



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

**2018 Mission Based Compact
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and Edith Cowan 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

The strategic focus, values and aspirations of Edith Cowan University (ECU) are set down in the [ECU Strategic Plan 2017-2021](#), approved by the University's governing Council in October 2016.

ECU's vision is to be recognised for our world-ready graduates and leading edge research.

ECU's purpose is to transform lives and enrich society through education and research.

ECU's values are: Integrity (being ethical, honest and fair); Respect (considering the opinions and values of others); Rational Inquiry (motivated by evidence and reasoning); and Personal Excellence (demonstrating the highest personal and professional standards).

ECU's strategic themes are: dedication to our students; connections to the community and the world; building strategic partnerships and collaborations; fostering strong alumni relations; and promoting equality, diversity and social responsibility.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

ECU's Strategic Goal 1 : **Enhancing learning and teaching** includes the following objectives:

- Objective 1: *Teaching that inspires* - ECU maintain the exceptional quality of its teaching and teaching staff, through actions that recognise, support, and upskill Academic staff and increase the emphasis on collaborative working.
- Objective 2: *Transformative learning experiences* - ECU will continue to provide excellent learning experiences that motivate and inspire and are inclusive and focused on the needs of our students.
- Objective 3: *A globally relevant and innovative curriculum* - There will be a renewed focus on a curriculum that is outcomes-driven and learner-focused and builds graduate readiness for careers and further study.
- Objective 4: *Improved learning outcomes and career readiness* - There will be additional emphasis on improving outcomes for our graduates, through a range of actions that extend opportunities and connections with business and industry partners and embed employability skills in the curriculum.

ECU's strategies to ensure quality in teaching and learning include:

- A continued focus on the student journey, with linked strategies to improve retention and graduate outcomes.
- The development of new flexible and personalised learning experiences, including new options for online learning and technology-enhanced learning.

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING AND INNOVATION

ECU's Strategic Goal 2: **Advancing research and knowledge translation** includes the following objectives:

- Objective 5: *Growth in research capacity and culture* - ECU will continue to build research capacity, by recruiting high-achieving researchers, enhancing retention strategies and succession planning for high-performing research teams, refining recognition and incentive mechanisms and increasing support for researchers.
- Objective 6: *Extensive research collaboration* - ECU will grow research collaborations and alliances, through actions to: increase the visibility of ECU's research; foster connections across disciplines; and seek out international partners.
- Objective 7: *Increased knowledge translation* - ECU will promote partnership and collaboration with business, industry, the professions and government in research, especially where this leads to knowledge translation and commercialisation, to build capacity and societal impact.
- Objective 8: *Growth in research training* - ECU will increase higher degree by research (HDR) enrolments and completions, by: improving supervision capacity; including generic and targeted research skills training in HDR programs; increased marketing to high-performing coursework students; and providing additional support for those completing their research and moving into employment.

ECU's strategies, including measures of assessment for research, research training and innovation include:

- A comprehensive review of ECU's research capacity and research discipline focus.
- A professorial recruitment strategy, linked to ambitious targets for growth in research income from grants and contracts, research publications and citations.
- Growing supervisor capacity and maintaining ECU's annual national top 10 position for higher degree completions per 10 academic staff FTE.
- Initiatives to increase international research partnerships and industry collaboration, to improve ECU's international research reputation as measured through the *Times Higher Education* rankings and others.

EQUITY

ECU's detailed strategies for improved Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in education and employment are described in the University's current (and fourth) Reconciliation Action Plan, 2018-2021.

ECU's Access and Participation Plan 2018 is aligned with the student lifecycle and focuses on increasing opportunities for university study for people from a low socio-economic status background. Many of the strategies also apply to other defined equity groups, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability and people from rural and remote areas.

Strategies for achieving improved Indigenous outcomes and achieving equity for low socio economic students and students from other equity groups include:

- Outreach programs focused on high schools designated low-ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage) communities in campus catchments, regional students and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Flexible entry arrangements and articulation pathways to encourage wider participation.
- Equity scholarships for students from disadvantaged groups to promote success and external sponsorship for additional equity scholarships.
- Mentoring, peer support, tutoring and tailored academic support to ECU students facing barriers to success in higher education.

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

by Dom English

Cate Hutchinson

Full name (please print)

Witness (please print)

Group Manager

Policy Officer

Position

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

PROF STEVE CHAPMAN

K. D'Costa

KAREN D'OSTA

Full name (please print)

Witness (please print)

VICE-CHANCELLOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Position

Position or profession of witness (please print)

SCC

K D'Costa

Signature

Signature