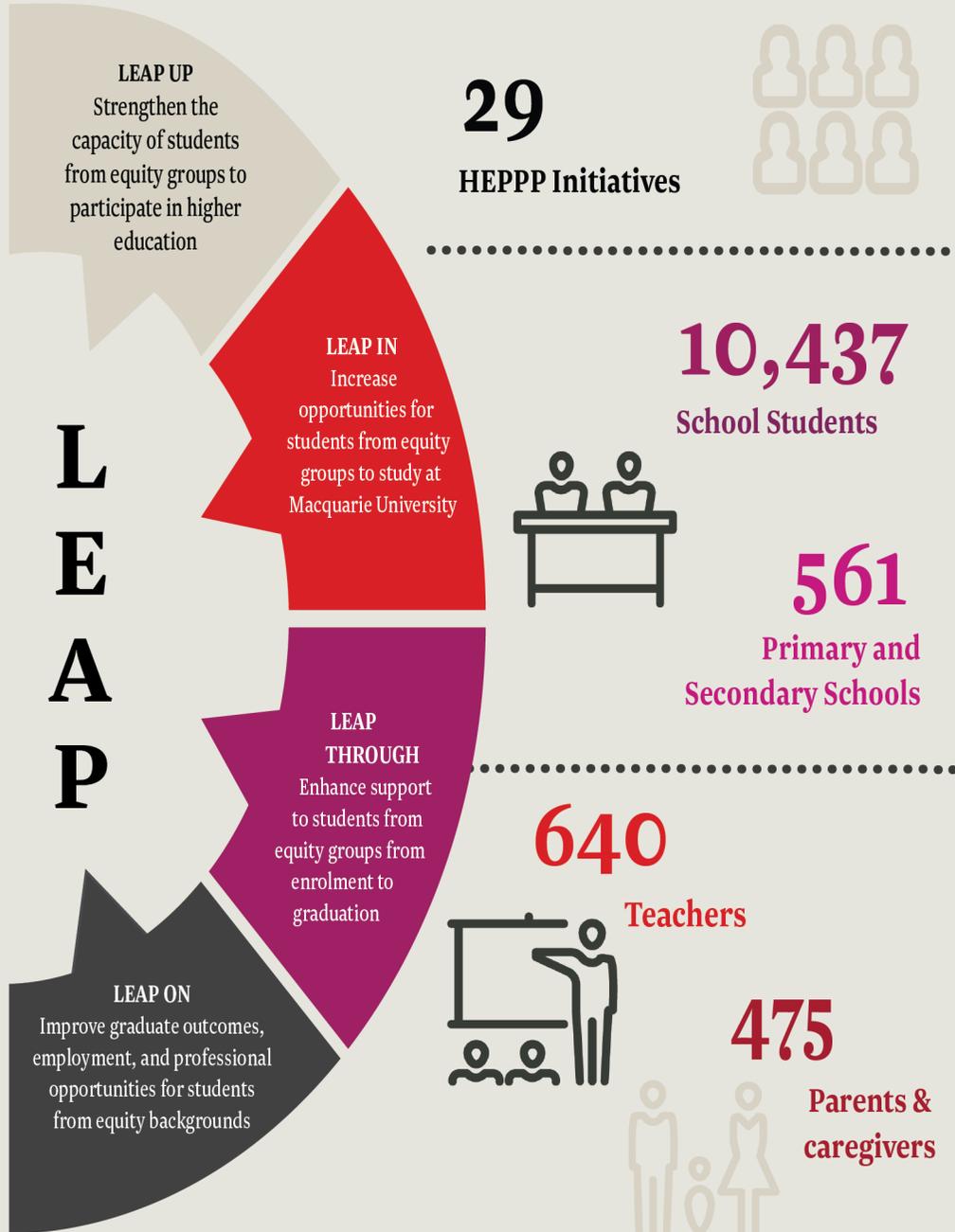


Widening Participation Highlights in Numbers

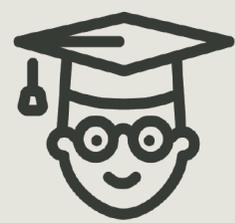


Learning
Education
Aspiration
Participation



WPU-Led Initiatives

- 5** Outreach initiatives
- 4** Mentoring & transition initiatives
- 8** Skills and Curriculum-based initiatives
- 6** Research grants, conferences, & publications
- 5** Advocacy forums
- 192** Students provided with financial and accommodation support



Highlights 2021

MENTORING AND TRANSITION

LEAP UP – Macquarie Mentoring

- Delivered to 6 LEAP partner high schools, in partnership with the NSW Department of Education
- 31 MQ students mentored 88 high school mentees in developing confidence and capacity to navigate the Australian higher education system
- 14 MQ PACE interns contributed to program redevelopment

Refugee Transition Program

- 51 MQ students from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds supported
- 15 students received sponsorship through the Asylum Seeker Fee Waiver scheme
- Creation of the Widening Participation New Resident Scholarship in partnership with Robert Menzies College
- The development of LEAP Tutoring, a 1:1 peer-led academic tutoring program
- Co-led MQ and Refugee Education Special Interest Group (RESIG) Scholarships and Access Webinar delivered in partnership with 11 partner institutions

Highlight

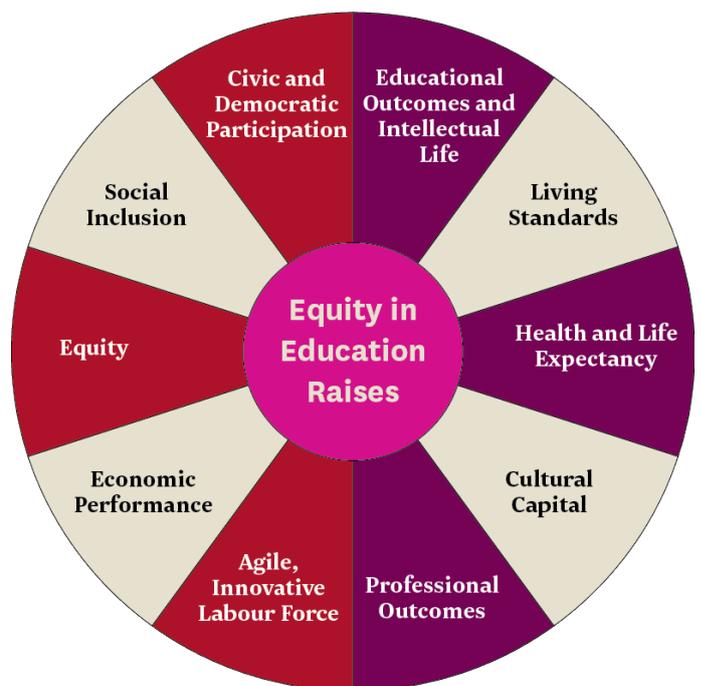
The number of students supported on the Asylum Seeker Fee Waiver and being able to provide ongoing support for students throughout a year of uncertainty.



NSW EQUITY CONSORTIUM

Partnership between MQ, UTS, UNSW and six partner high schools in South-Western Sydney.

“Imagined Futures” project develops students’ literacy skills as a means of capacity building and conceptualising future pathways.



OUTREACH

Aurora Masterclasses

- 11 Masterclasses delivered to students from regional and remote NSW
- MQ academics, researchers, and students engaged school students in discussions on a range of academic disciplines
- Engaged 87 primary school and 280 high school students

LEAP UP: inROADS

- 18 Broken Hill HS students participated in a one-day MQ campus experience
- Students had a taste of campus life and the realities of relocating to pursue tertiary studies
- 14 MQ students and staff presented in a range of Faculty of Arts-based workshops and talks

LEAP to the HSC

- Four-week online webinar series for Stage 6 students, teachers and parents
- Topics included managing mental health through the HSC, study skills and exam strategies, university entry pathways, post-school careers and employability opportunities
- 96 webinar attendees, 16 MQ panellists

Step in2STEM: Robotics

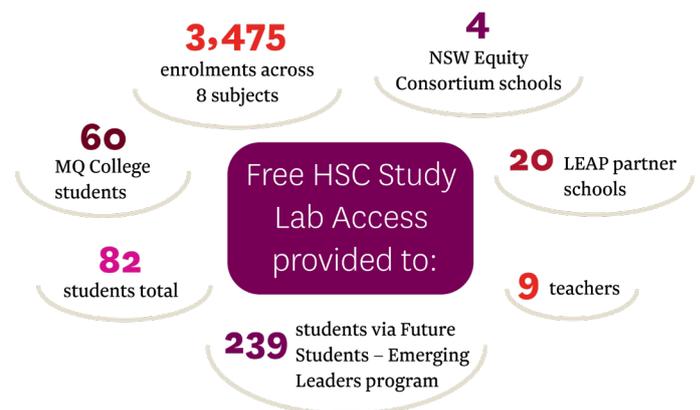
- 315 students from 3 new LEAP partner schools in the Shoalhaven area, engaged with MQ Engineering Student Ambassadors in hands-on LEGO robotics session
- Online, term-long Step in2STEM pilot with Willyama High School special needs students
- Students developed skills in computational thinking and coding, and were exposed to STEM disciplines and pathways
- Collaborative initiative with Junior Science Academy, FIRST Australia, and the Faculty of Science and Engineering



HSC STUDY LAB

HSC Study Lab courses

- HSC Study Lab is an online learning and teaching resource that supports Year 11 and 12 students and their teachers as they prepare for the HSC.



HSC Preparation Webinars

- 4 x 1 hour webinars for teachers and Year 12 students in Science and Business Studies
- The webinars provided a brief overview of the HSC Study Lab course content as well as exam and revision tips for their upcoming HSC exam.
- 45 students and teachers attended

In Development for 2022...

HSC Study Lab English course

Highlight

Producing and launching the Year 12 Business Studies course. This has been a great addition to our product offerings which consists primarily of science courses.



SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & PILOT INITIATIVES

LEAP Express

- Stage 4 curriculum-aligned literacy initiative co-designed by the WPU and the MQ School of Education
- Aimed at developing students' engagement with foundational literacy skills through creative self-reflection and writing, while increasing personal confidence and enjoyment of composing texts
- Piloted with 26 Wingham HS students, 4 MQ co-facilitators and 2 MQ facilitators

LEAP Your Career

- Professional Learning series engaging schoolteacher/educators in career-specific knowledge, skills, resources, and research to empower their students with the tools and resources to navigate their futures
- Aligned to CICA industry professional learning standards
- Piloted with 7 teachers from LEAP partner high schools

HEPPP Community Forums

- Forums aimed at promoting discussion and enhancing awareness of equity in education
- Engaged 126 members of the WPU's community of partners, stakeholders, and equity allies
- Regional, Rural, and Remote Learning Journeys – Insights into the unique experiences and challenges that characterise the learning journeys of students from RRR backgrounds.
 - » Speakers: Wendy Field (Head Policy and Programs, The Smith Family), My Town Launch (WPU, MQ students, and 2SER), Rev Dr Peter Davis (Master/CEO Robert Menzies College)
- Equity Across the Curriculum – School engagements that promote equitable access to educational resources and enabling of opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds
 - » Speakers: Dr Janet Dutton (MQ School of Education), Kim McKay AO FRSN (Director & CEO Australian Museum), Associate Professor Joanne Jamie (MQ Department of Molecular Sciences, NISEP)

Summer Accommodation Sponsorships

- Enabled students from equity cohorts undertaking either Session 3 units or professional internships to participate without the burden of accommodation costs
- 9 students supported with accommodation at DLC and MQ Campus Accommodation

LEAP WORDS: Someday Stories

- Literacy-centred initiative to develop students' creativity and enable exploration of the wide range of possibilities for their futures

- Engaged 18 students in years 3–6, 9 MQ student co-facilitators, 1 storyteller from Story Factory
- On-campus experience, enabling students to explore the MQ campus and participate in history sessions delivered by MQ academic from Studying the Past

Ryde Junior Scientists

- Free participation in Junior Science Academy workshops for students engaged with WPU partner schools and community organisations
- STEAM-based workshops for students in primary school

Australian Museum

- Free participation in Australian Museum school holiday online and in-person workshops for students engaged with WPU community organisations

Research

WPU's Evaluations team are collaborative recipients of two NCSEHE grants awarded in 2020 (research conducted in 2021)

- *COVID-19 online learning landscapes and CALDMR students: opportunities and challenges.* Addresses the challenges and opportunities of remote learning for tertiary CALDMR students, their teachers, and other university support staff
- *University responses to enhancing equity in the post-COVID landscape.* Explores the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences on the Australian higher education sector, particularly relating to domestic, equity cohorts.

Uni STARS conference presentation

- Evaluations team presented in the Emerging Initiatives category at the 2021 Uni STARS conference – LEAP Imagine That! Access, agency, and inspiration

Dodd, E., Singh, S., Micsko, J., Austin, K., Morison, C., & Upton, S. (2021). Equalizing and widening access to higher education during a pandemic: Lessons learned from a multi-university perspective. *Student Success*, 12(3), 58-72. <https://doi.org/10.5204/ssj.1715>

Baker, S., Anderson, J., Burke, R., De Fazio, T., Due, C., Hartley, L., Molla, T., Morison, C., Mude, W., Naidoo L., & Sidhu, R. (2022). Equitable teaching for cultural and linguistic diversity: exploring the possibilities for engaged pedagogy in post-COVID-19 higher education. *Educational Review*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131911.2021.2015293>

Highlight

Design of 5 new research-informed Widening Participation initiatives, with 3 piloted and set for expansion and the remainder ready to go for 2022!