Social Inclusion Internship Program

Overview

This proposal for an Internship Program has been developed in response to a request from Senator Ursula Stephens of the Federal Government of Australia to the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian Catholic University, for this program in the area of social inclusion. The program is based upon the government’s Australian Social Inclusion agenda as stated in the policies of the Australian Labor Party. The program includes engagement with Government Ministers and Departments, peak organizations, communities, and scholars nationally and internationally. Attention has been given to the Australian National Internship Program (ANU) in the development of this Social Inclusion Internship Program.

Goals

1. Contributing to government policy development by more closely integrating high level policy goals and a community engagement based approach to assessing needs, identifying gaps, and articulating program options;
2. Enhancing government credibility and relationships with the community through shared responsibility built upon mutual trust and respect for each other’s priorities and approaches;
3. Extending the research base for public policy and program selection by addressing the barriers to the inclusion of peoples being marginalized from the economic wealth, opportunity options and skill based development options that have enveloped Australian mainstream society in recent years;
4. Sharing of knowledge through increased public access to research outcomes;
5. Extending the Social inclusion agenda to become a priority for future leaders in corporate, professional and community sectors; and
6. People who are socially excluded able to participate in internship and consultation processes.
## Benefits and Outcomes

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<tr>
<th>Intern</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Wider Community</th>
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<td><strong>Policy processes and discourses</strong></td>
<td>Develop a culture and practice of scholarly and public participation in addressing issues of social inclusion/exclusion.</td>
<td>Formal and informal avenues of voicing positions on issues of social inclusion/exclusion.</td>
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<td>Participate in Australian Government’s policy making processes and discourses.</td>
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<td><strong>Engaging with communities and community organisations</strong></td>
<td>Enhanced public credibility and mutual respect with communities and community organisations. Better alignment of policy objectives with community insights and aspirations.</td>
<td>Development of Government/community relationships built upon trust and mutual respect. Shared ownership and responsibility for social inclusion policies and programs.</td>
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<td>Engage with and be a voice for people who are socially excluded. Engage with peak bodies and community organisations.</td>
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<td><strong>Research based policies and programs</strong></td>
<td>Values based public policy and program options derived from the unique scholarship and learning that arise from the community/University nexus.</td>
<td>Active and formative role in the research basis for policy outcomes for policy and program outcomes that address social exclusion and promote equality and inclusion.</td>
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<td>Enhance capabilities in quality and ethically based policy research via participation and development of research projects.</td>
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<td><strong>Sharing of knowledge</strong></td>
<td>Support for inclusive approaches to sharing knowledge and insights regarding social inclusion policies and the development of individual and community skills and capabilities</td>
<td>Access to and participation in the sharing of knowledge and insights about social inclusion and public policy.</td>
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<td>Develop capabilities and approaches for sharing research based knowledge and insights across government and the wider community.</td>
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<td><strong>Leadership and civic responsibility</strong></td>
<td>Government acknowledged as developing Interns leadership and civic responsibility while gaining from gifted and skilled Australians through their research and community engagement.</td>
<td>Development of socially responsible professionals and leaders. Fostering of intellectually, socially and morally engaged communities. Empowerment of disengaged individuals and groups.</td>
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<td>Enhance the Interns leadership capability and civic responsibility through their work with people who are socially disadvantaged, community agencies, government personnel.</td>
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<td><strong>Participation of people from backgrounds of social exclusion</strong></td>
<td>Government implements its social inclusion priorities as enhanced via the internship outcomes and outputs.</td>
<td>People from such backgrounds are given consideration, awareness and ownership via the research and consultation processes.</td>
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<td>Involve people from such backgrounds participation in internship program.</td>
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**Organisation**

- **Academic Level:** Interns participating in the program will have developed specific competencies in academic writing research methods and ethical research before they commence their internship. Before being considered for this program, students will have to demonstrate a high level of academic competency and proficiency in their academic writing. Interns participating in this program would normally be studying at the Honours, Master’s or Doctoral level.

- **Selection Process:** Applicants for an internship must apply directly to the Social Inclusion Internship Program through the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian Catholic University. (See Appendix for application form requirements.)

- **Duration of Internships:** Applicants can apply for a 3 or 6 months internship. The length of the internship will also depend on the academic level of the intern and/or the nature of the research task to be undertaken.

- **Tasks:** During the period of the Internship, each intern will work in the office of the Minister to which they are assigned and the appropriate government departments. Interns will have access to the general resources of the parliament.

  **Research Task:** Each intern will complete a specific research task in conjunction with the assigned government department. This research task will be specifically designed and negotiated between the intern, the government department and the intern’s University supervisor. The tasks must be of a community engagement nature, and be linked to current issues which are being attended to by policy makers.

  **Presentation:** Each Intern will be required to make a formal presentation of the findings of their research to a panel which will consist of government or departmental personnel, other policy makers, key stakeholders from the community and the University coordinator/supervisor.

All interns will also be expected to provide support to the Minister/Parliamentary Secretary to whom they are assigned, and will undertake tasks that are specific to the research task undertaken.

- **Coordinator:** Each student will meet regularly with the University coordinator/supervisor and provide evidence of their progress during the internship progress. This coordinator/supervisor will help the student to shape their research and their final report to a quality level.

- **Financial Support and Assistance:**
  - **Accommodation:** Students will be assisted to find accommodation prior to their arrival.
  - **Living costs:** Interns can apply for stipend based scholarships to contribute towards their living expenses.
- Research project costs: Research costs including travel and accommodation are to be negotiated at the beginning of the internship and will be funded by the appropriate government department.
- Transport: All interns will be provided with a travel pass for public transport for the duration of the internship.
- Equity Scholarships: Will be available to all students who are eligible for such payments.

- **Social Inclusion:** In selection of interns attention will be given to ensure participation of interns from equity backgrounds (Indigenous, rural and remote, women, people with disabilities, refugees) as well as interns from different social, cultural and religious backgrounds.

Professor Jude Butcher cfc  
Director Institute for Advancing Community Engagement  
*January 31, 2008*
Appendix

Application form requirements

- All applications must include
  - The completed Social Inclusion Internship Program enrolment form;
  - A curriculum vitae (maximum 5 pages) with the applicant’s academic status, and community engagement and work experience;
  - Three referee reports of which at least one must be from an academic and another from a person involved with community organisations;
  - A 500 word statement of the outcomes the applicant hopes to achieve from the internship;
  - An official copy of the students academic transcript;
  - A letter of approval from the relevant university if the internship is to be part of a formal University course.