



*Better Leaders,
Better Collegiate Life*

UCA Executive Committee State Visit to Macquarie University and the University of NSW 5 and 6 August, 2014

In keeping with its practice of visiting and meeting with the various chapters of the Association, the Executive Committee travelled to NSW to meet with the Heads of the Universities of NSW, Sydney and Macquarie Universities on 5th and 6th August, 2014.

National Census of Colleges and Halls and 100+ bed commercial student accommodation providers

Tours of the recently constructed [New College Village](#) and [UNSW Residential Communities](#) gave an indication of the extensive growth of UNSW's on-campus accommodation, and a dinner with the Sydney Heads provided an opportunity to discuss issues affecting their colleges together with the growth of commercial accommodation providers. In order to quantify some of the major changes in the Sector over the last 15 years, Carla Tromans outlined a recent UCA initiative to conduct a national stocktake of Colleges and Halls and 100+ bed commercial student accommodation providers. This Census is supported by Commonwealth funding and its findings will be presented at the UCA Conference.

Diversification of the Student Accommodation Offer

In a meeting with Macquarie University's [Deirdre Anderson](#) (DVC - Students and Registrar) and Craig Oliver (Director - Campus Life), Ms Anderson outlined her vision for Macquarie to be the number one University in Australia for Student Experience. However, by looking at the postcodes of its international, rural and regional students, she found it difficult to package up their University experience. The notion of whether Macquarie should be a 'residential campus' or a 'commuting campus' was considered and it became clear to Ms Anderson that there was a place for everyone. That is, to offer some students the option of accommodation in Chatswood for a 'City' lifestyle; whilst others will prefer the residential college option at [Dunmore Lang](#) and [Robert Menzies](#) Colleges. Additionally, the University is looking at developing further student accommodation right at the campus centre and within the old library building with projected student numbers of 1,500 to 2,000 over the next eight years. Bringing student accommodation to the centre of campus raises issues of how to deal with noise and services and how to develop a sense of community, particularly in out of term and business hours. It was noted that Macquarie had moved to a full calendar year with activity measured by retail usage, the Accommodation Office was now under the auspices of Student Engagement and that Clubs and Societies had become their biggest growth area. A Community and Engagement Strategy was currently being developed.

Federal Government Higher Education Budget Measures & changes to FBT

Discussion with the UNSW Heads concentrated on recent Federal Government changes to Higher Education and how these changes will impact on the Colleges and Halls of Residence. It was noted that the FBT will increase and Heads may need to be more flexible with salaries for staff living on-site rather than offer accommodation. The upcoming UCA Conference will focus on this issue with a Q&A style panel session devoted to finding our way through fiscal change. Advice on the legal

employment status of college RA's has recently been provided by Peter McDonald and members can obtain a copy of this advice by contacting Deborah Pugh, [UCA Executive Officer](#).

Closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

Dr Hilton Immerman spoke of the Shalom Gamarada Indigenous Scholarship program. This initiative, founded in 2005 with one Aboriginal student of Medicine, has now served a total of 64 students. There are currently 26 Indigenous Shalom Gamarada students studying for a variety of degrees but mainly Medicine and Law at UNSW. In recent years the program has achieved a 90% pass rate and Shalom College has been recognised by being the first Higher Education organisation to partner with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation in 2010, which means that every donated scholarship results in two scholarships as each is matched by the AIEF. The program has also won the prestigious LIME (Medical Deans of Australian and New Zealand Universities) award as a model of best practice in the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal medical students. The UCA will look at how the collegiate experience can support and retain Indigenous students as part of its Conference program.

The Executive Committee extends its gratitude to the following NSW members for their assistance in coordinating and hosting this visit:

- Professor Trevor Cairney, Ms Isabelle Creagh, Dr Hilton Immerman and Associate Professor Gerald Fogarty from the University of NSW
- Dr Alasdair Murrie-West and Mr Bruce Pollard from Macquarie University
- Ms Lisa Sutherland, Ms Shana Kerlander, Ms Jessica Carroll, Mr Adrian Diethelm and Dr Marie Leech from the University of Sydney