

A close-up photograph of a woven basket, likely made of bamboo or similar natural fibers, with a warm, golden-brown color palette. The weaving pattern is intricate and textured.

Griffith engages to create a brighter future for all

Griffith University Engagement Strategy 2023–2025

Make it matter





JILU-JILU

Digitally manipulated photographic image

Front cover artwork by Ivy Minniecon, a descendant of the Kuku Yalanji, Gooreng Gooreng, Kabi Kabi and South Sea Islander nations.

Ivy Minniecon's art practice represents her ongoing connection to her ancestors and Country, grounding herself and her culture through her exploration of printmaking, mixed media and sculpture. Using natural fibres, Ivy weaves balji bags, an item used by her ancestors to gather and transport food. The process of weaving with natural fibres connects the artist to an important cultural practice that was almost lost due to colonisation.

For Ivy, this image layers her creative practice with caring for Country—using materials from Country with traditional fire management practices. Her work highlights environmental concerns as well as cultural revival and reclamations.

In Ivy's words:

“How do we reclaim culture if our resources are not managed and cared for? As I walk and weave on Country, I am grounded through the gathering and use of local fibres, Lomandra longifolia (river grass)—and through the weaving process—I cathartically immerse myself in my obligation as a Yalanji woman to reinvigorate our ancient cultural practice. Weaving is attached to healing and wellbeing, and my practice speaks of holistic ideas of art and culture being linked intrinsically to our identity. Reintroducing these methods from the past is vital to my current research, titled Walking Weaving: A Healing Journey, that I am exploring through the Bachelor of Visual Arts Honours program at the Queensland College of Art, Griffith University.”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Griffith University acknowledges the people who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Griffith University campuses sit on the lands of the Yugarabul, Yuggera, Jagera, Turrbal, and Yugambeh/Kombumerri peoples. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' unique relationship with and understanding and ongoing stewardship of these lands. Through collaboration with staff, students and community members we are committed to embedding Indigenous cultures and diverse knowledge systems in our learning and teaching, research, operations, and partnerships. Griffith acknowledges Elders past and present who guide the way to a more sustainable future for all.

Artwork: Sid Domic Together





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GRIFFITH ENGAGES

Griffith University lives its values and seeks to bring those values to life through engagement with the local and global communities of which we are a part. Engagement supports and enables the key missions of the University in delivering outstanding learning, teaching and research that advances Queensland and Australia.

This Engagement Strategy aims to bring those communities into the life of the University and to bring the University into their lives in kind. In doing so, we are guided by our core missions, which are informed by our rich past and speak to our vision of the future:

- fostering just relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- protecting and enhancing our natural environment
- engaging our regions—both our local communities and the Asia–Pacific region
- promoting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The particular initiatives and areas of focus outlined in this strategy will prioritise actions that enhance these missions. This strategy also articulates how we seek to demonstrate the impact of our engagement.

Griffith engages for purpose

We engage with partners to create a brighter future for all—for those who study and work with us, for our local communities, for Australians more broadly and for all those with whom we partner around the globe who share our commitment to using education and research to work towards a better tomorrow.

Engagement is at the heart of Griffith's work and we engage to seek specific outcomes. We engage to build better communities; enhance economic, social, environmental, cultural and health benefits for our communities; stimulate innovation and growth; and build impact over the longer term.

We conduct our engagement according to the following principles, which shape our engagement with industry, community, government and social enterprise.

- We partner with organisations whose values align with Griffith's values.
- Our partnerships are mutually beneficial.
- We leverage the distinctive activities and attributes of Griffith University, in particular much of our engagement comes through the educational and research activities that lie at the heart of the University.
- We are respectful of the context and the communities in which we work.
- We value relationships as much as we value outcomes.
- At the University (corporate) level, we hold partnerships that are long, deep and multifaceted. Constituent parts of the University focus their partnership activities on their own areas of specialisation.





ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES

Griffith University has a proud history of engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and was the first university in Australia to formally establish a Council of Elders, more than 20 years ago. This has evolved into an Elders and First Peoples' Knowledge Holders Advisory Board, providing governance advice through to University Council. Griffith values our work with the Aboriginal communities on whose traditional lands our campuses are based and with the wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We aim to work in just and respectful partnerships with those communities to encourage and support higher education and to undertake research and community work relevant to their interests and needs.

Our current engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

Griffith University is already connected to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in South East Queensland. In 2021, Griffith graduated the third-highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander university students in Australia. Griffith continues to lead in recognising and celebrating Indigenous culture and knowledge through initiatives such as:

- Contemporary Australian and Indigenous Art (CAIA) studies, a dedicated program of integrated cultural approaches to the study of Australian Indigenous art
- the Institute of Urban Indigenous Health (IUIH) partnership, an educational and research partnership with the largest provider of integrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing services in Australia
- outreach, recruitment and student support services run by the GUMURRII Student Success Unit, including the Tutoring for Success and Deadly U programs
- the University's Indigenous Research Unit, which provides support and development for one of Australia's largest cohorts of Indigenous Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students.

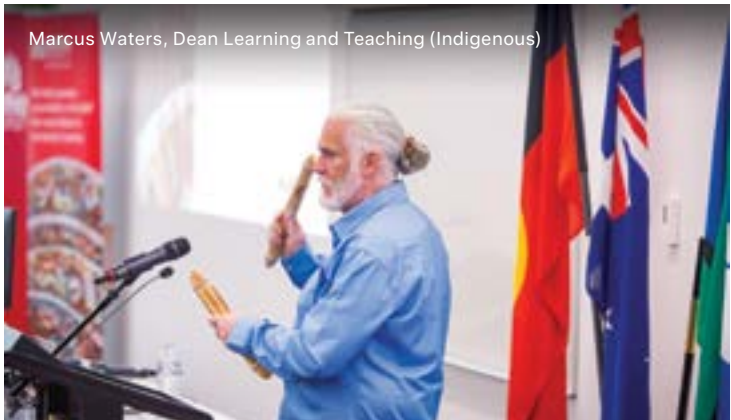
In addition to a range of targeted initiatives, the University is committed to embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and culture into all its research, teaching and learning activities. For example, the current process of embedding Indigenous context in all curricula provides excellent opportunity for industry and community engagement, and the Research Beacons recognise opportunities for Indigenous engagement.

Key initiatives

- **Reconciliation**—We will hold ourselves accountable for our commitment to reconciliation; it is everyone's business in the University.
- **Truth-telling and deepening reconciliation**—We will work closely with local communities to examine Griffith University's past and to change the way we engage in the world through the names of the people we recognise, the teaching and research on which we focus, and the way we support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues and students.
- **The Deadly U Experience**—We will continue to undertake and grow our program of outreach and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, particularly those based in South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. This will include opportunities for secondary school students to come onto our campuses annually to help awaken their university aspirations and understanding of university life.
- **Community partnerships**—We will draw on our existing relationships to develop new formal partnerships with industry and community organisations that have deep engagement in our communities, and that will enhance outcomes for students and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We will create opportunities for working collaboratively across international indigenous communities. We aspire to be the university of choice, that prepares sustainable models for meaningful employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates.
- **International engagement**—We will engage globally on Indigenous issues, for example with Indigenous communities in Canada, the US, and New Zealand. We will also explore the roles for Indigenous peoples in urban communities.



Griffith has a long-standing partnership with Gold Coast Titans Rugby League Club. The University supports the Women's and Leagueability teams as well as the Senior Men's Team.



Marcus Waters, Dean Learning and Teaching (Indigenous)



Professor James Charles,
Director, First Peoples Health Unit



Professor Cindy Shannon AM, Deputy Vice Chancellor
(Indigenous, Diversity and Inclusion)

Pathways in Place is an innovative program funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation and led by Griffith University in Logan. The program leverages Griffith's research and deep community ties to co-create community capabilities to achieve system change.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Griffith University is based in South East Queensland, serving communities in Brisbane, southern Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast through our primary campuses—with important regional bases in areas such as the Sunshine Coast and Darling Downs.

Griffith is proud to be among the top three universities in Australia for the number of graduating Indigenous Australian students. We also have the largest number of Māori, Samoan/Pasifika and migrant and refugee students in the regions in which we are based. Each of Griffith's campuses provides us with the opportunity to engage with the unique communities they serve.

We aim to be integral to the vitality and growth of these neighbourhoods by:

- being a high-quality employer
- developing curricula to meet the needs of local employers
- responding to local needs and opportunities through our research, and the translation of that research into outcomes
- enhancing intellectual, cultural and sporting life
- ensuring our campuses are accessible to, and serve the needs of, relevant industry and communities
- creating pathways into university for school leavers and mature-age people
- working with community leaders and organisations through co-design and implementation to help our communities thrive.

Griffith is a distinctive university in part because of where we are based and because of the peoples of that area.

Our current engagement in local communities

Griffith University is already a vital part of its local communities. It contributes through activities such as:

- **Pathways in Place** (funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation; programs at Logan)—a philanthropically supported initiative working particularly with Indigenous Australian, Māori and Pasifika communities to enhance outcomes for children in the region.
- **Science on the Go**—science outreach; stimulating interest in science in primary and secondary school students, and providing the opportunity for these students to access Griffith's innovative STEM facilities, resources and expertise.
- **State Honours Ensemble Program (SHEP)**—bringing musical education to remote and regional Queensland.
- **Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct**—harnessing hospital and university capabilities to drive new economic growth and better health outcomes for the City of Gold Coast.
- **Gold Coast Titans**—supporting engagement of Indigenous Australian, Māori and Pasifika youth; women; and sportspeople with disability.
- **Griffith University EcoCentre**—The EcoCentre promotes environmental education with our Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre partnership, as well as helps nurture relationships with other partners to provide community events and experiences.
- **Griffith Health Clinics**—Our state-of-the-art clinics are open to the public and provide a range of personalised, first-class healthcare services across allied health, dentistry and psychology. Here, students get valuable workplace experience in their chosen career.

Key initiatives: our aspirations to engage with our communities

Through the life of our Engagement Strategy, we will support the following major initiatives to deepen our relationship with our communities:

- **Griffith schools engagement**—We will work with local schools to ensure our programs and initiatives are responsive to the needs of their students, and that Griffith supports the work of teachers and principals through continuing professional development and relevant research. We will create pathways to our university and build aspiration and capacity in underrepresented populations, including Indigenous Australian, Māori and Pasifika people.
- **Griffith community engagement**—In each of our key locations in the Gold Coast, Logan and Brisbane, Griffith will hold a series of events for the public including lectures and innovative forums for discussions of key issues, as well as cultural and sporting events. These will be designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of groups.
- **Local research**—We have developed new ways of enabling our researchers to focus on issues of importance to our local communities. Our partnerships with local government are integral to this focus.
- **Town Square discussions**—Extending Griffith's activities to promote discussion in the community, we intend to engage our students in a new set of public discussions on important topics.



Griffith is a core partner of the World Science Festival Brisbane, held annually since 2016. In 2023, Griffith held a Space Industry Breakfast led by Professor Paulo de Souza, Dean of Research and Head of Aerospace, Griffith University. L-R Professor Paulo de Souza; Kelly Heaton, Director, Deloitte Access Economics, Deloitte; Nataliea Lowson, PhD candidate, University of Southern Queensland; Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, then the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs, Queensland Government; July Autuly, Head of Space Tech, Cicada Innovations; Professor Bronwyn Harch, Vice President (Industry and External Engagement) Griffith University; Sascha Hapke, Head of AustralAsia, Airbus.

ENGAGED LEARNING TO CREATE STUDENTS READY TO FACE THE FUTURE

Through engagement and partnership, we can create learning experiences for our students that are richer, more challenging and more innovative than if we worked alone. We will prepare our students for employment by giving them experiences developed with employers, and we will ensure that the curriculum and assessment in our degrees helps students develop the capabilities they will need into the future—in the workforce and as valuable contributors to the community. Our students, through their engagement with the outside world, will be better able to participate in our democracy, contribute to our culture, and strengthen our social bonds, as well as feel confident and prepared for the workforce.



The Griffith SPASE program is conducted with Gilmour Space Technologies, Deloitte and Airbus to support the Platypus satellite launch mission.

Our current engaged learning activities

Griffith University has been long recognised for the quality of its teaching. Some of Griffith's recent outstanding teaching and learning activities include:

- Health education, which has been a strength at Griffith for over 20 years. Griffith is ranked first in Australia and second globally for nursing and midwifery and third in Australia for dentistry and oral health.* Partnerships are key to that success with examples such as our Gold Coast Dental Clinic, which has worked with Queensland Health, Gold Coast University Hospital and public patients to provide general and specialist dental services to about 52,000 patients a year.
- Bespoke professional development and education. Griffith Health partners with healthcare providers to deliver programs that meet evolving industry learning needs. For example, Metro North Health has partnered with Griffith Health to launch a Graduate Certificate in Health Services.
- Australia's most highly recognised aviation program. Griffith's strong links with industry inform our renowned aviation degrees. Examples include the Professional Entry pathway in Aviation Management program for those already working in the aviation industry and MATES (Mentoring Aviators Through Educational Support), run by students for the students, with industry speaker links and industry mentoring.
- Partnerships with major arts organisations. In 2022, Griffith formed a significant partnership with the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC), which has been transformative for both institutions. This partnership allows Griffith's musical theatre students the opportunity to study and work at QPAC alongside professional performers.
- Further innovative industry partnerships. One such program involves Griffith venturing into space education through initiatives such as STEM Program About Space Exploration (SPASE). The program has seen 56 students from 11 different schools build and launch a prototype satellite for a mission called Platypus.



Grease Lyric Theatre QPAC, 2021

In 2022, Griffith and Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) formed a partnership to give musical theatre students access to world-class facilities.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENGAGED RESEARCH

Griffith University researchers work with hundreds of partners from industry, government, non-government organisations (NGOs), community organisations and international bodies. Such partnerships allow our research to be informed by the experiences and understanding of those partners, provide resources (both financial and human) to allow for work that could not otherwise be done, and help to ensure that our work has impact and scale.

Notable successes include a partnership with the Commonwealth Bank to lift capability to address money laundering and financial theft, and a partnership with French pharmaceutical company Sanofi to implement a new set of vaccines based on Sanofi's mRNA platform.

Our engaged research activities

Griffith has been rapidly developing its research capabilities, and now attracts more than \$100 million in external research funding each year. The University has outstanding capabilities in biomedical research, archaeology and human evolution, climate change and water catchment management, criminology, and tourism and quantum physics—among other fields of excellence. Great emphasis has been placed on ensuring translation of research outcomes into community, social and economic benefit.

- Griffith is a founding member of a \$280 million partnership over five years with French pharmaceutical company Sanofi to develop mRNA vaccines, with an important focus on chlamydia.



The Tracking Cube is a product developed by a Griffith University research team (pictured) participating in the Gold Coast's LuminaX healthtech accelerator. It is a co-designed solution to monitor child health and neurodevelopment, with embedded digital tools that guide ongoing screening, early and accurate diagnosis and support for children and adolescents with neurodevelopmental disorders.



- The University has worked with Australia's largest philanthropic organisation—the Paul Ramsay Foundation—on projects including an expansive community-based research program into intergenerational disadvantage in Logan and a project to support incarcerated mothers and their children with support from Queensland Corrective Services.
- The Australian Research Centre for Human Evolution (ARCHE) is a global leader in research and education, studying our species' evolution and expanding understanding of humanity's place in the natural world. The ARCHE team are deeply engaged with our land's First Peoples and have a strong focus on Australia, the Pacific and Asia.
- Griffith has been a leader in research into rehabilitation after traumatic injury through groups both at the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. This research has been supported by the Motor Accident Insurance Commission (MAIC) and the Clem Jones Foundation, and is now rapidly progressing its most important outcomes towards clinical trials.
- Over the past five years, the University has successfully commercialised technologies and treatments from a variety of research centres including the Queensland Micro- and Nanotechnology Centre, the Institute for Glycomics and Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD).



Key initiatives

- **Enhancing entrepreneurship**—Over the next five years, we will substantially step up the capacity of our staff and students to engage in entrepreneurship and commercial opportunities.
- **Major partnerships**—Our Griffith team will continue to develop additional large-scale partnerships that provide substantial support to core areas of research and allow us to make an impact at scale through our research and education.
- **Commercialising research outcomes**—We are reshaping Griffith teams to provide a much broader set of pathways for our most exciting research outcomes. We are also engaging in broader commercialisation schemes such as the Medical Research Commercialisation Fund (MRCF) and Australia's Economic Accelerator (AEA).
- **Industry fellowships**—We will support and promote our colleagues at all levels to participate in industry fellowship and PhD programs and use these opportunities to deepen existing partnerships with industry and build new ones.

The Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct Training Centre for Image-guided Therapy will support training specialist physicians and pioneer new precision approaches in a wide range of clinical areas.

OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

As we near our 50th anniversary in 2025, we are proud of the more than 300,000 alumni who have studied or worked at Griffith University. We have benefited enormously from members of our alumni community who give of their time, expertise and resources. We will continue to work with our alumni to build a network that supports the University and is supported by us. Our alumni are an invaluable resource and overlap with all of the other communities of which we are part. Alumni are a vital part of the Griffith family and provide expertise and influence that are an essential element of our engagement.

Griffith's alumni community spans across industries and the globe and collectively continues to contribute to the University's vision of a better future for all.

There are many examples of our extraordinary alumni making their work matter:

- Sally-Ann Williams is the CEO of Cicada Innovations and leads Australia's pioneering deep tech incubator building companies solving the world's most pressing problems through science and engineering.
- Jasmina Joldić PSM's extraordinary journey from war-torn Bosnia to her current role as Acting Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in Queensland demonstrates the transformative power of education and resilience.
- Captain Jan Becker AM has a history of breaking boundaries and making impact within her career. She's a CEO, helicopter pilot, midwife and international leader who has carved out a unique business path, combining her passion for flying with her skills as a midwife. As the CEO of the largest helicopter pilot training academy in the Southern Hemisphere, Jan coordinates emergency responses in floods, bushfires and other emergencies, as well as overseeing the training of the next generation of pilots.
- Chris Eigeland is Co-Founder and Co-CEO of Go1—the largest online professional education provider in the world and recognised as one of the fastest-growing companies in Australia. Chris has represented Australia at the United Nations in 2016 as the National Youth Representative and has been recognised extensively for his work in the role of technology in enabling the UN Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Melissa Lucashenko is fuelled by a passion to share untold stories of Aboriginal peoples. She has risen from humble beginnings to become one of the most prominent voices in Australian literature. Melissa's life's work reflects her dedication and passion as a proud Bundjalung woman and has made her an acclaimed and award-winning novelist, essayist and short story writer. Starting her journey in Brisbane's outer southside suburbs, Melissa's path helped open the way for many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be heard in Australia's literary scene.
- Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM is an emergency doctor living with quadriplegia and is a passionate disability advocate dedicating his life to working, teaching and researching health. When Dinesh is not working at Gold Coast University Hospital's Emergency Department, he is teaching Griffith students as Senior Lecturer in the School of Medicine and Dentistry or researching as co-lead of Griffith's BioSpine Project.
- Joe Brumm is the creative force behind the hit ABC TV show *Bluey*, which has become a global phenomenon. *Bluey* has won numerous entertainment industry awards including a Logie, an AACTA and an International Emmy Award. It has also won the hearts of people around the globe.



Chris Eigeland



Captain Jan Becker AM



Sally-Ann Williams D.Univ



Dr Dinesh Palipana OAM



Jasmina Joldić PSM



Melissa Lucashenko

Key initiatives

- **Philanthropy campaign**—Griffith's first ever philanthropy campaign to support a brighter future for all will include a dedicated goal focused on alumni engagement, including volunteering, partnering and philanthropy. The campaign aims to engage with 100,000 alumni as key partners in philanthropy.
- **50th anniversary**—Griffith celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2025. It is not just an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and growth to date, but to engage the wider community in our future ambitions.
- **Tailored volunteer programs**—Moving forward, Griffith aspires to provide fit-for-purpose volunteer programs that provide solutions at scale to key community and University challenges.
- **Mentoring platforms**—We will enhance our alumni mentoring experience through the introduction of an improved digital platform for alumni peer mentoring. We will also continue to work with alumni to provide mentoring support to current students, thus supporting alumni in their post-university journey and promoting career readiness for students.
- **Global Griffith alumni**—Our alumni live all over the world. As such, we are bringing formal alumni events to the key areas in which our alumni are based. We will also facilitate and support local alumni groups to engage with one another for social and professional networks and provide a welcome (or welcome home) to graduates who move to their cities. In addition, we will provide a rich set of online opportunities in which all alumni can participate.
- **Griffith gives back**—We will work to increase the number of alumni who give to support the next generation of students to ensure that all can take advantage of the benefits of study at our university. This might be through financial support or by assisting the mission of the University in other ways including through the Brighter Futures Scholarship for students in need.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Griffith was founded as a university that would be deeply rooted in the Asia-Pacific region. We have had a long-standing commitment to engage and foster good relations with the nations of Asia and the Pacific, articulated by our first Chancellor, Sir Theodor Bray. The University has always been globally minded and has a network of partnerships with like-minded universities around the world, with a particular focus on our region. While international partnerships are critical to our success as a university and are important in our identity, they are dealt with in more detail in our Internationalisation Strategy.

Griffith Asia Institute Inclusive Growth Hub

The Inclusive Growth Hub functions as the Institute’s focal point for research and capacity-building activities. It is designed to deliver positive economic outcomes for the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society across Asia and the Pacific.

Inclusive Leadership Australia Awards Short Course

The Inclusive Leadership Australia Awards Short Course can help encourage and support women and gender-diverse people working through unconscious bias. The courses are funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and help to build valuable links both within Australia and within the Indo-Pacific region.

Pacific Hub

Standing alongside our colleagues, families and friends in the Pacific, the purpose of the Pacific Hub is to learn from the Pacific communities who are frontline in the climate crisis. The Hub uses their platforms to amplify the calls for greater climate ambition and environmental security.

Pacific Islands Centre for Development Policy and Research (PICDPR)

PICDPR has emerged out of the South Pacific Centre for Central Banking, founded in 2016. It was formed to bring together world-class economic and finance experts, with a clear aim to help build capacity for research and policy formulation. The PICDPR intends to expand the existing capacity development goals to institutions and organisations beyond the central banks in the region.



