**Submission to Universities Accord: Priorities for the Review process**

This submission is from:

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We propose that the Review process adopt an ethical lens to approaching each of the key areas as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

There are four major generally accepted ethical principles: Beneficence: do good; Non-maleficence: do no harm; Autonomy: allow independence; Justice: ensure equality, fairness and access. If the current provision of Higher Education (HE) in Australia is examined through an ethical lens, a number of major problems become apparent, and also the scene is set to identify potential solutions.

The Table below identifies these four ethical principles and indicates some examples of where the current HE system fails to meet them. It also shows how these principles can relate to the Terms of Reference for the Review.

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| **Ethical principles** | **Where HE fails currently** | **Relation to the Terms of Reference for the Review** |
| Beneficence: do good | The prevailing business model over-rides societal need. | Meeting Australia’s knowledge and skills needs, now and in the future  Investment and affordability |
| Non-maleficence: do no harm | High carbon footprint from buildings and travel. Educational methods can be out of date and cause intellectual damage. | Governance, accountability and community |
| Autonomy: allow independence | Academics are over-managed by surveillance managerialism (this could also fit in the non-maleficence category as it is a failure of duty of care and major cause of stress to academics as well as stifling innovation). | Governance, accountability and community  Quality and sustainability  Delivering new knowledge, innovation and capability |
| Justice: ensure equality, fairness and access | Regional inequalities in access to HE remain. Global inequalities in access to HE are ignored in favour of income earned from international students which cross-subsidises research and teaching. Much education is not inclusive. | Access and opportunity  Delivering new knowledge, innovation and capability |

We have deliberately kept this submission short as we understand that the call for submissions at this time is only to identify priorities. Our priority is to suggest that university reform be seen through an ethical lens. We would hope to have the opportunity to contribute to the Review in more detail at a later stage.

We both have Emeritus Professorial appointments in Australian Universities, and each have 50 years of experience as educators, researchers and administrators to offer to the Review.