

Australian Council of Learned Academies *Review of Australia's Research Training System* – Australian Government response

Report recommendations	Response
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The Government should support the establishment of a sector-wide implementation working group, tasked with developing within six-months a specific and actionable implementation plan with measures relating to the three broad categories of reform identified by this Review (regulation and policy, university cultural change, and industry incentives/cultural change).</p> <p>This working group should have an independent chair (appointed by or negotiated with the Government), with a requirement for high-level representation from relevant stakeholder groups (universities, industry bodies, research organisations and institutes, government and higher degree by research (HDR) candidates) to ensure broad consensus on the final plan.</p> <p>This working group would also be empowered by strong links with Innovation and Science Australia.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Training will work with representatives from the university sector, industry and community stakeholders to establish a working group to support implementation of the review's findings.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The Government should remove the regulatory and financial barriers that prevent universities from developing accessible entry pathways to HDR training and offering flexible scholarships of appropriate duration and value.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>This recommendation is being addressed through the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) measure <i>Sharper incentives for engagement</i>.</p> <p>Reforms to the research block grant funding arrangements will allow universities greater autonomy and flexibility in selecting students and managing research training funding to support scholarships and training pathways, including in relation to the duration and value of stipends for HDR students.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The Government should implement Recommendation 4 from the review of research policy and funding arrangements to provide additional funding to incentivise industry-university collaboration, with a particular focus on initiatives that connect HDR candidates with industry-led research problems.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>This recommendation is being addressed through the NISA initiative <i>Sharper incentives for engagement</i>.</p> <p>This measure is providing additional funding of \$180 million over the forward estimates to increase incentives for universities to engage with industry and other end users of research.</p> <p>The Government will also support HDR students to connect with industry through expansion of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute's internship program (see recommendation 4).</p>

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<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The Government should implement Recommendation 11 from the review of research policy and funding arrangements to develop a national program to support industry placements for Research Doctorate candidates.</p> <p>The successful Canadian Mitacs program would be a useful template for developing an Australian scheme, and it will be imperative to learn from and engage with existing Australian schemes.</p> <p>Over time, the national scheme should be expanded to be accessible to all HDR candidates who wish to participate.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>The Australian Government has committed \$28.2 million over four years to expand the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute's internship program to a national scale program, providing 1,400 new placements for PhD researchers, with a particular focus on women researchers.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>The Government should institute a longitudinal national data collection exercise to monitor course satisfaction, course completions and career outcomes for HDR training.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>This recommendation is being addressed through data collections such as the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and the Higher Education Student Data Collection.</p> <p>These sources include detailed data from HDR graduates on their course satisfaction and career outcomes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The Government should institute increased weighting for Indigenous HDR completions in the Research Block Grants formulae, and flexibility in scholarship guidelines to allow for higher value stipends and real wage fellowships to further encourage Indigenous participation in HDR training.</p>	<p>Accepted.</p> <p>This recommendation is being addressed through the NISA initiative <i>Sharper incentives for engagement</i>.</p> <p>The Government has doubled the weighting for Indigenous HDR students in the student completions formula.</p>