



Increasing the participation, access and success of care experienced students at TAFE and university

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Centre and Raising Expectations acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the various Aboriginal lands on which we, and our TAFE and university partners, conduct our work.

We pay respects to Elders past and present. Sovereignty has never been ceded and this was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Session Overview

- Evidence for increasing care leaver participation in TAFE and university
- Raising Expectations partnership
- Student participation data
- Impact and next steps



Care experienced young people



Low expectations

There were times where I felt pretty hopeless...I held like **low expectations for myself**. But then I had at least one other person who...did believe in me and they actively encouraged me to pursue education... Even just **reassurance that just because you are going through an obstacle doesn't mean that you can't finish the race.**

Young Person with
Kinship Care experience

In High School, we did have a careers advisor, but he literally said to me **“you will never get into medicine, pick something else”**. Instead of saying here are the pathways into medicine, it was ‘you’ll never do it’. I should have been a cook, or like a cleaner, in his opinion.

Young Person with
Foster Care experience

Young people in care and leaving care

45,000

Children and young people are in care across Australia.



30% of care leavers homeless within 12 months.



Overrepresentation in the youth justice system.



52% of care leavers presented to acute mental health services.



Barriers to post-secondary education.

How do experiences in the out-of-home care system impact on education?



- Low educational Aspirations
- Stigma
- Disrupted Schooling
- Lack of Support
- Learning Challenges
- Leaving school early

Building the Evidence Base: an Australian Model of Support in Higher Education

Raising Expectations research explored:

- Exclusion from higher education
- Support, recruitment and retention strategies
- Data collection
- Official equity group status
- Cross sectoral partnerships

THE RAISING EXPECTATIONS MODEL



TAFE & University Partnerships



- Institutional recognition & awareness
- Dedicated & tailored support
- Financial assistance
- Data collection

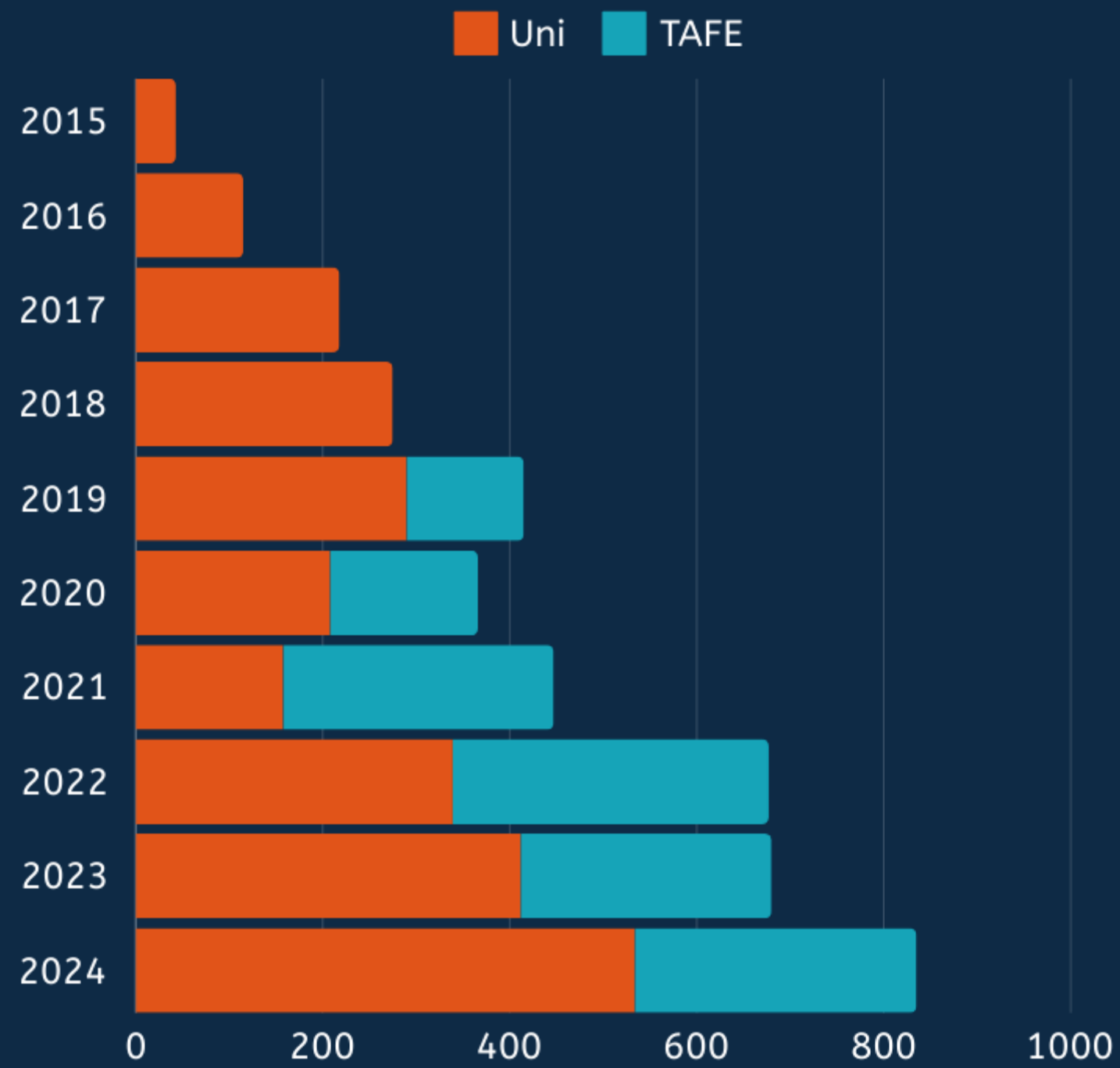


Peer Mentoring Programs



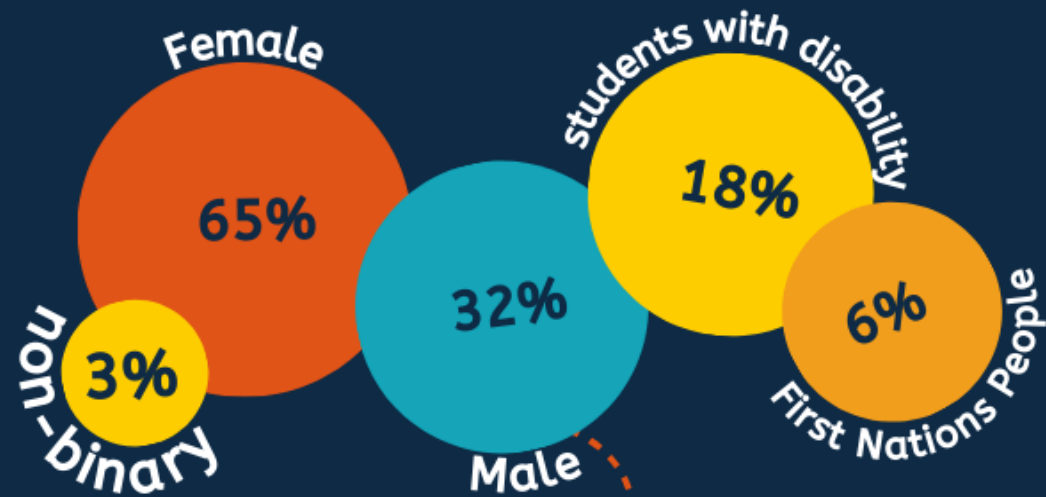
- Game Changers:
TAFE and university care experienced students
- Level Up:
15–18-year-old care experienced young people

Student Participation



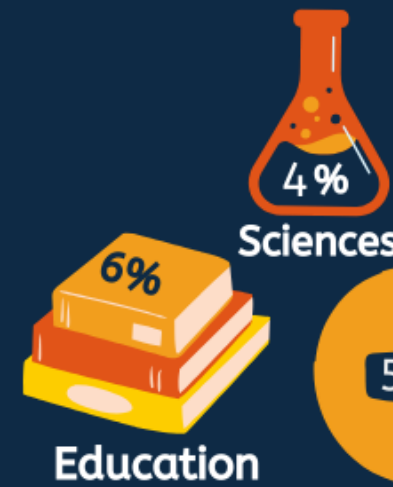
- Since 2015, there has been an 1800% increase in participation
- From 43 to 835 students participating
- Completions are increasing

Student Participation



835 students at
TAFE & UNI

TAFE
top study areas



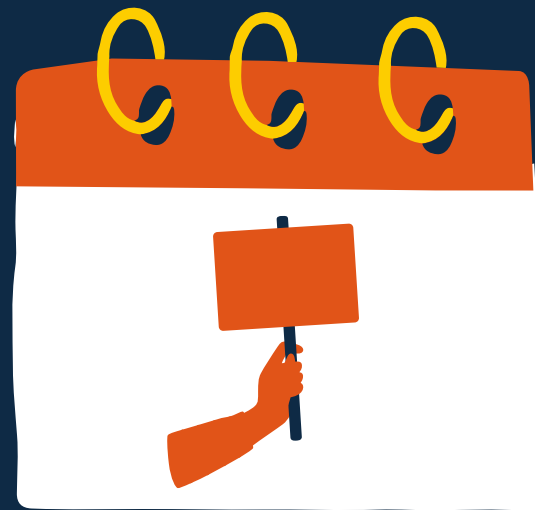
UNI
top study areas

4333
study completions
2020-2024



Data gathered across 4 partner institutions

Impact



- Building awareness and lifting aspirations
- Creating inclusive strategies, policies, and systems
- Promoting a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach
- Improving access to tailored support services
- Increasing student engagement and retention
- Improving learning outcomes

What Next?



- **National Expansion**

- **Official equity group status**

- **Earlier intervention & support**

Thank you!

**Care Experienced
students are
smart, determined
& passionate**

**More and more care
experienced
students are thriving
at TAFE, uni and in
the workforce**

Connect with us!

