

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

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Responsible officer	Vice Principal (Academic); Vice Principal (Students and Community)		
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Higher Education Standard	HES_2.2.2; 6.2.1g		
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1. ROLE

The Indigenous Advisory Panel (Panel) reports to the Morling College (MC) Leadership Team (LT). Its role is to advise on:

- 1.1 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content in curriculum.
- 1.2 Policies, procedures and practices which enhance the recruitment, admission, participation, and completion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- 1.3 Processes and services to provide a positive experience for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply for the purpose of this document:

Key Term or Acronym	Definition
AB	Academic board
ACT	Australian College of Theology
Chair	Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Panel
HEP	Higher Education Provider
HES	Higher Education Standards
LT	Leadership Team

MC	Morling College
Panel	Indigenous Advisory Panel
TEQSA	Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency

3. CONTEXT STATEMENT

The Higher Education Standards require higher education providers to:

- 3.1 Ensure specific consideration is given to the recruitment, admission, participation and completion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during the course of their studies (HES 2.2.2).
- 3.2 Ensure educational policies and practices support participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and are sensitive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and cultures (HES 6.2.1g).

MC is committed to fulfilling these standards in its own activities as a HEP and a third-party provider of Australian College of Theology awards, in accordance with the ACT's policies and requirements.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

This Panel is responsible for advising and providing input to MC on matters relating to:

- 4.1 Reviewing curriculum to assess and improve its treatment of content relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander related issues.
- 4.2 Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander admission numbers.
- 4.3 Increasing the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in coursework and general campus life.
- 4.4 Improving support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to facilitate successful completions.
- 4.5 Creating a learning environment which is positive and supportive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The Panel may invite additional persons to join a meeting or meetings to complement the expertise of the Panel.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- 5.1 Up to four (4) external participants (including, where possible, alumni of MC with first-hand experience of MC) who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and have knowledge or experience in one of the disciplines taught at MC: Bible and Theology; Education; Counselling or Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care.
- 5.2 Vice Principal (Academic) (Chair).
- 5.3 Vice Principal (Students and Community).
- 5.4 One representative from Student Services.
- 5.5 Dean of Residential Students.

5.6 Non-Indigenous members must have undertaken appropriate cultural competence training prior to participating in the Panel.

5.7 Members must subscribe to the MC Statement of Faith, the Lausanne Covenant or a statement of faith approved by the MC Board.

6. TERMS OF OFFICE

6.1 The term of office for an appointed member of the Panel is five (5) years.

6.2 A Panel member may be appointed for a period of two (2) consecutive five (5) year periods, but then is to have a period of no less than one year off the Panel before being eligible for reappointment.

6.3 The Chair of the Panel may bring a motion to appoint or remove a member.

7. MEETINGS

7.1 There will be a minimum of one (1) meeting per year.

7.2 The quorum for meetings will be 50% of members.

7.3 When a member cannot attend a meeting, they may nominate a replacement to attend in their place.

7.4 If not in attendance, the Chair will nominate a member to chair the meeting.

7.5 Minutes will be provided to the LT and the Academic Board (AB).

7.6 The deliberations of the Panel will be supported by data which measures the progress in the areas of responsibility.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#)

[TEQSA, 11 October 2017, Governance Note: Academic Governance](#)

9. REFERENCES

Nil

10. VERSION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Changes made
1.01	Policy Coordinator	August 2023	August 2023	TOR moved into current template. Corrected errors in numbering (eg. added the missing heading 5). Updated CAO to VP(A) and CCLO to VP(SC). Removed reference to UDiv.
1.00	MC Board	18 May 2021	18 May 2021	New Panel

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