

Policy Statement: Equity in education and training

Macquarie Conservatorium believes education is the foundation of an informed and just society, the key to overcoming social inequality and to achieving its social justice objectives.

People from all backgrounds and circumstances should be able to access the knowledge, skills and understandings they need to participate fully and successfully in the community.

Equity principles

1. **Excellence**

Activities, syllabuses, support documents and other materials will:

- 1.1 challenge and engage all students to maximise their individual talents and capabilities
- 1.2 support quality teaching, learning and assessment practices
- 1.3 provide an explicit and flexible developmental continuum of learning for all students

2. **Respect and responsibility**

Activities, syllabuses, support documents and other materials will:

- 2.1 encourage every student to develop a positive sense of identity and self-respect
- 2.2 encourage all students to develop respect for the rights and dignity of all people in society
- 2.3 prepare all students to participate actively and responsibly as individuals and as members of society

3. **Equity and justice**

Activities, syllabuses, support documents and other materials will:

- 3.1 promote learning that prepares all students to participate in and contribute to a fair and just society
- 3.2 be free from, and reject, prejudice, discrimination and stereotyping on the basis of cultural and linguistic heritage, gender, age, beliefs, socioeconomic status, location, sexuality or disability
- 3.3 provide opportunities for cooperative approaches to learning and the peaceful resolution of any conflict that may arise

4 **Inclusivity**

Activities, syllabuses, support documents and other materials will:

- 4.1 promote education that is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and the education of every student about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and their cultures and histories
- 4.2 be appropriate and relevant to the full range of students, so that every student can demonstrate achievement and experience success
- 4.3 acknowledge and value diverse cultures, backgrounds, experiences, abilities, religions and beliefs and promote students learning about the complexity of Australia's diversity

Macquarie Conservatorium commits to developing specific strategies to encourage greater participation and to maximise successful outcomes for, but not limited to:

- geographically isolated communities
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- people with a disability
- older people
- those experiencing social and economic disadvantage, including people who are unemployed
- women and men experiencing educational disadvantage including those with low literacy levels
- gifted and talented people
- children of all ages including pre-school aged children