

Terms of Reference

Student Equity and Inclusion Network (SEIN)

1.1 Purpose

The Federation University Student Equity and Inclusion Network (SEIN) acts as an advisory and information sharing body with a wide-ranging brief to assist the University in fulfilling its goals in providing a safe, accessible and inclusive University that accommodates and celebrates diversity.

1.2 Membership

As we work together to better understand and support the needs of students, the SEIN will seek student membership from a broad range of student perspectives to consider the intersectional diversity. This includes lived experience perspectives to inform student inclusion initiatives, action plans and supports related to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
- Care-experienced students
- Culture and faith diversity
- Disability and accessibility
- Diverse genders and sexualities
- Gender equality
- International students
- Students who are carers
- Student safety

Ten student membership positions are offered.

Expressions of interest will be advertised on student communication channels where vacancies exist.

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by a panel to ensure intersectional diversity of membership.

The Chair may co-opt an additional two members with lived experience to promote a diversity of perspectives where necessary.

All student positions are offered as paid positions under the Students as Partners Initiative.

Positions will be offered annually with members invited to serve up to two consecutive years during their enrolment. Students may resign from the SEIN at any time. Payments will be structured as stipends, paid across the academic year, aligned with the SEIN meeting calendar.

Open to currently enrolled students in TAFE, higher education, and research; studying full-time or part-time; not currently serving a custodial sentence; and not employed by the University at a time fraction of 0.5 or more. Roles are not available for students via VETDSS or partner institutions.

1.3 Meetings

There will be four meetings scheduled per year during academic periods. These will be held online. It is expected that members will attend a minimum of 75% of meetings (or equivalent contributions outside of meetings) under the Students as Partners arrangement.

The SEIN will be chaired by Respectful Communities Coordinator, Student Equity and Inclusion, with regular participation and attendance from the Student Equity and Inclusion team.

1.4 Terms of reference

- a) Contribute to new initiatives and emerging priorities to increase student equity, inclusion, belonging, safety, and community.
- b) Provide feedback on Student Equity and Inclusion initiatives and action plans.
- c) Consider matters put forward by SEIN members relating to policies, practices, and initiatives relevant to student equity, diversity, safety and social inclusion, and recommend areas for development.
- d) Consider matters as referred to it by other members of the Federation University community.
- e) Review the Terms of Reference of this network on an annual basis.

1.5 Reporting and information sharing

A report on actionable items and emerging priorities will be provided to

- SEIN members
- Manager Student Equity and Inclusion;
- Director Student Services and Registrar following each meeting of the SEIN;
- Implementation Working Groups associated with equity action plans for example the Respectful and Inclusive Communities Action Plan and the Accessibility Action Plan. SEIN members may also be invited or express interest in attending Implementation Working Group meetings throughout the year.

Unless express consent is granted, the identity of members will not be reported against issues raised within SEIN meetings. The Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion Advocate of the Student Senate will be provided with a copy of the report and actionable items to share with the Student Senate.