

CQUniversity Higher Education Participation Partnership Program (HEPPP)



Community Aspirations Program in Education (CAP-ED)

CAP-ED aims to share knowledge and information with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, enabling study options and pathways to higher education. The program has been highlighted as an important strategy to increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student participation in higher education, and to focus on building aspirations through small manageable informative sessions and networking events.

The Community Aspirations Program in Education (CAP-ED) was developed through community consultations in the Central Queensland area with local elders, community organisations and service providers in each location such as: Rockhampton, Gladstone and Woorabinda.

From these sessions, the project team developed the three day "CQU & Me" workshops and conducted network functions.



Day 1

Introduction to Workshop

Participants take part in an introduction icebreaker activity.

My Career Match Activity

Participants engage in an activity that matches their personality attributes with careers.

Introduction to Staff

Participants are introduced to staff from the Indigenous Student Support Centre, where the team shares information regarding tutoring, scholarships.



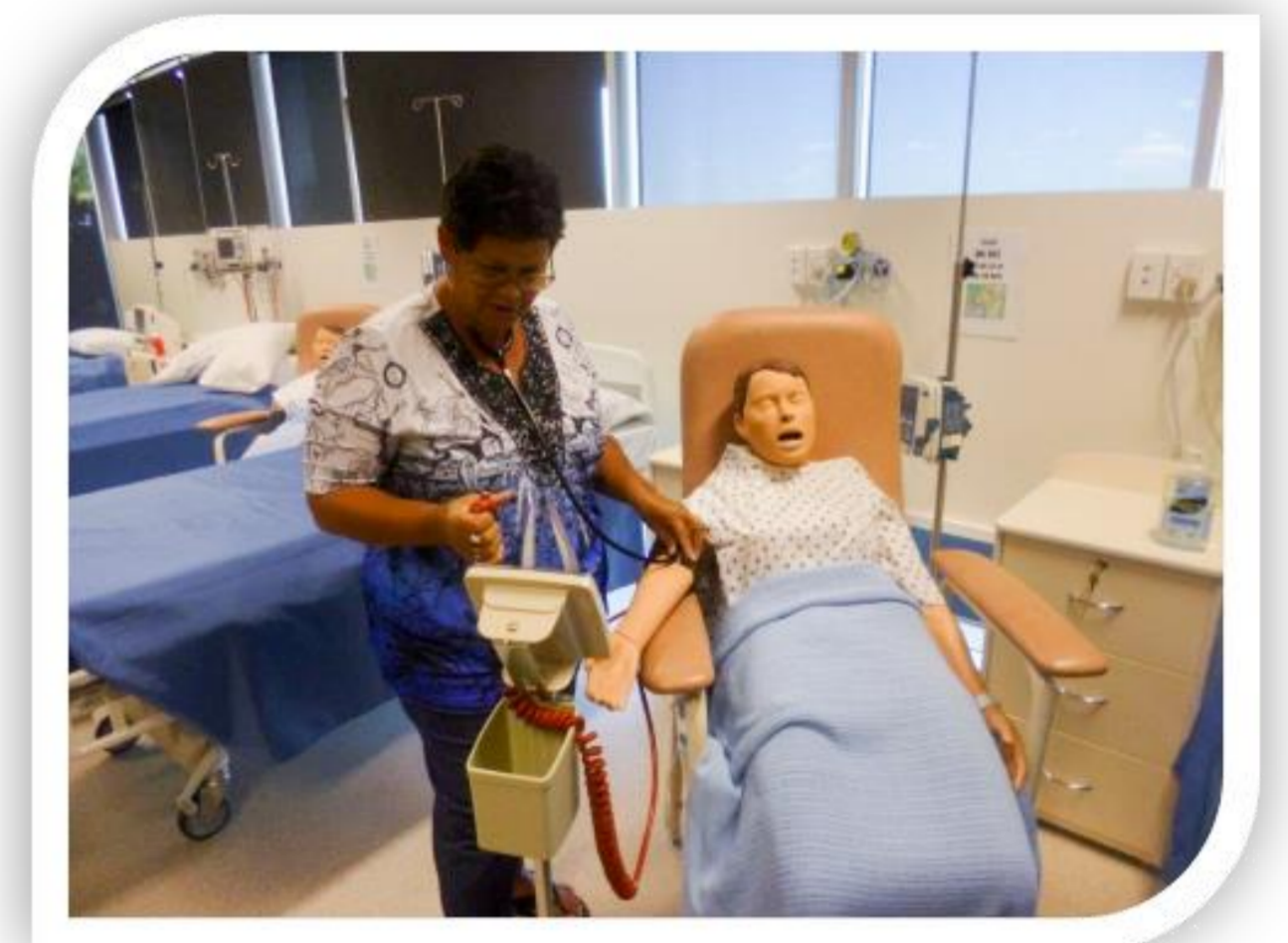
Day 2

Exploring Culture

Participants take part in a 'reconnecting with culture' sessions delivered by Traditional Owners.

Art activities are used to encourage discussion regarding participant's aspirations.

Traditional Indigenous games utilise modernised tools that teach participants about traditions and culture and how it was used many thousands of years ago (Yulunga Traditional Indigenous Games).



Day 3

Explore CQUniversity Campus

Participants take part in campus visit where short information and hands on activities are delivered in the Schools of the University.

This enables participants to experience on campus programs and be able to ask questions in a safe and welcoming environment.



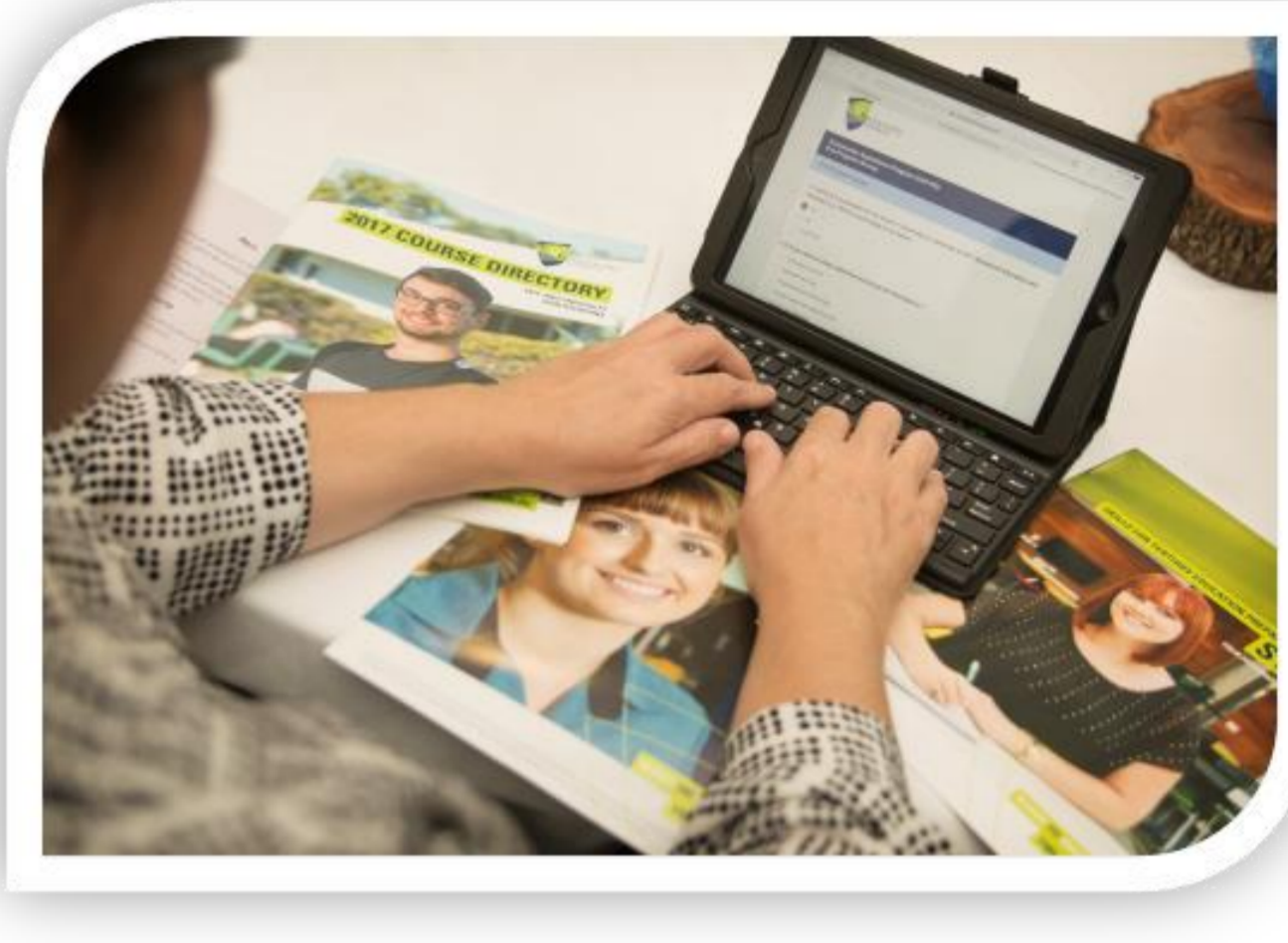
Network Functions

CAP-ED program hosts a series of network functions where participants from the community are invited to attend and connect with guest speakers who share their tertiary educational journey.



Research Strategy

The project team are employing an action research approach, using mixed methods to determine whether the program's aims and objectives are being met and to gather evidence about the impact that the program has on raising aspirations in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This enables the team to identify the factors that contribute to improving aspirations for post-secondary pathways and aspects that could be improved to better achieve this goal.



Research Outcomes

Findings from pre/post surveys have highlighted the importance of raising aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for higher education and the belief that going to post-secondary pathways is possible. An overwhelming sense of optimism for what the future study and career pathways hold after attending the CAP-ED session/s were indicated.