



**2017 Mission Based Compact  
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology**

**PURPOSE**

This compact is an agreement between the Commonwealth and the University. Entering into a compact is one of the quality and accountability requirements which a higher education provider must meet under the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA) as a condition of receiving a grant. Specifically, subsection 19-110(1) of HESA requires Table A and Table B providers must, in respect of each year for which a grant is paid to the provider under HESA, enter into a mission based compact with the Commonwealth for a period which includes that year.

**MISSION**

RMIT exists to create transformative experiences for its students, getting them ready for life and work, and to help shape the world with research, innovation, teaching and engagement. RMIT embraces the task of extending the benefits of a fast innovating, high-skill knowledge economy to our whole community and our world. We are dedicated to helping shape a new urban and industrial renaissance in the global economy. We are driven by impact and focused on the challenges and opportunities emerging around us. Our 2020 Strategy is underpinned by three directions that support our vision of "Ready for life and Work"

1. Life changing experiences
2. Passion with Purpose
3. Shaping the world

**INNOVATION**

In the coming year and beyond, we are investing in three Special Investment Vehicles (SIV). These are innovative and entrepreneurial bodies of work that are designed to not just react to disruption but create it; to not just achieve 'step-change' improvements but to transform selected areas. These are: the RMIT Activator, launched in 2016, to immerse students, staff and researchers in an entrepreneurial start-up culture to create successful ventures; RMIT Online, to expand our online presence by focusing on targeted markets with innovative digital learning solutions; and the Urban Innovation District, to transform Melbourne's northern CBD area as a hub for entrepreneurship and new business activities through community partnerships.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

Students are central to our strategy and, in 2017, our focus on students - their experience and journey - intensifies. We will define and implement an RMIT Belonging Strategy, which takes a whole-of-institution approach to building an RMIT identity and connection for our students. This will include scaling up successful practices and implementing new ones, to ensure that students receive a distinctive RMIT community experience that connects them during their studies, and long after they graduate. We will focus on their learning experiences, and recognise the pivotal student teacher relationship by rewarding fantastic teaching and investing in the vital digital assets that support this relationship, and learning. We will also focus on strengthening student employability from day one. We have number of initiatives that enhance teaching and learning capabilities and the student experience, including to:

- Develop a whole-of-institution approach to student belonging and transition
- Enhance the current College of Business Academic Mentoring Program (i.e. Student Learning Advisor Mentors (SLAMs)) and rollout across the College of Science, Engineering and Health and the College of Design and Social Context
- Develop a catalogue of initiatives to create opportunities for students to interact and connect with each other and RMIT
- Deliver 50 interventions across all Schools
- Deliver eight school-based Belonging Models

- Raise awareness and promote co-curricular opportunities across the student population through a refreshed online student portal, to increase student participation in clubs and activities by 10%
- Implement a redesigned myRMIT student portal, and provide a personalised and student-centric experience when interacting with RMIT

## RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Our research will focus on delivering the answers that industry and our innovation partners need, as we invest in building research communities across RMIT through our Enabling Capability Platforms. We will also establish a research translation function to explore and provide pathways for impact for our research. Our priorities for 2017:

- Equip the Enabling Capability Platforms (ECP) to build research communities across RMIT with complementary capabilities, and develop an ECP Charter that clarifies the internal dependencies, contact points and processes
- Establish a research translation function to provide pathways to impact for our researchers and research and innovation partners
- Provide training, infrastructure and support systems to help staff and students progress their research along pathways to impact

## EQUITY

2016 was a watershed year for RMIT, with the launch of our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) during National Reconciliation Week in May. This builds on the aspirations expressed in RMIT's 2009 Reconciliation Statement and the enormous goodwill within RMIT to advance reconciliation. A core principle of RMIT's RAP is that advancing reconciliation will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and nonindigenous members of RMIT alike. The Plan outlines clear organisational commitments for 2016-18 to help both groups advance reconciliation together. It sets out six key action areas:

1. Governance, management and leadership
2. Learning and teaching
3. Ethical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff participation and success
5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student participation and success
6. Community engagement

In 2017 we have a program of work that will define and implement an Access and Equity Strategy through the following initiatives:

- Implement the program of work to achieve our 2017 targets set out in the Diversity and Inclusion Framework Action Plans:
  - Reconciliation (RAP)
  - Accessibility for people with disabilities
  - Cultural Inclusion
  - Diverse genders, sexes and sexualities
  - Gender equality
  - Students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- Develop and implement the RMIT Community Access Strategy to position the University as an open and accessible institution which responds to the needs of its communities
- Develop and implement a program that strengthens RMIT's pastoral care and support for students with complex needs
- Develop and deliver a program to build a culture of respect for diversity within the student community

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by

Dom English  
Full name (please print)

Group Manager  
Position

of the Department of Education and Training as  
delegate of the Minister for Education and  
Training.

Dom English  
Signature

19/12/17  
Date

Cate Hutchinson  
Witness (please print)

Policy Officer  
Position or profession of witness (please print)

C Hutchinson  
Signature

SIGNED for and on behalf of.

In the presence of:

RMIT UNIVERSITY

MARTIN BEAN CBE  
Full name (please print)

VICE CHANCELLOR & PRESIDENT  
Position

Martin Bean  
Signature

Rosa  
Witness (please print)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
Position or profession of witness (please print)

ROSEMARY MOULD  
Signature