



2024 Mission-Based Compact Between the Commonwealth of Australia and The Australian National University

Purpose

This compact is an agreement between the Commonwealth and the University. Entering a Compact is one of the quality and accountability requirements, which a higher education provider must meet under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) as a condition of receiving a grant. Specifically, subsection 19-110(1) of HESA requires that Table A and Table B providers must, in respect of each year for which a grant is paid to the provider under HESA, enter a Mission-Based Compact with the Commonwealth for a period that includes that year.

All strategies should provide qualitative and/or quantitative measures of assessment.

Mission and Strategic Planning

In 2024 ANU will pursue three key purposes underpinned by the following activities:

Advancing and transmitting knowledge, by undertaking research and teaching of the highest quality

- Advance knowledge by undertaking research projects.
- Transmit knowledge by publishing the findings from our research.
- Transmit knowledge through meaningful exchange and dialogue with the public, government, and industry.
- Train the next generation of researchers through our PhD programs.
- Embed the values of Academic freedom in our campus life.
- Ensure students from across Australia and from a wide variety of backgrounds have the opportunity to study at their National University.
- Deliver educational programs at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level that are enriched by ANU research excellence.
- Build the capability of ANU students, nourish their intellectual curiosity, and support their success during and after their studies.

Providing facilities for Higher Education Purposes

- Host nationally significant research infrastructure on behalf of Australia.
- Host nationally significant collections on behalf of Australia.
- Maintain campus facilities which support research and teaching of the highest quality.

Meeting its obligations to the Nation and ACT through its status as a National Institute

- Build meaningful partnerships with industry and government across the ACT, Australia, and our region.
- Chart a better future for health and wellbeing of people in Australia and beyond.
- Engage with First Nations peoples through academic work, convening key dialogues, and the study of First Nations traditional knowledge.
- Pioneer an innovative approach to engineering and technology design.
- Build new national capabilities in data-driven policy and business development.
- Demonstrate leadership in mitigating the negative effects of climate change.

Supporting documents:

[ANU 2025 Strategic Plan](#)

[Student Safety and Wellbeing Plan](#)

[Foreign Interference Advisory Committee](#)

[Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech](#)

[ANU Below Zero Program](#)

Strategies for Improving Equality of Opportunity in Higher Education

ANU continues to seek improvements in recruitment and conversion activities to increase the number of commencing students from equity and diversity areas. Initiatives include:

ANU Coursework Student Financial Support Strategy – finalised in 2023, the Strategy will be implemented from 2024 and help deliver on the University’s commitment to overcome barriers to admission created by disadvantage. This also includes a review of the Admissions Policy and Procedure. The objective is to make recommendations for enhancements to admission policies, procedures, and practices to ensure they support:

- Admission of students who meet the admission standards based on potential to succeed, including consideration of the impact of long-term disadvantage.
- Diversity across a range of demographic factors.

First-Year Experience (FYE) program – designed as an engaging way for students to find community, access personal and professional development opportunities, and connect with students, staff, supports and services at the University. The FYE program progresses alongside key milestones of a student’s first year at the ANU, to support students through their entry into university.

ANU Community Connect (ACC) - provides a safe and welcoming space for students to connect with peers, support, and community activities. No-cost essential items are provided through the ANU Community Connect Food Pantry and Share the Dignity Vending Machine, with opportunities for students to engage with the ANU community through events and drop-ins.

Indigenous student support - the Tjabal Indigenous Higher Education Centre (The Tjabal Centre) provides a meeting place and support base for the Indigenous students.

Scholarships – the University provides a range of scholarships, to support rural, regional, and remote, financial hardship and access scholarships.

The University’s Corporate Plan 2024-2027 includes a KPI that will maintain or improve the number of commencing domestic undergraduate students from Low Socio-Economic Status (Low-SES), Indigenous, regional, and remote backgrounds (to be published on the ANU website on the 29 February 2024).

Support for Students Policy

Supporting documents:

[Reconciliation Action Plan](#)

[Disability Access and Inclusion Working Group](#)

[ANU IDEA Governance Framework](#)

Strategies for Improving Teaching and Learning

The University has made strong progress implementing the [ANU Learning and Teaching Strategy](#) approved in 2022. Priority areas include:

Learning and teaching practice

- Goal 3 - Promote active, collaborative, and engaged pedagogies.
- Goal 4 - Strengthen assessment and feedback.
- Goal 5 - Innovate for outstanding large classes experiences.
- Goal 7 - An ANU Employability Framework.

Learning and teaching infrastructure and support

- Goal 10 - Provide well-designed learning and teaching support.

Learning and teaching culture

- Goal 12 - Develop and recognise outstanding education work.

Key activities for 2024 include:

- Curriculum Framework – all programs will be provisionally accredited by the end of 2024.
- Capacity building activities will be rolled out to support the implementation of the Graduate Attributes and Curriculum Framework, in particular the Indigenous Perspectives Graduate Attribute.
- Consultation and approval of the ANU Employability Framework.

Progress will be measured using SES data. This work is underpinned by the University's [Digital Master Plan](#) which will deliver improved digital infrastructure for student learning, services, support and well-being.

The University will continue to deliver on its National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPLIF) plan to increase student-industry engagement.

Strategies for early intervention and high-quality support for struggling students

The University has developed and implemented a [Support for Students Policy](#) that complies with *Higher Education Provider Amendment (Support for Students) Guidelines 2023*. ANU has developed a Policy to ensure the University “will proactively identify students’ needs for academic and non-academic support”. Clause 6 of the Policy details how the University will proactively identify students who are at risk of not successfully completing a course(s) during an academic term.

Supporting documents:

[Academic Board](#)

[Academic Quality Assurance Committee \(AQAC\)](#)

[Learning and Teaching Committee](#)

[Student Policy and Procedures](#)

[Student Safety and Wellbeing Plan](#)

Strategies for Improving Research, Research Training, and Innovation

The ANU Research Strategy will deliver initiatives focusing on:

- Proactively supporting ANU researchers.
- Pooling of university resources to ensure that ANU infrastructure and collections remain world-class.
- Nurture the next generation of research leaders.
- Ensure ANU conducts research of the highest quality.
- Support ANU researchers with analysis through a variety of lenses to benchmark ourselves against the best within Australia and globally.
- Meet the University's requirements under the ERA and the EIA.
- Translate ANU research into action that benefits local communities, the nation and society by generating new ideas, new solutions and new industries.

The strategy will deliver research excellence for ANU and will be measured by three KPIs:

1. Research Income
2. Publications productivity
3. HDR completions

The University will continue to deliver against its PhD Strategy and HDR Career Development and Industry Engagement Strategy.

Supporting documents:

[Academic Board](#)

[Higher Degree Research Committee](#)

[University Research Committee](#)

[Foreign Interference Advisory Committee](#)

Strategies for Engaging with Industry

The [ANU Corporate Plan 2023-2026](#) includes a list of the University's key industry partnerships. ANU will continue to diversify and expand its research collaborations with industry and government, including:

- Support for major bid development where industry partners are involved/required. This is exemplified by Industrial Transformation Training Centres where ANU contributed to the development of multiple partner relationships for two successful ANU-led (and one externally led) ITTC-bids out of 8 awarded.
- Developing new and novel approaches for building capability for ANU researchers to partner with industry at scale, including three targeted programs of researcher capability development: 1) Applying for Linkage Projects 2) Working with Industry 3) Understanding internal ANU processes when applying for Category 2-3 funding.

Through the HDR Industry Engagement Strategy the University will focus on establishing:

- An industry-based HDR pilot program.
- Development of materials to support HDR candidates co-supervised by industry.
- Industry internship and placement pilot program.
- A program of industry networking events.
- Support for partnership development.

SIGNED for and on behalf of
THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by

Madonna Morton

Full name (please print)

First Assistant Secretary

Position

of the Department of Education



Signature

29/05/2024

Date

SIGNED for and on behalf of
THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

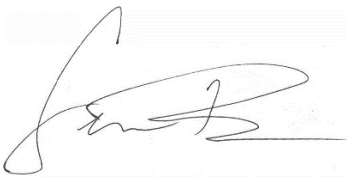
by

Genevieve Bell

Full name (please print)

Vice-Chancellor & President

Position



Signature

In the presence of:

Vaughan Forsyth

Witness (please print)

Executive Support Manager

Position or profession of witness (please print)



Signature