NAEEA

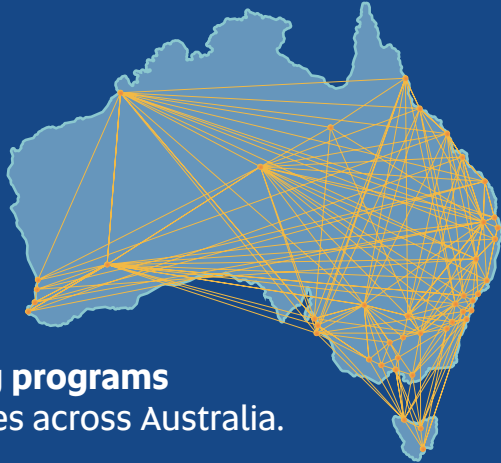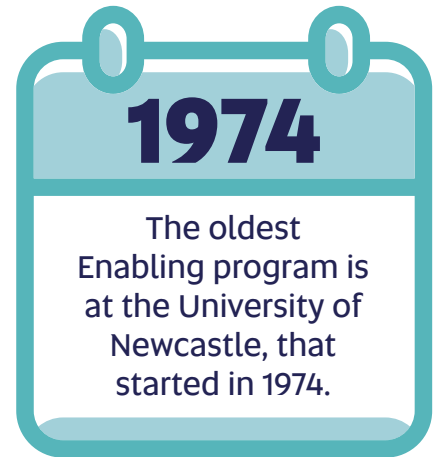# ENABLING EDUCATION ACROSS AUSTRALIA

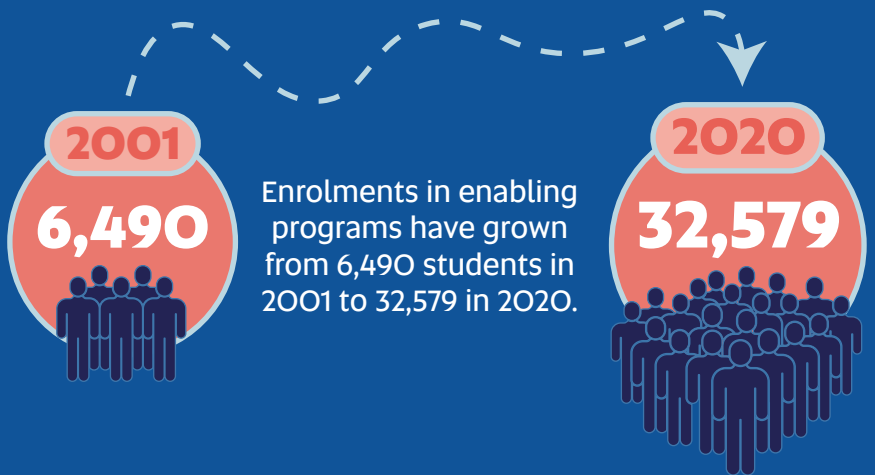## 48

There are **48 Enabling programs** delivered at universities across Australia.

1974

The oldest Enabling program is at the University of Newcastle, that started in 1974.

More **than a third** of enabling course students are from regional and remote areas.

Enabling educators have developed an approach to teaching students from diverse backgrounds that could be adopted across Higher Education to help universities reach The Accord goals to increase the *low SES population* attainment targets, **from 15.7% to 25%.**
(Bennett et al., 2016; Hattam, Weiler & King, 2024)

2001
6,490

Enrolments in enabling programs have grown from 6,490 students in 2001 to 32,579 in 2020.

2020
32,579

Enabling programs prepare students for **Bachelor level study** with nationally benchmarked learning outcomes *(Davis et al., 2023)* that build students academic literacies and foundational discipline knowledge.

15 Enabling programs are explicitly for Indigenous students, who represent approximately **6%** of all enabling program enrolments. This is more than double comparative undergraduate enrolments.

6%
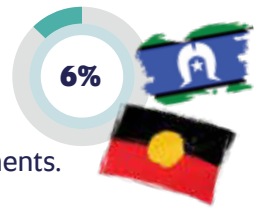
On average, **32%** of students in enabling programs are from low socioeconomic backgrounds, which is double the proportion of undergraduate students.

32%
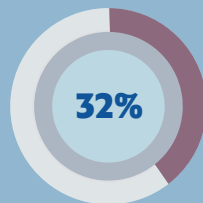
The federal government is investing **$350.3 million** over *four years* to expand access to enabling courses.

Students who complete enabling programs *do just as well in undergraduate study* as students who enter via traditional pathways, such as directly from high school or VET pathways. *(Lisciandro, 2022; Symes, Roche, Goode & Crandon 2021)*

Useful Reading

Bennett, A, Motta, S. C., Hamilton, E., Burgess, C., Relf, B., Gray, K., Leroy-Dyer, S., & Albright, J. (2016). *Enabling pedagogies: A participatory conceptual mapping of practices at the University of Newcastle Australia.* University of Newcastle. Enabling Pedagogies Research Report[1].pdf (newcastle.edu.au)

Davis, C., Cook, C., Syme, S., Dempster, S., Duffy, L., Hattam, S., Lambrinidis, G., Lawson, K., & Levy, S. (2023). Benchmarking Australian Enabling Programs for a National Framework of Standards. *Student Success*, 14(2), 41-49. https://doi.org/10.5204/ssj.2841

Hattam, S., Hattam, R., Weiler, T., & King, S. (Eds) (2024). Enabling pedagogy and Action Research in Higher Education, DIO Press. Enabling pedagogy and Action Research in Higher Education | DIOPress

Lisciandro, J. G. (2022). First-year university retention and academic performance of non-traditional students entering via an Australian pre-university enabling program. Australian Journal of Adult Learning, 62(2), 167–201. https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.622093343833841

Syme, S., Roche, T., Goode, E., & Crandon, E. (2021). Transforming lives: the power of an Australian enabling education. *Higher Education Research & Development*, 41(7), 2426–2440. https://doi.org/10.1080/07294360.2021.1990222