



**PERSONALISED LEARNING
PROGRAMS**

RELAXED CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT



SMALL, FRIENDLY CLASSES

YOUR PATHWAY TO UNI



The first year experience: a **UWSC**College perspective

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What we are going to talk about

- Higher Education Context
- UWS, UWSCollege and the Greater Western Sydney region
- Importance of the first year experience
- The UWSCollege student
- Student Experience
- Looking Ahead





Context

Bradley Reforms

- Target of 40% of population to have a degree by 2025 (aged 25-34 years)
- By 2020, 20% of University students to come from low SES backgrounds





UWS: Spanning 8,900sq kms over Greater Western Sydney

Pop. 1.9m, 35% born overseas



3rd largest economy



GWS residents come from over 170 countries, speaking more than 100 languages



Largest single Indigenous community



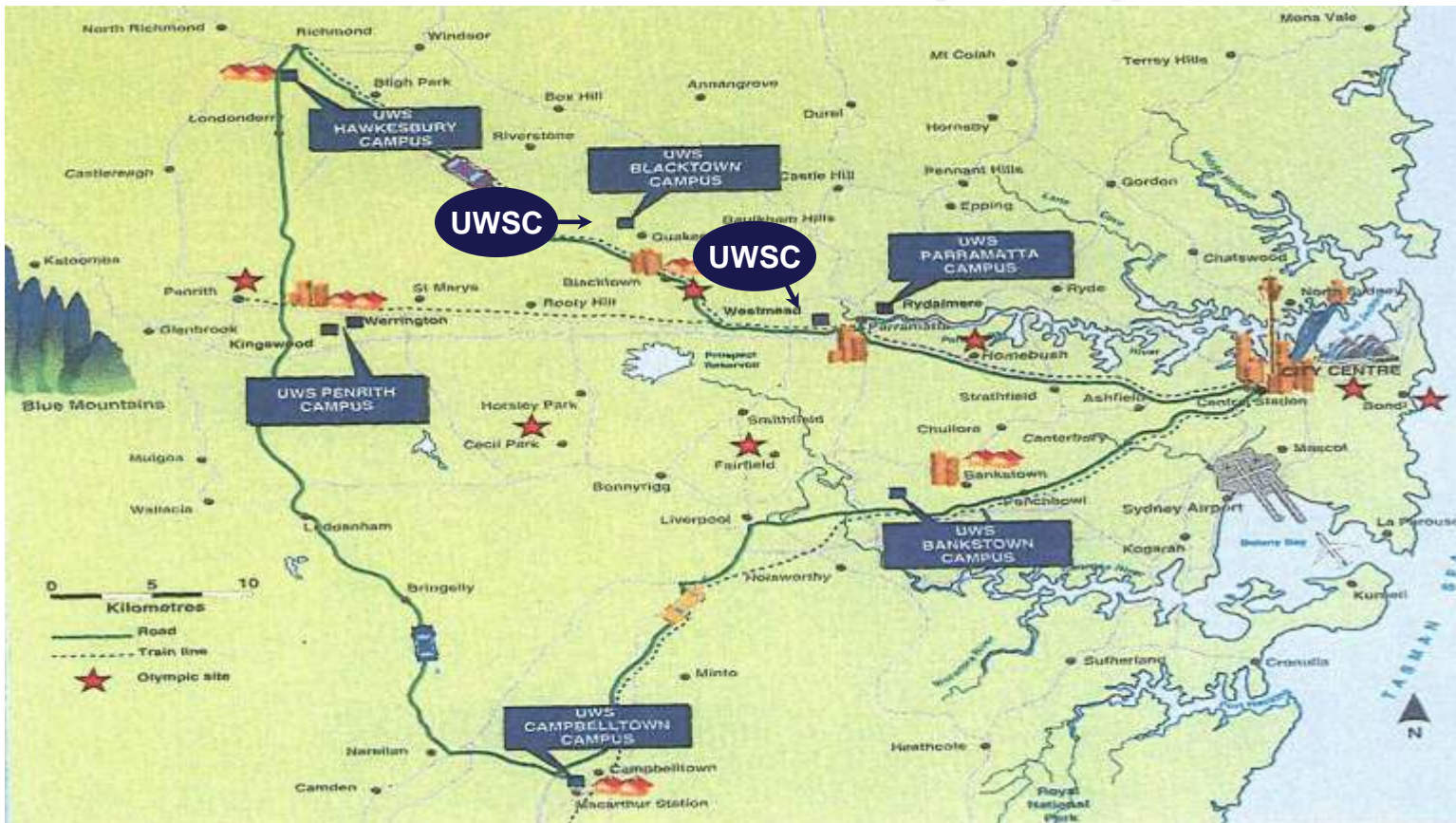
3.2% of pop. attend university, compared to 5.4% in rest of Sydney



1 University

UWSC

UWSC



Sydney



University of Western Sydney

- A modern new generation University engaged with the economic and social development of its region
- 36,000 students across six campuses throughout Western Sydney
- UWSCollege, a wholly owned entity, provides pathways to university



UWS Medical School, Campbelltown



The Importance of the First Year Experience

- Well established that first year is most critical year for retention and progression
- Students need to adapt to different ways of learning, new campus, new social networks
- 50% of first year students did not feel a sense of belonging within university communities



The UWSCollege Student

- Did not get the desired ATAR for University
- 24% come from a low SES background, from GWS
- Some 7,500 students at UWS are low SES, Highest number of any university
- Most are first in family to attend university
- 1/3rd come from non English speaking backgrounds





Student experience: Enrolment and Orientation

- Great emphasis on these processes, because virtually all students are new
- Enrolment online, with personalised assistance offered
- Orientation week, students are divided into discipline groups and given comprehensive introduction to campus life
- Students encouraged to participate in social and sporting activities
- Annual review of program to ensure continuous improvement





Student experience: Small Classes and Timetabling

- Average class size 18–20
- Typically held in small classrooms, only 5% of teaching done in lecture theatres
- Timetable designed for maximum effect:
 - Average 18 hours a week of F2F
 - Preference 3–4 days (attendance) to balance study and work
 - Allows for group work
 - Common lunch times where possible (activities)





Student experience: Attendance Monitoring



- ESOS requirement for University Foundation Studies
- Extended to all courses
- Direct correlation between attendance and academic performance
- Implementing online system



Student experience: Academic Calendar

- 39 week 3 Term calendar, starting in February, and ending in early February in the following year.
- Just in time for students to start new academic year if they pass
- Operationally a significant challenge, as brief turnaround time from exams to results, graduation and re-enrolment
- Opportunity for maintenance and implementation of capital plan also challenging
- Asset utilisation is excellent





Student Experience: Student support services

- Student Centre on each campus
- Student Adviser on each campus
- Student Activities Officer on each campus
- IT support services on each campus
- Nirimba Residential Colleges (live-in staff member provides activities)
- All services geared toward first year/pathways students



UWSCollege, Nirimba



Challenges Looking Forward

- Successful model, with evidence to support that UWSCollege students perform better than students who went straight to university
- Model has gained support both at the local level and federal level
- Expansion of the model to doubling capacity at Nirimba and a further 3 campuses, including an outreach campus at Lithgow
- Review of systems and processes to ensure scalability
- Diversification through new programs including Dip Arts, Dip Policing, Assoc Degree in Engineering
- Student population to include mature aged students





Questions

