




UniSA

Engaging
our Communities

Experience. The Difference.





Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor and President

Welcome

Educating Professionals
Creating and Applying Knowledge
Engaging our Communities

Within an increasingly globalised social and economic environment, higher education needs to be both locally and internationally relevant. This is why the University of South Australia consulted widely in 2007 to consolidate an Engagement Strategy that helps ensure continued responsiveness to our academic and broader communities. Our efforts must advance knowledge, instil an excitement for learning and raise individual aspirations while creating learning opportunities that help address wider social needs.

UniSA has a rich history of mutually beneficial relationships with the community and industries that goes back to the nineteenth century through predecessor institutions including the Teachers' and Arts Colleges and the SA Institute of Technology. This history of applied education has reinforced excellence in teaching and research and responds to the needs of industry, professions and the wider community. The University's founding legislation also creates specific commitments to Aboriginal people, groups that have suffered educational disadvantages, and to the community.

In 2007 the University entrenched its engaged role by becoming an Alliance Partner with respect to South Australia's Strategic Plan.

This reinforces the University's broad operational range, already characterised by initiatives such as the establishment of the Centre for Regional Engagement and UniSA's Northern Adelaide Partnerships (UNAP). Effective engagement also is bolstered by substantial ongoing community input through external representation in governance and advisory processes ranging from University Council to project working parties.

The naming of Laureate Professor John Ralston, Director of UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute, as 2007 South Australian of the Year as well as SA Scientist of the Year recognised his transforming and visionary impact on this State through research leadership and commitment to the role of research in improving individual lives and communities. His efforts demonstrate the spirit in which we seek to work with all our communities, thereby ensuring UniSA will be a leading contributor to Australia having the best higher education system in the world, supporting the world's best educated and most innovative, cohesive and sustainable society.

Engaging Our Communities introduces some of the diverse ways in which people from the University of South Australia try to make this happen in concert with our community partners.

Professor Peter Høj
Vice Chancellor and President

About UniSA

UniSA is a leading Australian University with approximately 33,000 students (8,000 graduates each year), annual revenue of over \$400 million and more than 2,500 staff. UniSA's innovative research profile, teaching and learning approach, its focus on strategic

partnerships, flexible entrance policies and commitment to Indigenous education have earned it a distinctive position in the Australian higher education landscape and a reputation for being a leader in university engagement.



2007 consultation session

Introduction

An Engaged Community

The University of South Australia (UniSA) contributes at all levels to the social, intellectual, economic and cultural development of the community. Meeting the present and future needs of society is the driving force behind its professional education programs and applied research focus.

UniSA aims to be distinguished for engaging and working in partnership with communities to build social capacity and community resilience, and for developing professionalism and good citizenship in graduates.

This engagement commitment – our Regional, Industry and Community Engagement Strategy – applies in five key areas:

- innovative and effective access
- highly engaged education and research
- social responsibility and civic mindedness
- development of business opportunities, and
- embedded responsibility for engagement at all levels of the University.

The Engagement Strategy supports excellence in academic programs, and the achievement of collaboratively agreed social and economic objectives through partnership activities. Relationships are based on principles of reciprocity, mutual benefit, equality of status, and the public good and occur within local, national and international communities.

The Engagement Strategy has been refined following consultation in 2007 which reaffirmed stakeholder support for UniSA as an engaged university that is responsive to the various communities within which, and thanks to which, it operates. Improving social inclusion and addressing workforce development needs are just two of the areas in which universities can make strong contributions.

This publication responds to community consultation input that UniSA should do more to promote outcomes achieved in partnership with community and industry.

Professor Hilary Winchester
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President:
Strategy and Planning

“Our teaching, research and consultancy enhance community development – linking economic and social development to support the creation of sustainable communities.”

Professor Hilary Winchester
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President:
Strategy and Planning





Former Australian Prime Minister The Hon Robert J Hawke in front of the Hawke Building



The Hon Justice Michael Kirby's 2007 Hawke Lecture: Consensus and Dissent in Australia

Making a Difference

Committed to a Progressive Democracy

Healthy democracies value robust public debate. The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre supports this aspiration by engaging with the community about contemporary issues such as sustainable societies, global citizenship, democracy, youth leadership, and responsible economic development. Politically non-partisan, it promotes democratic processes and civic obligations, and challenges people to develop solutions for a sustainable society. The Centre also supports public learning activities, alliances, and collaborative projects.

Recognition of the only South Australian born Prime Minister extends to the work of the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies, the Hawke Centre's research body. The centre offers a wide range of public learning events, including lectures, seminars, debates, roundtable discussions and forums. Where possible, unedited audio and text transcripts are made available on the Hawke Centre's web site. In 2007, the annual Hawke Lecture in the Adelaide Town Hall was given by The Hon Justice Michael Kirby, AC, CMG.

The Hawke Ambassador Program gives students an opportunity to work in international and intercultural situations.

Through various collections, galleries and museums the University also is a steward of aspects of our social, cultural, scientific and industrial heritage. The Architecture Museum, for example, makes information about the built environment publicly accessible and hosts the only archive of its kind in Australia.

State Environment and Heritage funding has allowed online documentation of some 4000 architects active in South Australia between 1836 and 2006 and the preparation of up to 100 scholarly biographies. A more recent initiative is the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art which has an elegant new presence in the Hawke Building on the University's City West campus and first opened to the public in October 2007.

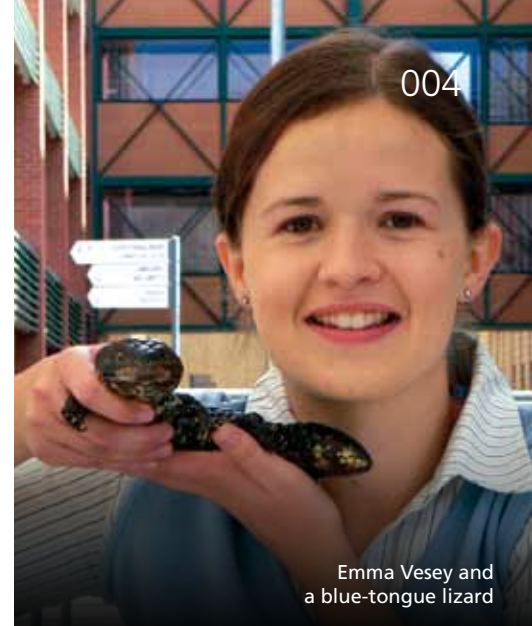
Reconciliation and Indigenous Community Needs

The David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research develops and promotes Indigenous scholarship, knowledge and thought and advises and supports the engagement of Indigenous students in programs across the University. The Indigenous Advisory Committee provides advice on emerging issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and how the University could respond to them.

UniSA's strong commitment to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community is established through our founding legislation, our vision, mission and values and a formal Statement of Commitment to Australian Reconciliation, which was adopted in 1997.



Pharmacologist Dr Susan Semple of the Sansom Institute studying native plants with Aboriginal children north of Koonibba



Emma Vesey and a blue-tongue lizard

Importantly, the University has taken practical steps to ensure that higher education will play a vital role in achieving reconciliation. Indicators relevant to the Indigenous community are included in the University's Graduate Qualities covering knowledge, ethical action and social responsibility, and applying logical, critical and creative thinking to a range of problems. We also have created an Australian university first by adopting an Indigenous Content in Undergraduate Programs Policy which is concerned about the relationship of knowledge to Indigenous people.

In 2008 UniSA launched a new suite of programs at Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master Degree levels in Aboriginal Studies to provide contemporary perspectives and understanding in the field of Aboriginal Affairs targeting Indigenous professionals.

Native Plants Help Fight Infection

A team of UniSA researchers, led by Professor Hans Griesser, Deputy Director at the Ian Wark Research Institute, has identified a new route towards infection-resistant coatings on biomedical devices by using novel antibacterial chemicals extracted from native plants. Research Fellow at UniSA's Sansom Institute, Dr Susan Semple, led the project to extract and identify antibacterial compounds from Australian plants of the genus *Eremophila* some species of which are used in traditional Aboriginal medicine.

"To our knowledge nobody else in Australia is looking at the biomedical applications of native plants," Dr Semple said. Being able to isolate compounds with antibacterial effects helps to overcome the limitations of current technologies aimed at fighting infection. It has the potential to deliver a breakthrough solution, with enormous benefits to both human health care and Australian biomedical device manufacturers. The research focuses on the biomedical application in terms of surface coatings, not traditional uses of plants.

"To our knowledge nobody else in Australia is looking at the biomedical applications of native plants."

Dr Susan Semple, Research Fellow in the Sansom Institute, Division of Health Sciences

Environmental Sustainability

Sustainability is a core UniSA value. Multi-disciplinary research on climate change is conducted in the areas of biodiversity, settlements and infrastructure, water resources, health, agriculture and complex systems, while on-campus initiatives such as power saving, recycling and sustainable design in capital works demonstrate sustainable practice.

The Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies and the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies consider aspects of sustainability, while other University Centres look at issues such as water science, comparative water policies and law, water quality and treatment, environmental risk assessment and remediation, contamination assessment and remediation, and sustainable tourism. All emphasise practical application of discipline knowledge.

A recent popular example of engaged research on a local ecosystem is Operation Bluetongue. Relying on substantial community input, the project is collecting distribution and ecology data, stories and photographs of South Australia's six blue-tongue lizard species. Through this effort, Masters degree student Emma Vesey is improving our knowledge and dispelling misconceptions about blue-tongue lizards with the support of Biocity@UniSA and ABC Radio 891.

"The purpose of the Operation Bluetongue research is to get an understanding of where and why certain species inhabit particular areas and what the benefits are of having these creatures as our neighbours," Vesey says.



Professor Rob Short,
Director of the Mawson Institute



Dr Xuan Vu (right) with members of the collaborative research team who work on fuel and water efficiency projects.

“This is exactly the type of facility and partnership we are seeking to establish, whereby UniSA working with South Australian manufacturers will develop cutting-edge technologies that underpin existing jobs in South Australia, as well as provide the opportunity to diversify manufacturing and create new jobs and exports.”

Professor Rob Short,
Director of the Mawson Institute

Applying Knowledge

UniSA is committed to industry partnerships, and has research priorities closely aligned to the State Government in areas such as defence, business productivity, manufacturing and mining innovation, and sustainability.

Research at UniSA has continued to grow in recent years, a feature that will be maintained through enhanced research engagement and collaboration. The distinctiveness of UniSA's collaboration with end users can be seen in survey results which consistently report that almost 90% of our clients would recommend UniSA's services to other organisations.

Technology and Innovation

Collaboration on cutting-edge technology recently led to the establishment of the Materials Research and Engineering Facility for Conducting Polymers, a multi-disciplinary partnership which brings together UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute and the Mawson Institute for Advanced Manufacturing, the State Government, Schefenacker Vision Systems and Carl Zeiss Vision.

The project is part of a unique facility to develop conducting polymers (plastics with high electrical conductivities) that have multiple uses in the automotive, aerospace, defence, biomedical and sustainable energy sectors. The Premier's Science Research Fund purchased equipment that will benefit SA manufacturing through research commercialisation.

Supporting Industry

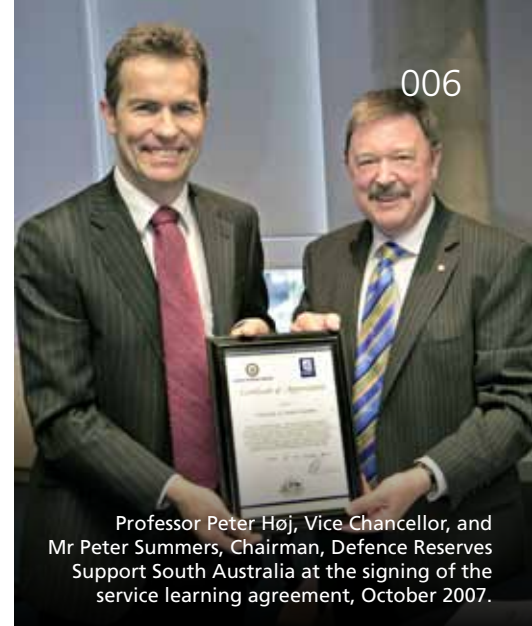
Collaborative work with industry has an impact in many areas. For example, the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute works with companies in Australia, UK, USA, New Zealand and South Africa to generate research findings that can be generalised to inform business strategies and evaluate the effectiveness of marketing activities.

Similar responsiveness led to the development of a new Master of Engineering in Military Systems Integration jointly with BAE Systems, Saab Systems and the Australian Submarine Corporation. This extends ongoing research and education alliances within the Defence sector, and complements initiatives such as the new Defence and Systems Institute, the Centre of Excellence in Defence and Industry Systems Capability, and the Centre of Excellence in Systems Integration.

UniSA's Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment is part of a Remediation Industry Cluster launched in 2007 that considers emerging clean-up technologies and global market opportunities. The Centre, directed by Professor Ravi Naidu, collaborates with companies involved in environmental clean-up or contamination removal in the mining, energy and manufacturing sectors, as well as with industry regulators and environment protection agencies.



UniSA's Janet Dibb-Smith works on the Research and Innovation Clusters initiative with David Penfold, Manager of the Salisbury Business and Export Centre.



Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor, and Mr Peter Summers, Chairman, Defence Reserves Support South Australia at the signing of the service learning agreement, October 2007.

Research and Innovation Clusters

UniSA aims to increase its impact through a new Research and Innovation Cluster initiative that brings industry, the community, and a range of disciplines together to work on contemporary issues in new ways.

Janet Dibb-Smith, who works on the Research and Innovation Clusters says, 'The concept taps into a global trend to promote innovation through cross- and multi-disciplinary networks while complementing UniSA's focus on nurturing effective research concentrations.

'Two priority clusters, Sustainable Communities, and, Peace, Security and Defence, are currently being developed by University researchers and community stakeholders. A series of participatory events will progress this work throughout 2008.

'The Research and Innovation Cluster Initiative is about better identifying our research capacity in key thematic areas, building partnerships, and making our expertise more accessible to the community'.

UniSA Strategic Partnerships

UniSA's Strategic Partnerships unit delivers corporate education programs for industry, government and commerce to support employee and organisational development. Strategic Partnerships works with industry to identify and customise university programs to meet their particular training and development needs aligned with their corporate objectives. The Strategic Partnerships team actively develops a partnership between the organisation and the University to develop courses and programs that deliver the required learning outcomes. The unit manages all the arrangements to ensure smooth delivery of the programs.

Defence Force Service Learning

Service Learning in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is a course developed by UniSA in partnership with Defence Reserves Support South Australia to acknowledge the service learning provided by participating in the ADF. The course is offered as an elective for students to incorporate into their study program. The course allows ADF personnel to use their experiences in the ADF towards their university studies.

"Often in science it can take years, even decades, for a new technology to be widely adopted. The aim of the Remediation Industry Cluster is to short-circuit that process and ensure Australian companies have access to leading-edge technologies in the quickest possible time."

Professor Ravi Naidu, CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment.

Vegetation Keeps Trains on Tracks

Railway tracks built on expansive clay soils and sites with poor drainage often change their shape due to swelling, shrinkage or softening of clays beneath the tracks, forcing trains to slow down to avoid derailment and making them less efficient. Researchers at UniSA found that planting trees and native grasses could be a cheap and effective

solution for stabilising rail tracks built on poorly draining expansive soils. The team from the School of Natural and Built Environments undertook the research, funded by the Rail Cooperative Research Centre, of which UniSA is a core partner, supported by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and Queensland Rail.





Research Fellow, Dr Julia Piantadosi,
School of Mathematics and Statistics



Three recent student, staff and community literary publications: 'Vibrant' poetry symposium papers; linguistics and language use essays for teachers and education students; and a collection of short stories written and edited by UniSA students.

"It is important for people to understand how mathematics oils the machinery that makes everyday activities, like catching a train or watering the garden, more efficient and cost effective."

Dr Julia Piantadosi

Cultural Industries

South Australia's Strategic Plan targets an increase of creative industry worker numbers of 20 percent by 2014. A number of UniSA discipline areas will contribute to achieving this objective, including the School of Art, School of Communication, and various information technology and management programs.

The Heart of the Matter Project is a cultural engagement project undertaken in partnership with Lythrum Press, the SA Writers Centre and local poets. Led by Dr Ioana Petrescu, lecturer in professional writing at UniSA, UniSA students conducted research and wrote reflective pieces for a book on eighteen South Australian poets. Printed by Lythrum Press, the book consolidates information about this aspect of the State's arts history. First sold at Adelaide's Writers Week it now informs the UniSA curriculum, and is an excellent example of embedding community engagement within the teaching and learning process.

Water and Fuel Efficiency

Research by UniSA's Scheduling and Control Group addresses issues as diverse as train timetabling and freight management, and the management of suburban stormwater, anticipating potentially major environmental and economic impact through improved fuel and water usage.

Dr Xuan Vu works on the FreightMiser system created by a collaborative research team at UniSA and TMG International, which provides long haul train drivers with an in-cab advice system to help time management and minimise fuel consumption.

"Instead of wasting energy by driving too quickly and arriving ahead of schedule, the onboard system advises the optimum speed profile for drivers to reduce energy consumption while maintaining their schedule," Dr Vu said.

Dr Julia Piantadosi works on water cycle management within a large interdisciplinary team at Mawson Lakes with the support of an ARC Linkage grant, while Paraskevi Thomas develops graphical simulation packages for optimal management and risk assessment in urban stormwater harvesting systems.

In a similar vein, the inaugural meeting of Water Quality Research Australia Ltd was held at UniSA in December 2007. WQRAL brings together twenty nine government, industry and research organisations to assist the water industry to produce affordable, high quality drinking water.

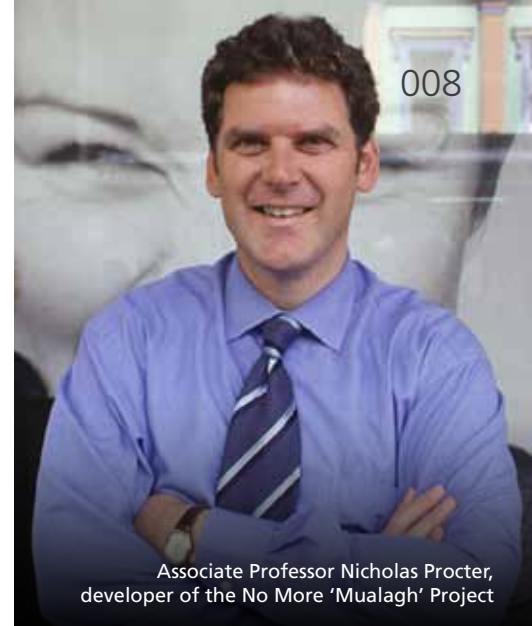
Business Sector Leadership

UniSA is the principal sponsor of the annual *International Business Week* seminar series. IBW is South Australia's premier event for exporters and for companies considering the leap from domestic to world markets.

"The annual UniSA IBW seminar series provides a focus for the State's export and import industries and an opportunity for all involved with the business of exporting to come together and learn from each other." Professor Gerry Griffin, Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Division of Business.



Professor Barbara Pocock, national leader in work/life and family issues



Associate Professor Nicholas Procter, developer of the No More 'Mualagh' Project

Resilient Communities

UniSA strives for excellence in teaching and research while helping to build community resilience and capacity. Partnership activities do this across disciplines, while research relating to social responsibility and equity is undertaken through the Centre for Research in Education, Equity and Work and the Centre for Literacy, Policy and Learning Cultures among others.

The University's role in enhancing quality of life was acknowledged with the 2005 Gold Award of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Business Council of Australia National Work and Family Award. UniSA also received the inaugural Employment and Inclusion Award for Work/Life Balance in a large organisation from Diversity@work.

A related highlight in 2007 was recognition of Professor Barbara Pocock, Director of UniSA's Centre for Work+Life, as the 'Society' category winner in *The Bulletin's* 'Smart 100 Australians'. She is also one of the Federal Government's best and brightest participants in the Australia 2020 Summit.

UniSA is active locally and internationally. Many overseas students travel to join the South Australian community, others engage

while studying courses delivered in their home countries. Increasingly, local students will have the opportunity to experience study in foreign lands, while the University's capacity building mission extends to communities in countries as diverse as India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, East Timor and South Africa.

No More 'Mualagh'

Mualagh is a word in the Dari language of Afghanistan meaning 'floating in a sea of sad uncertainty'. Dari speakers have no direct translation of the medical term 'depression'.

The No More 'Mualagh' Project helps Afghans living in rural Australia to learn more about depression, its treatment, and how to safely use antidepressant medication, while educating health professionals about the Afghan refugee experience of depression. It was developed by Associate Professor Nicholas Procter with Multicultural Mental Health Australia and the National Ethnic Disability Alliance following an earlier initiative that addressed mental health promotion and suicide prevention for Afghan refugees.

The project received a National Quality Use of Medicines Award in 2006.

CHaTFirst

The CHaTFirst (Children and Teens First) web-site uniquely presents information with a child-centred focus to help children, teens and parents experiencing separation or divorce. Developed jointly with Centacare and supported by the Telstra Foundation, it emerged from an earlier research project based in the School of Social Work and Social Policy. The website is complemented by parallel parent and child education groups and child-inclusive mediation as part of a comprehensive family service model through Centacare.

"We are keenly aware of how important this issue is to children and young people – and how few resources are available that are designed for children. I have looked over the material on the CHaTFirst site and I'm really impressed." James McDougall, Director, National Children's & Youth Law Centre, Sydney.



"The website content – which includes a range of age-appropriate information, support, interactive games, music and useful contacts – came out of the responses of parents, children and relatives in a state-wide phone-in."

Professor Dale Bagshaw



Part of Team UniSA, Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor (at left)

UniSA's Role Active in Tour Down Under

The University's continuing sponsorship of the Tour Down Under is a good example of the pivotal role a modern university plays in today's society in partnership with the State Government and community.

Over eight years, the link between cycling and other University interests has accompanied a growing academic and research focus on healthy lifestyles and sustainability. UniSA convenes the Thinking on Two Wheels conferences which feature academic and non-academic presentations on diverse cycling-related topics from health through recreation, community, tourism and engineering to sustainable transport. The University has hosted Bicycle Research Interest Groups for enthusiasts to take part in presentations and discussions on cycling research projects. A strong role in population health research is maintained through the UniSA Health Sciences Division.

"The Tour Down Under has become a part of the University's culture with many of our staff, students and friends getting involved. I greatly enjoyed taking part in the 134km Mutual Community Challenge Tour from Mannum to Strathalbyn this year. It was satisfying to complete the ride with about 40 others from UniSA." Professor Peter Høj, Vice Chancellor

UniSA Working Within the Community

The Mawson Centre is a state-of-the-art Innovative Cultural Community Learning and Information Centre located at UniSA's Mawson Lakes campus. It's an integral part of the Mawson Lakes Town Centre and is a pivotal link between the Centre, the university, the Mawson Lakes primary school, the civic community centre and the Mawson Lakes development as a whole. The Mawson Centre is a tenants-in-common venture between the City of Salisbury, Department of Children and Education Services and UniSA and the building was jointly funded by these parties with contributions also from Land Management Corporation and the Mawson Lakes Joint Venture.

Innovations and Economic Opportunities Group

UniSA is a member of the Innovations and Economic Opportunities Group (IEOG), whose membership includes the City of Salisbury, Lend Lease Communities and the Land Management Corporation. This organisation has been instrumental in supporting innovative sustainability projects including working with UniSA's Sustainable Energy Centre and the Urban Water Resources Centre in the provision of solar lights and the dual-water system (which is one of the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere). The IEOG has also worked with the Division of Health Sciences in the development and establishment of the Trinity Gardens Aged Care Facility.



Photo by Igor Goya Sefer created as part of the Snapshots of a New Life project

Promoting Healthy Eating

Promoting Healthy Eating Habits is a project that investigates the link between what students eat at school and the role of school canteen services. It explores childhood nutrition patterns and healthy living in the context of school curricula, role models and food provision. UniSA's Health Sciences Division, the Women's and Children's Hospital, Spotless Services and the Department of Education and Children's Services collaborate on this project, which already is informing school healthy eating strategies across the State.

Snapshots of a New Life

The Snapshots of a New Life Project raised the visibility of young refugees and documented their family and community life. The young people participated in photography workshops, after which they were supported to develop a visual history of their lives and experiences in Australia, culminating in an exhibition at the Adelaide Festival Theatre and a regional tour. Partners were the Migrant Resource Centre, Middle Eastern Communities of SA, African Communities Council, Bosnian and Herzegovina Muslim Society, Bosnian Women's Association, Serbian Community of SA and the Young Refugees' Network.

Regional South Australia

UniSA is active in many regional locations, especially through the Centre for Regional Engagement (CRE) campus in Whyalla and the Mount Gambier centre. Community capacity building is a major theme of this work, as demonstrated by the Far West Aboriginal Enterprise Network partnership with the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre, Koonibba Aboriginal Community, Scotdesco Homeland, Dinahline Homeland, the Gunter Family and the Ceduna Elders Committee.

UniSA also works with the Primary Industries Department and Rural Solutions on the Community Capacity Assessment Project. Professor Brian Cheers has described this as "one of the most useful things I have done in my career". Discussion is proceeding about the potential development of an assessment tool to measure community capacity to respond to disasters such as bushfires or droughts.

A Whyalla-UniSA: Partnering in Sustainability day in November 2007 discussed local sustainability projects and research needs. A major complementary initiative is the establishment on the Whyalla campus of a new Regional Sustainability Centre, led by Professor Wasim Saman with support from the Premier's Science and Research Fund, Wizard Power, OneSteel, the Whyalla City Council and the Whyalla Economic Development Board.

The Mount Gambier Regional Centre has delivered business, nursing and social work programs since 2005. A Steering Committee based on local Council, TAFE, school and regional development and training organisations strongly affirmed the value of the University's presence when consulted in 2007, with a Learning City initiative to be a focus of collaborative work in 2008.

The Blue Sky public lecture series allows UniSA academics to present their work on topical issues to community forums in Whyalla and Mount Gambier. Recent presentation topics have included health and weight management, industrial relations and WorkChoices, child abuse, and strengthening rural communities.

Northern Metropolitan Adelaide

The University's Northern Adelaide Partnerships (UNAP) facilitates social inclusion projects that increase educational participation, promote pathways into university education and training, and build community capacity. The Libraries for Learning partnership shows how university and other libraries can work with local council and education stakeholders to improve access to information, resources, services and expertise, thereby building individual and community capacity.

A good example of the practical impact of this cooperation is Lapsit, a program in which UniSA students facilitate sessions to help parents or carers develop their children's early literacy skills in comfortable community settings. Collaborators include UNAP, Salisbury and Playford Council libraries, UniSA's Early Childhood Education Program, and a range of community groups. Some program resources were developed with Australian Government assistance.

Among other tributes, UNAP has been commended nationally by the Business/Higher Education Round Table, and received a City of Salisbury's Learning Champion Award for contribution to the local community.



Lapsit supports parents reading to their children

Lapsit received a National Investment in the Early Years Award in 2006 for "outstanding achievement in supporting parents and caregivers to maximise the development and wellbeing of young children". A spin-off initiative was the formation of the Adult Literacy Northern Adelaide Coordinating Group.



Tony Zappia (left), recently elected Member for the Federal seat of Makin, is Chair of the UNAP Advisory Committee and seen here with other UNAP participants



From left: Volunteer Evonne Cassar and Open Universities Australia Bachelor of Nursing students Anna Mc Cusker, Suzanne Gavin and Julie Coates during a recent workshop at UniSA's Whyalla campus.

Potential students will be able to participate through a OneSteel Cadetship or by direct entry to the University. This collaborative industry partnership is an excellent example of regional activity that addresses skills shortages associated with the current resources boom.

Pathways...

Flexible education pathways can address some access and support issues for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Programs such as UniSA Foundation Studies provide opportunities in this context, while scholarships also assist people who otherwise may not be able to participate in higher education.

Working with Schools and TAFE

Cooperation with schools to increase retention and assist accessibility to university is important. UNAP has worked since 2004 with UniSA's School of Education and the State Education Department to develop initiatives that address accessibility and retention issues in northern Adelaide by improving program coordination across various education systems.

The University's Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment partners with high schools in the SMS@UniSA program. Students attend the University's Mawson Lakes campus one day a week for year 12 physics, chemistry,

and specialist mathematics. Practical work relies on access to UniSA's laboratories, library, computing and teaching facilities, staff and postgraduates. The goal is improved higher participation and retention rates and an increase in the number of students studying year 12 science at participating schools.

The University also is part of the National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO) Program to assist people with a disability to make the transition between secondary school, vocational education and training, higher education and ultimately, employment. The Program is closely aligned with the University's strategic and ethical commitments, especially in relation to regional communities.

The Robotics Peer Mentoring Program showcases Engineering as a rewarding and socially responsible career. UniSA students mentor some 800 school students to build and program intelligent robots with the support of high schools, major electronic and technology firms, and the Electronic Industries Association.



This popular program has received the Australian Engineering Excellence Award – AusIndustry Innovation Award and a South Australian Commendation for Engineering Excellence.

Science at the Lakes is a National Science Week event hosted at UniSA's Mawson Lakes campus in collaboration with schools, TAFE, government agencies, service clubs and industry. 1300 students from some 27 South Australian primary and secondary schools attended 2007 activities.



UniSA-PAL

The Preparation Program for Adult Learners (UniSA-PAL) partners with Adult Education, High Schools and the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia (SSABSA) to provide pathways for students who otherwise would not qualify for university entry. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds get a 'second chance' at education, thereby addressing obstacles arising from factors such as poverty, disabilities, ill health, single parenting, language difficulties, domestic violence, family support, or self confidence. The program also happens 'at home' in the distance mode.

Getting a Start in Industry

A key industrial qualification will be offered at UniSA Whyalla campus in 2008. The Associate Degree in Engineering will cater for school leavers or adult applicants who want to start an engineering career. Potential students will be able to participate through a OneSteel Cadetship or by direct entry to the university. This collaborative industry partnership is an excellent example of regional activity that addresses skills shortages associated with the current resources boom.

Chancellor's Awards for Community Engagement

Each year staff, students and community partners are recognised for outstanding service to the community through the Chancellor's Awards for Community Engagement. 2007 Award recipients dealt with issues as diverse as:

- the mental health of young homeless people;
- early age literacy;
- a free public affairs lecture program (through the Hawke Centre); and
- regional Indigenous community sustainability through work with the Far West Aboriginal Enterprise Network.



Champion Port Adelaide footballer Gavin Wanganeen and Laurel Dodd, inaugural winner of the Gavin Wanganeen Scholarship

"I left school at 16 to work full-time in a factory, not considering university an option. It wasn't until later when I was raising three children by myself that I decided I needed more direction in my life. After a year of pretty intensive study I can say the course has proven an excellent foundation for entry into my Nursing degree. I'm on my way!"

Bronwen Proctor, former Para West Adult Campus Student on the UniSA-PAL scheme



Curious Science at the Lakes participant



Film and video production and journalism students at the 2007 World Police and Fire Games

Engaged Students

Student engagement is fundamental to UniSA, with experiential learning central to our new Teaching and Learning Framework. Maintenance of relationships with Alumni in Australia and throughout the world extends this emphasis on active community linkages involving students and graduates.

Community Clinics

UniSA student clinics offer educational experience in various disciplines while bringing valuable resources to disadvantaged communities. The Mammography Clinic, for example, enables diagnostic radiographers to undertake theoretical and practical postgraduate study in conjunction with Breast Screen SA.

UNAP facilitated other clinics through the Northern Adelaide Health and Wellbeing Project. The education model for these requires community based work supervised by experienced clinical educators who ensure that duty of care, service quality, and learning outcomes are achieved.

Clinics in disciplines such as psychology, social work, podiatry and physiotherapy also go some way to addressing long waiting lists and times.

A Northern Area Clinic began providing physiotherapy and podiatry services in July 2006 in the Playford Community Health Centre (Davoren Park), while a Physiotherapy Student Clinic in Adelaide runs like a professional private practice but offers discounted fees for pensioners, students, and the unemployed. An Options Coordination Physiotherapy Clinic also is run by students with community partners Brain Injury Options Coordination and Adult Physical and Neurological Options Coordination.

Service learning also features within other disciplines. For Social Work, 'field education' constitutes a quarter of an undergraduate degree or occurs as supervised practice for postgraduates. Similarly, supervised undergraduate students provide free podiatry advice to children of low-income families through Child and Youth Health's Podiatry Program.

“It gave the students a much clearer understanding of what it is like to be in the workforce – the deadlines, the limitations, the excitement, the importance of teamwork, and all the other pressures and pleasures of working in news media.”

Dwayne Blee, UniSA film and TV lecturer

Film, Video and Journalism Students

Film and video production and journalism students worked as reporters and camera crew at the 2007 World Police and Fire Games in 2007, joining TAFE students and industry professionals to produce TV news stories for broadcast at the event.

The quality of graduates was demonstrated by three young health science researchers from UniSA's *Sansom Institute* being awarded 2007 Young Tall Poppy Science Awards, with Dr Craig Williams also being named the South Australian Young Tall Poppy of the Year. Their contributions related to knowledge about genetic diseases, debilitating viruses and the causes of obesity.

Graduate Qualities

The University's education programs develop desired graduate qualities, including command of a body of knowledge in sufficient depth to begin professional practice. Graduates are prepared for life-long learning in pursuit of personal development and excellence in professional practice and are expected to be effective communicators and community members. UniSA strives to ensure that graduates have international perspectives as professionals and as citizens, and are committed to ethical action and social responsibility.

Aerial Shark Watch Patrol Service

UniSA delivers fixed wing aircraft patrols for the Aerial Shark Watch Patrol Service in partnership with the State Government. Operated by the Civil Aviation discipline of the School of Electrical and Information Engineering, flights are piloted by commercial pilot training students and graduate instructors from the UniSA Aviation Academy. Research opportunities also have been realised.



Emergency Services Minister the Hon Carmel Zollo with Shark Patrol aviation students



UniSA's Ryan Causby at a Community Clinic

For more information about the University's engagement activities, please contact:

Professor Hilary Winchester
Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President:
Strategy and Planning
Chancellery
Hawke Building
Level 4, 55 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: +61 8 8302 0209
Fax: +61 8 8302 0225
Email: hilary.winchester@unisa.edu.au

Ms Janet Dibb-Smith
Senior Advisor: Policy and Strategy
UniSA Research and Innovation
Cluster Directorate
Innovation House
Mawson Lakes campus
Tel: +61 8 8343 8732
Fax: +61 8 8343 8733
Email: janet.dibbsmith@unisa.edu.au

Experience. The Difference.

Professor Neil Otway
Director: Centre for Regional Engagement
University of South Australia
Whyalla campus
111 Nicolson Avenue
Whyalla Norrie SA 5608
Tel: +61 8 8647 6161
Fax: +61 8 8647 6082
Email: campuscentral.whyalla@unisa.edu.au

Dr Lindsay Ryan
Director: Strategic Partnerships
Division of Business
Level 5, Way Lee Building
City West campus
Tel: +61 8 8302 0803
Fax: +61 8 8302 0805
Email: lindsay.ryan@unisa.edu.au

Mr Marc Shannon
Manager: UniSA Northern Adelaide
Partnerships (UNAP)
GP2-27, Mawson Lakes campus
Tel: +61 8 8302 3654
Fax: +61 8 8302 5677
Email: marc.shannon@unisa.edu.au

This publication was produced as part of the UniSA Regional, Industry and Community Engagement Project. Information correct at time of publication (May 2008).

www.unisa.edu.au
CRICOS provider number 00121B

The University of South Australia educates professionals and citizens to the highest standards; creates and disseminates knowledge; and works with our communities to address the major issues of our time.

The University does this by undertaking teaching and research that connects strongly with the issues of our local, national and international stakeholders – students, alumni, staff, partners, professions, government, industry, academic peers and community groups.