Name of Organisation: University of Wollongong

Project Name: WOW Aboriginal Women: Work opportunities at the University of Wollongong for Aboriginal Women

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1. **Progress to Date:** What has been implemented so far as part of the Project? Please describe the outcomes to date and relate these to the outcomes specified in the Funding Agreement.

Commencement of the project was delayed until February 2000 to align with the academic calendar. The project is due to conclude in December 2000.

The following activities have been undertaken in the period February - June 2000:

- The Project Officer has established contact and met with our project partner, Illawarra Aboriginal Employment Promotion Committee (IAEPC) and representatives from the NSW higher education and public sectors.
- Employment barriers and a range of employment and other opportunities (funding and identified scholarships) are being explored.
- A regional employment strategy has been completed by IAEPC.
- Extensive networking has been undertaken with the local Aboriginal community.
- The Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation have indicated their support of the project and willingness to contribute to the program through the Steering Committee and some of the off the job training sessions.
- A strong working relationship has been established with staff and students from the University of Wollongong Aboriginal Education Centre.
- Project Steering Committee with partner and significant community representation has been formed. A meeting schedule has been established and three meetings have taken place.
- 12 Women have been recruited for the work experience program.
- Campus placements, which marry with training requirements of trainees, have been identified and confirmed.
- A media release has been prepared and distributed to local media. Local radio have conducted an interview on the work experience program and included the interview in hourly news items on 29 June 2000.
- A schedule for the work experience program has been finalised. The program has been extended from 4 to 6 weeks with 3 additional off the job training workshops *Life Experience Counts* being added. The additional workshops have been offered and are being funded by the Dapto Neighbourhood Centre.
- A celebration and graduation event has been planned for the conclusion of the work experience program.
2. **Assessment of Progress**

2.1 How have you assessed the success or otherwise of the Project's outcomes to date?

- Project Steering Committee is formed and meeting regularly. Meetings are conducted with high degree of goodwill and consensus.
- The range of trainees recruited for the work experience program is representative of the target group identified by the Project Steering Committee.
- Work placements have been identified to meet the individual requirements of the trainees.
- The University's relationship with the local Aboriginal community has improved significantly during the life of the project as demonstrated by:
  - The number of invitations received by the Project Officer to participate in community activities ie NAIDOC Committee, Aboriginal Advisory Committee of Shellharbour City Council, Police Aboriginal Liaison Committee and Albion Park High School ASSP (Homework Centre for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Students)
  - Development of a range of strategies by the University to support the reconciliation process.
  - Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation support and request for additional involvement in the project.
  - Extensive local media coverage of news items linking the Aboriginal community and UOW since March 2000 (7 print, 3 radio and 3 television).
  - Visits to UOW campus by Aboriginal community members
    - Ronald Wilson lecture (approx 70 Aboriginal community members including 5 elders, most of whom had never been on campus previously).
    - Aden Ridgeway lecture (approx 40 Aboriginal community members and 25 Aboriginal staff and students).
    - Regular attendance at Project Steering Committee meetings.

2.2 Are you currently experiencing or expect to experience any problems with the Project (timeframes, financial or otherwise)?

- The Project Officer has been required to take 4 weeks unplanned leave. This required the commencement of the work experience program to be delayed.
- Community members requested a further delay, because of community commitment to NAIDOC week activities.
- The work experience program is scheduled to commence on 10 July 2000.
- The project will be completed as planned in December 2000.

2.3 Report Attachments

2.3.1 March-April Progress Report to UOW EEO/AA Committee
2.3.2 May -June Progress Report to UOW EEO/AA Committee
2.3.3 Media release
2.3.4 Work Experience Program
2.3.5 Work Experience Trainees and Placements
2.3.6 Letter from Wodi Wodi Elders Corporation