A component of DSP funding also supports the Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training (ADCET), an online resource providing information on inclusive teaching practices for the tertiary education sector.



Funding for ADCET has increased from \$75,000 to \$150,000 annually, as part of the program changes, based on feedback from the sector which considers ADCET a highly valued resource.

# National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program

The National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program seeks to improve access and participation in tertiary education and subsequent employment by people with disability.

15

host  
providers

31

regions

Mix of TAFES,  
universities,  
non-profits,  
employment  
and training  
services



# National Disability Coordination Officer Program

An 2017 evaluation of the program found that at that time, the program addressed a need to support the transition of people with disability to tertiary education and subsequent employment, but recommended a more strategic focus, as opposed to NDCOs carrying out service-delivery activities with individuals.



The department has since worked with host providers and NDCOs to raise program activities to a strategic-level, including development of strategic documents to better articulate a vision for the program and guide activities.



# National Disability Coordination Officer Program



The department intends to look at the NDCO program, to assess whether it continues to meet its objectives and its design is practical and efficient, given the move to a strategic focus.



This will also consider if any duplication exists with the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) given the full rollout of the NDIS has occurred since the last review of the program.



The sector will be consulted.

# Job-ready Graduates: Indigenous Regional Low SES Attainment Fund



Commences in 2021



Will support Indigenous, low SES and regional and remote students



Combines the HEPPP, regional loading, enabling loading, National Institutes Grant.  
Funding will be distributed according to current policy until 2023.



We will consult with the sector to design a more refined funding model to support equity outcomes for implementation from 2024.



Over time will allow universities to use their funding more flexibly to best serve the needs of their students and communities.

# Job-ready Graduates: reform of equity funding

The HEPPP will be reformed to ensure that Indigenous, regional and remote students will receive greater support.

The formula-based component of the HEPPP will be allocated based on each university's share of low SES students, regional and remote students and Indigenous students.

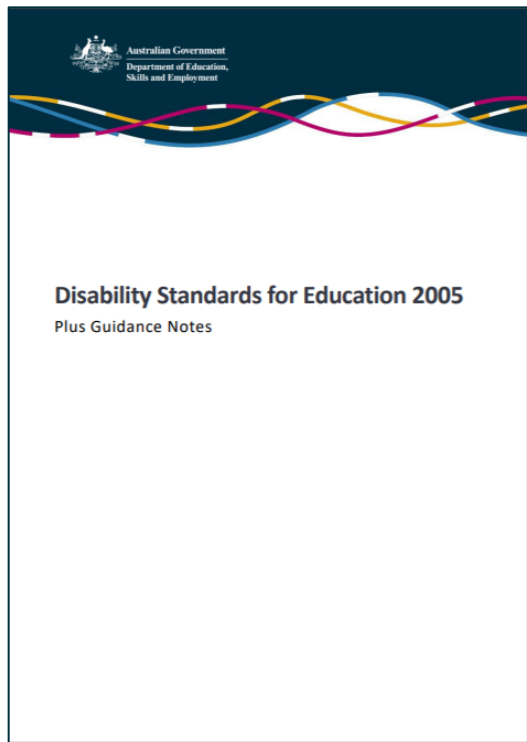
Changes will be implemented through a staged transition commencing in 2021 to allow universities time to adjust their programs to adapt to any funding shifts.

The National Priorities Pool will continue as a separate program under the IRLSAF (no longer a component of the HEPPP)

A new Regional Partnerships Project Pool will provide \$7.1 million over four years to support outreach activities that increase the aspiration of school students in regional Australia.



# Disability Standards for Education 2005



- The Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards) clarify and elaborate the legal obligations of education authorities and providers across the whole of education, including preschool/kindergartens, school, vocational education and training, and higher education.
- The Standards seek to ensure that students with disability can access and participate in education on the same basis as other students.



# 2020 review of the Disability Standards for Education

The Standards are reviewed every five years to test if they are effective in achieving their objectives and whether any improvements could be made. The previous reviews were in 2010 and 2015

Public consultations were open from 16 July 2020 to 25 September 2020.

Throughout 2020, the Department is reviewing the Disability Standards for Education 2005.

The final Review Report will be provided to the Minister for Education in December 2020, and presented to all governments for consideration in early 2021.

# Equity in Higher Education Panel

The Equity in Higher Education Panel (EHEP):

- is a high level strategic advisory body with a focus on student equity in higher education
- provides advice and make recommendations to the Department on strategic issues relating to improving student equity in higher education
- will develop a **Student Equity in Higher Education Roadmap**
  - five year strategy to drive and support wider aspiration, improved access, participation, retention, success, and completion and better transition to employment outcomes of students from under-represented groups nationally.



You can find the panel members at <https://www.education.gov.au/news/equity-higher-education-panel>

# Student Equity in Higher Education Roadmap

The Roadmap will provide a strategic approach to addressing the issues of under representation and poorer higher education outcomes for individuals from under represented groups.

- The EHEP will develop a national Student Equity in Higher Education Roadmap, a five year strategy aligned with the higher education reform agenda and COVID-19 recovery measures.
- The Roadmap will:
  - set the vision for equity in higher education in Australia
  - develop a prioritised plan for the higher education sector to support and develop higher education capacity to support students from under-represented backgrounds
  - raise the profile of equity best practice in the sector to embed it more effectively in universities' missions.



# Student Equity in Higher Education Roadmap consultation process

Consultation will be a key feature of the development of the Roadmap.



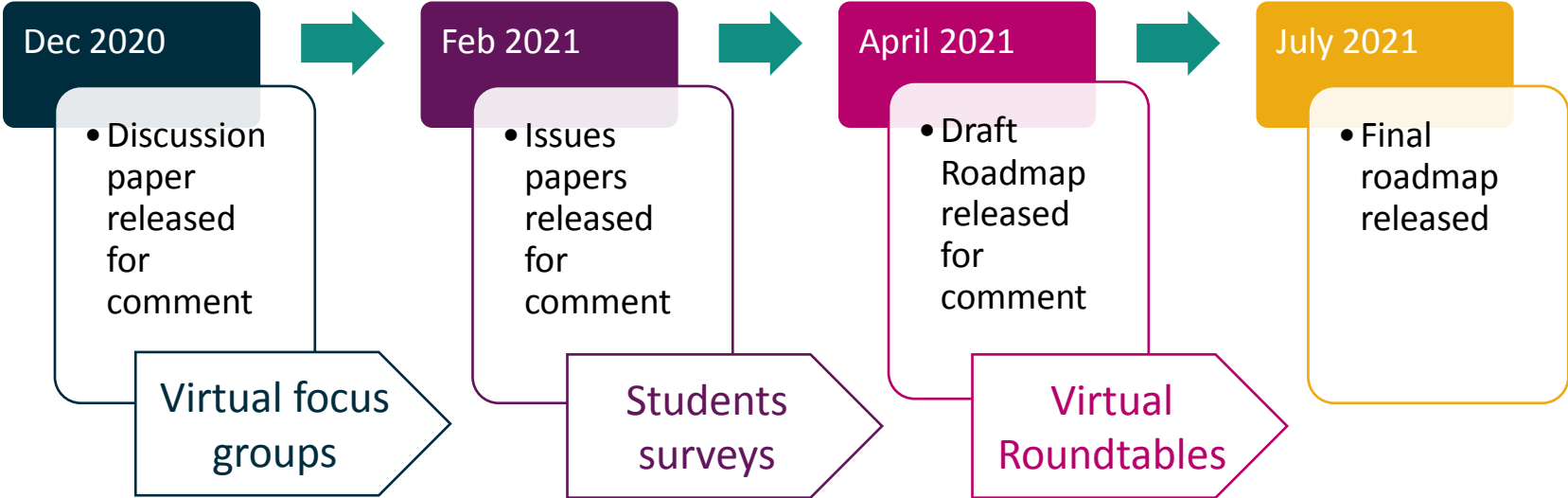
The EHEP has identified the need for broad, appropriate, and effective consultation, **co-design** and ongoing engagement in drafting the Roadmap, including with **student and community representatives, sector peak bodies, and subject matter experts**, and to ensure implementation of the key strategies that will make a difference.

**ATEND has offered to participate and we look forward to hearing from you!**

The consultation will engage in COVID safe ways, preferencing virtual discussions where possible.

The National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education (Curtin University) will help capture the student voice.

# Student Equity in Higher Education Roadmap consultation and co-design process



# Building the evidence base

- The Department wants to foster evidence-based practice by improving the evaluation of equity activities.
- We have a forward work program to build the evidence base for equity in higher education.
- It includes two key projects:



Widening Participation  
Longitudinal Study



Equity in Higher  
Education Evaluation  
Framework

# Widening Participation Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

- The WPLS will examine the factors influencing higher education participation of groups in Australia with a focus on the impact of equity interventions that aim to enhance participation and attainment by population sub-groups who typically experience educational disadvantage.



- The WPLS will follow a cohort of year 10 students through to 25 years to examine the impact of interventions (both HEPPP funded and others).
- The Australian National University will produce a scoping and implementation study for a WPLS by July 2021.

# Equity in Higher Education Evaluation Framework

The department will soon be seeking expressions of interest from universities to help develop an Equity in Higher Education Evaluation Framework.

## Objective

- Will develop a robust framework for the evaluation of the HEPPP and of individual HEPPP-funded programs and activities, that can be applied to future student equity in higher education programs under the IRLSAF.

## Data

- Will help collect rigorous data on the HEPPP, and ensure a consistent approach to university-level evaluations of their HEPPP-funded activities.

## Future-proof

- Will be flexible so it can be applied to future student equity in higher education programs under the Indigenous, Regional and Low SES Attainment Fund from 2024



Questions?



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