

## **Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Programme (HEPPP)**

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The evaluation will assess the efficiency, effectiveness and appropriateness of HEPPP by examining:

- the extent to which the programme is meeting its objectives, as described in the *Other Grants Guidelines (Education) 2012*
- the outcomes that have been achieved by the programme to date
- which groups of low socio-economic status people are benefitting most from HEPPP activities, with particular attention to people from regional and remote backgrounds and other categories of disadvantage
- which HEPPP-funded activities are contributing most to achieving programme objectives
- the extent to which HEPPP activities can be said to provide individual, societal, and economic benefits
- whether HEPPP is the most efficient means of achieving equity objectives
- whether universities require a quarantined funding source (such as HEPPP) to provide adequate support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds
- whether there have been any unintended consequences of the programme and what impacts these have had
- what changes may be required to the programme to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds (particularly those in regional and remote areas) into the future to access, participate in, and succeed at higher-education
- What changes may be required for the programme to operate effectively in a fiscally constrained environment.

To examine these issues the consultant will undertake activities that include the following:

- interview and conduct surveys of HEPPP participants including university staff and students, school and TAFE staff and students, parents/carers, and other organisations
- review HEPPP reports provided to the department and evaluations of HEPPP projects conducted by universities
- review and analyse relevant Higher Education Information Management System data, data from the Australian Graduate and the University Experience Surveys, Tertiary Admissions Centres data, and relevant data from other sources such as the Longitudinal Study of Australian Youth and the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- undertake modelling of the social and economic impact of the programme as a whole.

<b>Event/Deliverable</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Work Order contract signed	27 June 2016
Inception meeting	4 July 2016
Final project plan agreed with the department	18 July 2016
Final Evaluation Framework agreed with the department	18 July 2016
Draft Evaluation Report	30 September 2016
Final Evaluation Report	11 November 2016