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Vice-Chancellor and President

The Hon Robert French AC
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By email: sulcsj@bigpond.com

1 March 2019

Dear Justice French,

Re: Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education - Draft Model Code

Thank you for your letter of 8 February 2019 and your work in preparing a Draft Model Code for consideration by the higher education sector.

As previously stated, La Trobe University has a strong commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom, and we welcome consideration of ways in which these might be better protected in a university context.

We believe that the Draft Model Code in its current form introduces a range of issues that require further consideration. These issues have been very clearly articulated in a letter to you from Griffith University, which La Trobe endorses, and rather than repeat the issues here we refer you to the Griffith response and iterate our strong support for the analysis and recommendations made by Griffith.

La Trobe recommends the development of a high-level policy statement that focuses on principles rather than development of a detailed code, and would be pleased to contribute to the drafting of such a statement.

Yours sincerely,

Professor John Dewar
Vice-Chancellor

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