



## Welcome from the Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia Executive

The EPHEA Executive would like to warmly welcome you to our first newsletter for 2020. We are a new team this year, [find out who we are](#).

As we are all acutely aware, 2020 has been a challenging year for both staff and students as we navigate the impact of COVID-19 at our respective institutions. Across Australia, equity practitioners have been working tirelessly to shift programs and supports to enable the success of both future and current equity students within our institutions as well as advocate on behalf of vulnerable staff in uncertain funding environments.

As an EPHEA Executive, we have seen firsthand and the outstanding work equity practitioners are undertaking to continue to put the needs of students and staff at the centre of institutional and operational decision making. For many equity practitioners this work can sometimes be isolating in our own institutions so please continue to reach out through the EPHEA listserv to connect with one another, and seek advice and support.

As a new executive we have made a plan, and over the next six months we will be launching our new EPHEA strategic plan for 2021 and beyond, publishing a new EPHEA website and membership portal, offering opportunities for professional development, and sharing information across student and staff equity matters. Watch this space!

We look forward to keeping in touch with you over the course of the year and encourage all of our members to maintain their own wellbeing during these challenging times.

## EPHEA Communications Coordinator

EPHEA recently appointed Katherine Munyard as the EPHEA Communications Coordinator in 2020.

Katherine has over 8 years of experience in the equity realm through her current roles as Communications Coordinator for Equity and Wellbeing and Executive Officer for the LGBTQIA+ Working Party, both at QUT.

Over the next six months Katherine will be working on a range of new digital initiatives. You can look forward to a new EPHEA website, including platforms to facilitate member discussions, increased social media presence, and professional development opportunities on key equity matters.

You can contact Katherine regarding any EPHEA communications matters, including newsletter items, messages to broadcast on the EPHEA social media channels, or ideas for professional development events you'd like to see in future. Get in touch via [info@ephea.org](mailto:info@ephea.org).

Please join us in welcoming Katherine to the team!



## Submissions and advocacy



EPHEA recently submitted a response to proposed Higher Education reforms released by the Federal Government.

The response calls for increased visibility of equity cohorts not identified as part of the package; mandating HE institutions to main a minimum commitment to undertaking outreach activities, redefining the RRR classification and a commitment to longer-term HEPPP funding cycles and earlier notification of funding. Thanks to all who contributed.

[Read the full response](#)

Contact has been made with the Department of Education to request changes to the HEPPP funding practices as we move from 2020-2021.

Changes outlined include the rollover of unspent HEPPP funds, and earlier notification of 2021 funding - by September 2020.

[Read the full letter](#)



Australian Government  
Department of Education and Training

## News from the EPHEA Chapters

Chapter funding for 2020 has been allocated, with the VIC, NSW/ACT, WA and Tasmania branches successful in gaining funding. Engaging with your local chapter provides an opportunity to connect and collaborate to solve challenges unique to your state. Get in touch with your local convener to find out what is planned in your state.

[Connect with your local EPHEA Chapter](#)

## EPHEA events and workshops



### EPHEA Presents: Implementing All-gender Facilities at a Higher Education Institution

Hosted by Nicholas Steepe, EPHEA Exec and 2019 AWEI Role Model award winner, this robust panel discussion will feature member organisations and community bodies discussing their experiences of implementing all-gender facilities at HE institutions.

You'll hear about the successes, challenges, and get tips for how to start (or continue) the process and conversations.

This professional development opportunity is only available to EPHEA members.

12-1pm AEST, Monday 31 August 2020.

[Register for Implementing All-gender Facilities](#)

### 2021 EPHEA Conference in Canberra

The University of Canberra (UC) will be hosting the 2021 EPHEA Conference in collaboration with The Australian National University (ANU) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Canberra.

The conference organising committee is in the midst of planning and will soon be discussing a theme and suggested speakers. The team welcomes input from interested EPHEA members.

If you'd like to be involved or want to make a suggestion, contact the conference organiser Laurie Poretti at [laurie.poretti@canberra.edu.au](mailto:laurie.poretti@canberra.edu.au)



## Member news



### EPHEA member survey - we want to know about you!

We want to know about you, the EPHEA members. Why, you ask? An overview of our membership demographics will help us ensure that our activities and opportunities are representative of our work, community needs and professional interests. Answers will be de-identified, and participation is optional.

[Complete the survey](#)



### NCSEHE seminar with Kylie Austin & Meg Smith

Some of you may have participated in The WPO 'Pivot' — Shifting Widening Participation Outreach activities to a remote learning environment presented by our colleagues Kylie and Meg. If you missed it, you can find out how UOW have adapted their programs to enable flexible content delivery to Equity cohorts.

[Watch the recording](#)

Have an item you would like included in the next newsletter?  
Please send any suggestions for newsletter or social media inclusion to [info@ephea.org](mailto:info@ephea.org).