

Statement of commitment

As a public purpose institution, UTS is committed to social justice and the economic, social, and cultural prosperity of our local and global communities. We are pleased to join the Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) program to take strategic, practical, and measurable actions to improve the financial wellbeing of our students.

At UTS, our operations and culture are informed by principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are a university for all, ensuring everyone who is qualified for a place at UTS is supported to reach their full potential. The diversity of our student community is one of our strengths. We believe that universities have a responsibility to support all learners to access and succeed in higher education and beyond.

The rising cost of living is having a direct impact on the financial wellbeing of students. Universities need deliberate, well-articulated, holistic approaches to social justice to harness our potential for social change. Our Financial Inclusion Action Plan will provide a whole-of-institution framework to guide our support for students and achieve greater social impact. Working alongside our Widening Participation Strategy, the framework will strengthen our endeavours to remove financial barriers to education and improve economic inclusion for all students.

Extending beyond our campus, we recognise that tackling the challenge of financial inclusion can lead to greater benefits for the community, including a more equitable society.

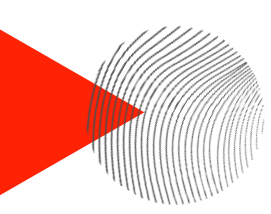
UTS is a signatory to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and we believe universities have a vital role in helping achieve the SDGs through teaching, research, practice and partnerships. Through our development of a FIAP, we will contribute to 12 of the 17 SDGs that aim to reduce inequality and enable inclusive economic growth.

We are proud to expand our work for social good by partnering with Good Shepherd to develop and implement our Financial Inclusion Action Plan.



**The Hon. Verity Firth AM Pro Vice-Chancellor
(Social Justice & Inclusion), UTS Industry
Professor for Education and Public Benefit**





Our Commitment

UTS is looking forward to developing a Financial Inclusion Action Plan, to launch in 2024. The initial focus will involve developing our Foundation FIAP with input from across the university.

Our key commitments to improving financial inclusion include:

Action Areas	UTS Commitment
Products and Services	<p>We are committed to ensuring that all learners, irrespective of background, are supported through pathways to education and, as members of our student community, receive access to programs and services that are affordable, accessible, and relevant throughout their studies.</p> <p>We will aim to increase the visibility, inclusivity and accessibility of existing co-curricular programs, financial assistance and crisis support across the university. We will also continue supporting students facing financial hardship, including through scholarships and grants.</p>
Financial Capability	<p>We will continue to enhance the financial literacy and capabilities of students. Our approach will build on existing financial education across the university, identifying new opportunities to educate students and positively impact their financial inclusion, resilience, and wellbeing.</p> <p>We will further integrate financial education across the student lifecycle. Leveraging the expertise available through FIAP partners and the FIAP Community of Practice, we will explore opportunities that increase student financial literacy and build staff capability to support students.</p>
Understanding of Financial Vulnerability	<p>We are a university for all, ensuring everyone who desires and merits a place at UTS is enabled to do so.</p> <p>Financial hardship can impact the access, participation, retention and success of all students, with those from identified vulnerable and low-socioeconomic backgrounds at greater risk of financial exclusion. As part of our commitment to equity and diversity, we will increase how we identify the risks of economic exclusion and proactively remove barriers that disproportionately impact vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Consultation with students will increase our understanding of the barriers and how institutions can support student success. These learnings will inform our action plan and cross-unit collaboration.</p>
Economic Security	<p>We aim to support all learners to achieve their full potential at university and beyond.</p> <p>Acknowledging the positive impact of education and employment on economic security, we will prioritise actions that improve equitable access to university, support financial wellbeing and prepare all students for life outside of university. This includes initiatives that develop student capacity to gain meaningful employment and contribute to their communities, building on our distinctive graduate attributes.</p>

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand and the FIAP Advisory Group on the FIAP program.

The Hon. Verity Firth AM Pro Vice-Chancellor (Social Justice & Inclusion), UTS Industry Professor for Education and Public Benefit

Stella Avramopoulos
Chief Executive Officer
Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

