



# Pulse Check on the implementation of the Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector

## Annual Pulse Survey:

* To survey universities’ implementation of the Guidelines over the last 12 months
* Survey ran from April – May 2024
* Response rate of 93%

## Workshop Series:

* Brisbane 20 June
* Sydney 21 June
* Melbourne 25 June
* Perth 26 June
* Virtual 28 June
* 113 Representatives
* 36 Universities

## Headlines from the Pulse Check:

Participating universities in the past 12 months:

* 92% established, reviewed or updated foreign interference initiatives
* 49% experienced new or emerging barriers to implementing the Guidelines
* 51% invested the most resources into cyber security

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

* Cyber security 52%
* Governance and risk frameworks 18%
* Communication, education and knowledge sharing 15%
* Due diligence, risk assessments and management 15%

## Most beneficial form of government guidance, ranked by university first preference

* Due Diligence and Risk Assessment Guidance 26%
* Foreign Interference Threat Briefings 23%
* Establishment of Communities of Practice 18%
* Countering Foreign Interference Case Studies 13%
* Other 7.5%
* Incident Reporting Guidance 7.5%
* Cyber Security Training and Exercises 5%

## University interest in Communities of Practice (CoP) Forum

* Would your university participate in an initial CoP forum established by the Department of Education? Yes 97%. No 3%.
* Would your university participate in ongoing (e.g. quarterly) CoPs, independent of Department of Education involvement? Yes 90%. No 10%.
* Would your university be willing to share resources and/or foreign interference mitigations at a CoP forum? Yes 85%. No 15%
* Universities requested greater dissemination of information to practitioner-level staff to support the continued work of the University Foreign Interference Taskforce.

## Next Steps:

* Development of further government guidance, training and communication materials, and tailored countering foreign interference case studies.
* Continual sector engagement on the foreign interference threat environment and universities’ implementation of the Guidelines.
* Continuing to enhance countering foreign interference capability within universities at the practitioner-level.
* Support the sector in facilitating countering foreign interference communities of practice, allowing for an uplift in capability and Guidelines implementation.