

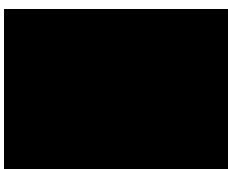
29th August 2023

Dear Professor O'Kane

I have read the **Australian Universities Accord - Interim Report** and I was surprised to observe that the section relating to sustainability of research (called *research, innovation, and research training*) is not included in the five Priority Actions, and is only in section H on page 19 among the *Areas for further consideration*. **The single most important reform** to ensure research in Australian universities becomes sustainable and can proceed without draining funds from other sources (*i.e.* international students) is to ensure that the overhead (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 which is very disappointing.

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,



Roger Pocock, DPhil
Professor and NHMRC Senior Research Fellow
veski Innovation Fellow
Head, Brain Development, Neuroplasticity and Stem Cells Laboratory