

29 August 2023

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Dear Professor Mary O'Kane,

I have read the **Australian Universities Accord - Interim Report** and I was disappointed to see that the section related to research sustainability (called *research, innovation, and research training*) is not amongst the 5 Priority Actions and is instead demoted to section H on page 19 among the *Areas for further consideration*.

The single most important reform to ensure research in our universities becomes sustainable and can proceed without draining funds from other sources (*i.e.* international students) is to ensure that the overheads (indirect costs) provided for each competitive dollar is properly matched by the government in the Research Support Program. The initial discussion was for the Accord to include an increase from the current 28 cents per dollar to 50 cents per dollar. This does not appear in the Interim Report.

I would like to ask that this element is included in the **Priority Actions** in the Final Report of the Australian Universities Accord.

Yours sincerely

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