



# Australian Universities Accord

## Update from Mary O’Kane – 22 December 2022

I am delighted to have embarked on the Review of Australia’s higher education system. My Accord Panel colleagues and I are honoured that the Minister for Education, the Hon Jason Clare MP, has entrusted this important work to us.

With this major task and the need to have it completed by the end of 2023, we’ve hit the ground running. Since the Panel was announced on 16 November, we have held three panel meetings (on 17 November, 13 and 21 December). We have discussed the scope of the review and our plans for engagement, and we have delved into the inner workings of the system.

We began the first phase of consultation with a survey and initial submissions process that ran from 24 November to 19 December. These opportunities were open to every individual and every organisation with a stake in higher education. Our purpose was to ask people what they think is most important for the review to consider.

I am pleased to say that we received over 1950 survey responses and more than 180 submissions.

There will be a further opportunity to provide input to the Review after we publish our discussion paper in the New Year. And we will be holding a wide range of consultation meetings to collect the varied and vital views from across the sector and the community.

In December, the Panel heard from stakeholders directly at roundtables in Canberra on 1 December, Melbourne on 2 December, and Perth on 9 December. We also held a range of group and one-on-one meetings over the first six weeks, reaching stakeholders in Hobart, Sydney and other locations.

We have already amassed a considerable number of insights from those who lead and operate the higher education system, as well as those who work in it, who study in it, and those who are its customers and business collaborators. All these views are important - we are listening and capturing all ideas.

Thank you to all those who have played a part in this early phase, for your ideas, accessibility, openness and goodwill. And thank you to those who have made such generous offers of assistance. If you haven’t yet had a chance to contribute, there will be many more opportunities to do so – please check the Accord website for updates.

I wish everyone a peaceful break and a refreshed start to 2023.

Mary O’Kane