



**Hon Sue Ellery MLC
Minister for Education and Training
Leader of the Legislative Council**

Our Ref: 61-14085

Hon Robert French AC

Email: sulcsj@bigpond.com

Robert
Dear Mr French

Thank you for your email dated 4 December 2018 regarding the review of freedom of speech in higher education.

Congratulations on your appointment to conduct this review. With your background, you are eminently qualified to conduct a balanced review of an issue that is the subject of strongly stated views in some quarters.

There is no Western Australian legislation relevant to your review other than the State's universities acts with which you are familiar. The State Government does not have administrative policies and principles relevant to this matter.

Although this issue has been highlighted by particular commentators in the political sphere, I believe that it is important for your review to firstly establish whether a significant problem exists to ensure that any proposed solutions are commensurate with the extent of any problem identified. This would appear to be consistent with the first and second terms of reference of the review.

The third term of reference relates to possibly adopting overseas approaches to this issue. I believe that it is very important to consider proposals that relate to the unique Australian higher education environment rather than adopting responses that may have been developed in very different contexts overseas.

I will be happy to follow the progress of your review and provide further input that may be required as the review progresses.

Yours sincerely

Sue Ellery
SUE ELLERY MLC
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING

10 JAN 2019