



**2018 Mission Based Compact  
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and Australian Catholic University**

**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 that 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 that includes that year.

**MISSION**

Australian Catholic University (ACU) has grown substantially over the last ten years and its strategic positioning has entered a new phase; transitioning from a university striving towards ambitious targets to one that is comprehensively embedding excellence. ACU is a multi-jurisdictional institution with over 34,000 students and has campuses in New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Rome. The Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is aligned with ACU's Mission and Vision, and is guided by its core values of Truth, Academic Excellence and Service. Within the Catholic intellectual tradition and acting in Truth and Love, ACU is committed to the pursuit of knowledge, the dignity of the human person and the common good. The Strategic Plan and 2020 Targets articulate the critical focus areas as well as ACU's values and aspirations, which are mission-critical and are at the heart of its Identity.

Further information on the University's Mission and Identity is available on the ACU website.

- [ACU's Catholic Identity](#)
- [Why choose ACU](#)

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

ACU is deeply committed to the design and delivery of innovative and high quality academic programs with a distinctive learning and teaching experience within the Catholic intellectual tradition. Delivered by leading academics in conjunction with its partners and community, ACU's academic programs meet the needs of a diverse student body and sector workforces; embedding a global mindset, critical thinking and an empathetic worldview. Likewise, ACU's vocational and executive suite of programs are workforce aligned quality offerings that offer qualifications as well as pathways to ACU, opening up opportunities to the transformative power of education. These strategic objectives are also supported by the University's Learning for Life Framework, which provides three themes to transform the direction of learning and teaching at ACU. Further information on the University's learning and teaching is available on the ACU [Learning and Teaching website](#).

## RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING AND INNOVATION

ACU's priority research areas of education, health, and theology and philosophy are aligned with its Mission and strive to make a positive difference to ACU's communities and the world at large. The University's Research Intensification Strategy supports the Strategic Plan and articulates ACU's commitment to the improvement of its research quality and profile as well as the quality of research training for higher degree by research (HDR) students. Within the ACU Strategic Plan 2015-2020, Strategic Goal 3: Research strengthens the University's research capacity, research quality and performance in Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), improved HDR experience and training, and research partnerships with national and international centres of research excellence. The strategy has produced excellent outcomes, as demonstrated by the 2015 ERA results and recent world university rankings that position ACU globally in the top 30 for sport science, top 50 for nursing, top 75 for education and top 100 in theology.

Further information on the University's research profile and achievements is available on the ACU website:

- [Research Institutes](#)
- [Excellence in Research for Australia 2015 results](#)
- [Excellence at ACU](#)

## EQUITY

ACU is committed to improving the participation, progress and outcomes of equity group students and aims to be recognised as being at the forefront in the promotion of equal opportunities for academic success. Through its *ACUgate* programs, the University aims to improve student and parent awareness of higher education, raise student aspiration to higher education and provide a variety of pathways to access higher education. The *ACUgate* programs expand upon the University's other equity initiatives, such as pathway programs and student support services, by offering: [Access programs](#); [Aspirations programs](#); [Awareness programs](#); [Attainment programs](#). The University has formal strategies in place to improve the participation, progress and outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, which are aligned with the Australian Government and Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's policy directions. ACU's targets within the [Strategic Plan 2015-2020](#) focus on improving the participation, retention, success and attainment of equity group students as well as achieving a diverse and inclusive work environment, with 3% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples participation in the ACU workforce ([Employment Strategy](#)).

Further information on the University's commitment is available on the ACU website:

- [First Peoples and Equity Pathways websites](#)
- [Indigenous Higher Education Units \(IHEU\) website](#)
- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Admission Program](#)
- [Equity scholarships and financial support](#)

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by

Dom English  
Full name (please print)

Cate Hutchinson  
Witness (please print)

Group Manager  
Position

Policy Officer  
Position or profession of witness (please print)

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

Dom English  
Signature

C G Hutchinson  
Signature

9/12/14  
Date

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

UNIVERSITY

Professor Greg Craven AO, GCSG  
Full name (please print)

Simone Chetcuti  
Witness (please print)

Vice-Chancellor and President  
Position

Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor and  
President  
Position or profession of witness (please print)

Greg Craven  
Signature

Simone Chetcuti  
Signature