Vice Chancellor’s welcome to Aboriginal forum

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Date: Monday 19 February, 2018
Place: Bradley Forum
## Agenda

**Date:** Monday 19 February, 10am – 12pm  
Tea, coffee and morning tea on arrival from 9:30am  
Lunch served from 12pm

**Location:** Bradley Room, Level 5 Hawke Building, City West Campus ([map](#))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td><strong>1. Welcome to County</strong></td>
<td>Uncle Lewis</td>
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<td>10:05am</td>
<td><strong>2. Vice Chancellor’s Address</strong></td>
<td>David Lloyd</td>
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<td>▪ Address + Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>10:15am</td>
<td><strong>3. UniSA Reconciliation Action Plan</strong></td>
<td>Irene Watson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Principles and themes</td>
<td>▪ PPT presentation</td>
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<td>▪ Q&amp;A + Discussion</td>
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<td>10:45am</td>
<td><strong>4. Division of Health Sciences approach</strong></td>
<td>Esther May</td>
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<td>Addressing appropriate actions in the RAP (both past and future)</td>
<td>▪ Oral presentation</td>
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<td>▪ Q&amp;A + Discussion</td>
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<td>11:15am</td>
<td><strong>5. UniSA Reconciliation Action Plan</strong></td>
<td>Peter Buckskin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>▪ Oral presentation</td>
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<td>▪ Q&amp;A + Discussion</td>
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<td>11:50am</td>
<td><strong>6. Closing remarks</strong></td>
<td>Irene Watson</td>
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<td>12:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch is served</td>
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- Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

- Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli

- Ngai pudlunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapinthi.

- For those of you who may not be fluent in Irish-accented Kaurna, my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in heavily Irish-accented Kaurna as a mark of my respect for a proud nation of educators.

- The Kaurna people not only performed ceremonies on this land, they had a school across the road from where we sit this morning.

- In 1839 they opened a school at Pirltawardli (POOLTA WARDLY) in the west Parklands north of the River Torrens where the children were taught to read and write in Kaurna.
I am happy to think that we at UniSA are carrying on the Kaurna tradition of education into the 21st century and beyond.

This morning I would like to give a warm welcome to the Elders amongst us and guests who have gathered to discuss our new Reconciliation Action Plan and what it might cover.

For those of you who don’t know me, I was born and bred a Dubliner and I arrived in Adelaide in 2013 confident of the skills and abilities given to me by my own education,

with little idea of how far and wide I would travel with it.

But while the place might be very different, the focus for my pursuits here remains the same – the life of the mind, of enquiry and the search and application of knowledge have been my passions always.
• I am still pursuing them although I am now operating in an international context I could not have planned for.

• It helped that UniSA is a successful, young, international university,

• and along with that youth and success is a deep and abiding regard and respect for our commitment to equity and equal opportunity.

• For as long as this university has been in existence, we have been engaged in the education and employment of Aboriginal Australians.

• One of the functions set out in the university’s founding legislation is ‘to provide such tertiary education programs as it thinks appropriate to meet the needs of the Aboriginal people.’

• We’ve come a long way, but there is still a long way to go.
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students now enrol in a much larger range of disciplines than they did 10 or 15 years ago.

• And it was no accident that we were the first university in Australia to launch our own Reconciliation Action Plan.

• The plan offered a real opportunity for us to deepen the respect and relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other groups within the university.

• It is a framework for cultural change,

• change that supports other projects that will deliver better opportunities and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and students.

• All UniSA's campuses are built on the traditional lands of the Kaurna, Boandik and Barngarla peoples, and we acknowledge and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land.
• In 2014, the University of South Australia developed our own Reconciliation Action Plan - the first university in South Australia to do so.

• You are all now working on a Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan which will build on our commitment to Reconciliation and see some exciting new initiatives within the university.

• We continue to strive to make the University of South Australia the University of Choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

• You all know, Professor Irene Watson, who is the Pro Vice Chancellor for Aboriginal Leadership and Strategy and Unaipon Chair at the University of South Australia.

• Professor Watson is responsible for leading the development of a whole-of-institution approach to the recruitment, support, retention and success of Aboriginal people at the University.
• Last year, 354 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students were studying at UniSA in a range of programs, including Education, Law, Aboriginal Studies, Social Work, Sports and Recreation Management, and Human Movement to name a few.

• And last March, we were proud to see 40 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students graduated from their programs.

• It’s enshrined in our Foundation Act that we provide a pathway to learning for people who, perhaps, hadn’t traditionally seen themselves as university students.

• The Aboriginal Pathways Program is a modularised version of our Foundation Studies program.

• that’s been tailored for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
IPP consists of nine subjects over 18 months, most of which mirror the Foundation Studies Program but include three courses unique to the IPP program

- Aboriginal Knowledges, Learning and Culture;
- Land Management; and
- Building Academic Success.

Last year we took in 24 commencers from the regional areas of

- Mount Gambier,
- Ceduna, and
- Port Lincoln

And five students successfully completed the program in 18 months and all five have been accepted into UniSA programs.

Within the University itself almost 1000 members of our staff have been through Cultural Awareness training,
and we created a Cultural Awareness Alumni group to reinforce their commitment.

In April this year, to mark the official opening of our new spiritual heart, Pridham Hall, our graduation ceremonies will open with new processional music.

The music was commissioned by us and written by Yorta Yorta woman, soprano, composer and educator, Deborah Cheetham,

who most of you would know through her Short Black Opera company which specialises in training and performance opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing artists.

Coolamons and message sticks will also be carried in that procession.

It certainly will be a magic occasion and I think it will be the launch of a new year and a renewed focus on cultural awareness for UniSA.
• And of course, we will continue expanding the reach of cultural awareness/capability programs for students;

• naming appropriate spaces for Aboriginal Elders;

• identifying and engaging more often with Aboriginal professional organisations; and

• increasing our engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alumni.

• I thank you for the help you are giving us now and into the future

• and I hope you enjoy your day amongst us.

• Thank you.