

Dear colleagues

Review of Australia's Higher Education System

I write to you as Chair of the Australian Universities Accord Panel to seek your priorities for this process as we commence our Review of Australia's higher education system.

The Government has set us an ambitious task for the Review, with Terms of Reference that focus on a wide range of complex and varied issues affecting Australia's higher education system and establish a broad remit for the work of the Panel. The Minister for Education has also made a commitment that this process will incorporate a review of the Job-ready Graduates reforms, which intersect with a number of areas in the Terms of Reference.

Delivering on the Government's ambition for a higher education system that meets the needs of the nation now and into the future will require us to work closely with stakeholders from the sector, business, unions, students and the broader community. Over the next 12 months, my Panel colleagues and I will consult across all sectors and groups affected by higher education policy to help deliver a plan for lasting reform of Australia's higher education system.

As we embark upon this process, and to inform the work of the Panel, as a first priority, I write to invite your feedback on the priority issues within key areas outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Review:

- Meeting Australia's knowledge and skills needs, now and in the future
- Access and opportunity
- Investment and affordability
- Governance, accountability and community
- The connection between the vocational education and training and higher education systems
- Quality and sustainability
- Delivering new knowledge, innovation and capability

This process is one of several engagements to be overseen by the Panel, with further opportunities to consider issues and potential policy options in depth over the course of 2023. The Panel will release a Discussion Paper in early 2023, which will provide an opportunity to explore key issues in detail and gather data and evidence to inform the Panel's recommendations.

Your response can be submitted via the Department of Education's website (<https://www.education.gov.au/australian-universities-accord/consultation>) by close of business on 19 December 2022. I ask that your response to this initial request is focused to identify your priorities for the Review process. Targeted submissions are encouraged.

To ensure the Panel hears from a variety of stakeholders on their priorities for the Review, including university educators, researchers and students, a survey is also available on the Department of Education's website.

I look forward to receiving your response and to continuing to work with you over the course of the Review.

Yours sincerely,



Mary O'Kane
Chair, Australian Universities Accord
24 November 2022