Australian Government
Department of Education
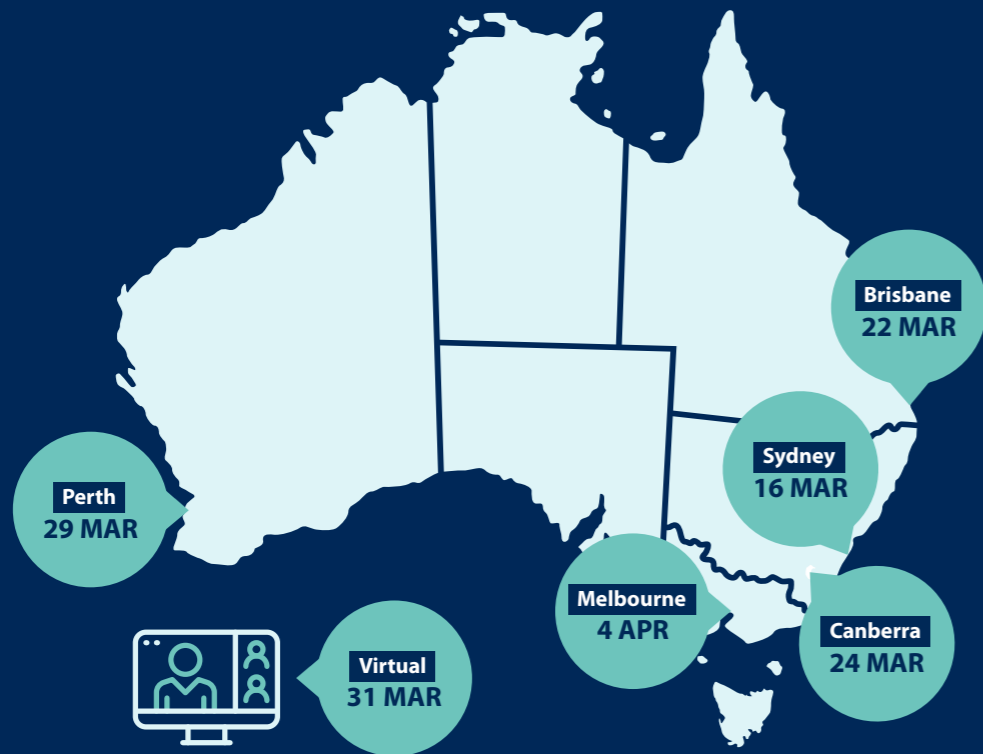
Consultation on implementation of the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector

Consultation

Brisbane
22 MAR

Sydney
16 MAR

Perth
29 MAR

Melbourne
4 APR

Canberra
24 MAR

Virtual
31 MAR

42 Universities

101 University Attendees

9 Government Agencies

Successes in Implementation

Many universities have reported an uplift in risk management frameworks and development of supporting in-house guidance materials.

Many universities cited the Guidelines as a driver of increased collaboration and communication with other universities.

The Guidelines have increased awareness of the importance of cybersecurity in the university sector.

" The Guidelines have provided an invaluable roadmap to implementing a coordinated approach to the challenge of countering foreign interference. "
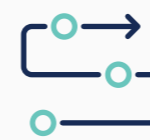
Opportunities to Support Ongoing Implementation

Additional guidance materials and due diligence tools co-designed by government and universities.
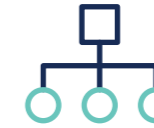
Increased engagement from government with practitioner-level university staff.

Further specific advice from government on the evolving risk environment.

A roadmap that outlines all national security legislation that applies to the university sector, including contact points within government.

Key Findings

OVER 90% Have overarching framework documents, policies, and procedures to mitigate foreign interference – other universities embedded such risk mitigation into existing mechanisms.

OVER 85% Participate in sharing resources and best practice with sector or government.

OVER 85% Use threat modelling to mitigate cyber risks.

OVER 95% Provide communications or training to university staff on the risks of foreign interference.

Most significant pillar of the Guidelines (by investment, ranked by universities)

Governance and risk frameworks **20%**

Communication, education and knowledge sharing **7%**

Cybersecurity **53%**

Due Diligence, risk assessments and management **20%**