



UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORTS 2013-2014

Southern Cross University

Australia

During the 2013-14 reporting period, Southern Cross University (SCU) has engaged in a number of activities that underscore its on-going commitment to UNAI and its principles. In collaboration with a wide range of partners, the University has conducted research, service, teaching, and learning activities in order to promote regional infrastructure improvements, human and social capital development, and sustainable practices. The following examples stand out as particularly notable:

Partnering with the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), Southern Cross University engaged in efforts to bring AIME to Australia's Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, and Mid-North Coast indigenous communities. AIME is an educational program that gives indigenous high school students the skills, opportunities, and confidence to finish school at the same rate as their peers. The program also connects students with employment and higher education opportunities after they finish Year 12. SCU students have been recruited to provide mentoring support to students participating in the program.

SCU has also partnered with the Centre for Children and Young People (CCYP), an organization whose work involves family law and the development of Australian public policy. With research partner Interrelate Family Services (IFS), the CCYP team is developing and trialling a range of new ways that children can contribute more to decisions that are made following significant changes in their lives. IFS helps families struggling with issues following separation and divorce, and provides supervised contact services for children from families with a history of violence, neglect, and mental health issues.



Another SCU project facilitated coastal management in New South Wales by building the research capacity of underwater citizen scientists. By engaging more than 300 volunteer divers at locations across New South Wales, SCU's efforts have provided a mechanism to address a distinct lack of reliable data to inform the sustainable management of marine habitats and biota in New South Wales. These volunteers have generated quantitative data, mostly involving marine debris, from more than 80 sites across the state.

Links: [Southern Cross University Homepage](#)
[AIME Mentoring Homepage](#)