



**2018 Mission Based Compact
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and University of Southern Queensland**

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.

[Please delete instructions in red. Compacts are intended to be more streamlined and succinct than in previous years. RESPONSES SHOULD BE A MAXIMUM OF 150 WORDS. Please insert a HYPERLINK to the relevant website or existing documents to refer to further details.]

MISSION

[In this section the University should refer to information on:

- its primary focus over the term of this compact; and*
- its' values and aspirations, what it does and how it can best serve the interests of its students, staff and key stakeholder.]*

USQ is established pursuant to the provision of the *University of Southern Queensland Act 1998*; with functions described under Section 5 of the Act.

As per *USQ Strategic Plan 2016-2020*:

- USQ purpose: *leading in economic and social development through higher education and research excellence.*
- USQ's driving aspirations encompass:
 - *leadership in physical and digital higher education experiences geared to a diverse student constituency;*
 - *leadership in broadening higher education attainment;*
 - *leadership as a source of graduates who are highly regarded as practical, innovative and connected professionals;*
 - *world standing for research in selected areas of activity that is noted for its impact; and*
 - *a university that is engaged across all areas of its operation and a partner of choice with like-minded organisations.*
- USQ values: *Respect, Integrity and Excellence.*

Priorities for 2018 as outlined in USQ Annual Plan 2018:

- Enhance the student learning experience
- Inspire our workforce to 'Become More'
- Continue to build research culture, capability, performance and impact
- Enhance industry engagement and advancement capacity
- Achieve business growth and financial sustainability

TEACHING AND LEARNING

[In this section the University should refer to:

- its objectives and/or priorities for teaching and learning; and*
- its strategies to ensure quality in teaching and learning]*

The priorities and strategies for advancing learning and teaching are outlined in the USQ Annual Plan 2018:

Deliver a market-leading student learning experience through:

- Transforming the approach to the way we deliver academic programs
- Investing in advancing education, including USQ Workforce and Talent Management Plan;
- Reimagining our online offering
- Implementing USQ's Learning and Teaching Standards
- Continuing to enhance the student digital experience
- Transforming the on-campus experience

Drive improvements in student success through:

- Coordinating University-wide efforts to improve retention
- Implementing the University's Student Success and Student Engagement Plans
- Focusing improvement efforts towards lower performing / higher risk programs
- Establishing strategic partnerships with schools and VET providers

Provide graduates of choice in key disciplines through:

- Responding to improvement opportunities arising from the *2017 Employer Satisfaction Survey*
- Supporting our academics to build industry relationships and undertake consultancies
- Embedding VET qualifications and increasing work experience in selected degrees

Special note: In May 2018, USQ received notification from TEQSA of the University's re-registration in the category of Australian University for a seven year period. The re-registration has one condition relating to 'Governance and accountability reporting obligations'. Both Council and Academic Board have put in place processes to actively address the requirements of the re-registration condition over the coming three years.

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING AND INNOVATION

[In this section the University should refer to or provide information on:

- strategies to ensure excellence in research and the strengthening of research capability; and*
- strategies for the provision of high quality research training, including measures to encourage PhD industry placements. (This information should include targets for industry placements.)*
- its strategies and objectives for innovation;*
- strategies to encourage research translation and commercialisation, including collaboration and engagement with industry and other end users; and*
- strategies to promote open access to research publications and data.]*

All strategies should provide qualitative and/or quantitative measures of assessment.

USQ continues its commitment to engaging with industry to enable applied research outcomes. Examples include the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Broadacre Agriculture Initiative, agricultural engineering with John Deere, and composite engineering with Wagners. The University engaged with industry through the development of impact narratives driven by USQ Research. Research capability and infrastructure was showcased through on-campus open days with industry partners and end-users.

In 2018, the research institute and centre structure was reviewed to drive research performance. The new structure aligns with the USQ Research Plan and Research Structures Procedure and enables a University-wide environment for research

mentorship, leadership, enhanced governance and research support resourcing. Additionally, the Research Outputs Database was developed to provide individuals with an overarching view of their publication performance, enabling managers to monitor and drive research performance across the University.

USQ is in the process of establishing a Graduate Research School to assume responsibility for all research training administration roles. USQ has secured five PhD internships under the Australian Postgraduate Research (APR) Intern pilot program and continued its Researcher Development and Training program, with 500 events delivered annually.

EQUITY

[In this section the University should refer to information on:

- *strategies for improving Indigenous outcomes and related targets for the term of this compact; and*
- *Strategies for achieving equity for low socio economic students and students from other equity groups.]*

USQ has a highly diverse student constituency and is particularly noted for its contribution to broadening higher education attainment. The University has amongst the highest proportion of low SES, regional or first in family students; and a high proportion of First Australian students. In accordance with this status the University has extensive Diversity and Inclusion programs in place. These include:

- a range of outreach and pathway programs;
- all academic programs available for study online;
- coordinated University-wide efforts to improve retention
- extensive student support services; and USQ Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- career mentoring and support;
- USQ Social Justice Strategic Plan, USQ Disability Action Plan and USQ Multicultural Action Plan;
- Continuing to build Australia's largest and award-winning incarcerated students program.

Strategies for improving Indigenous outcomes and related targets are described in the USQ Reconciliation Action Plan, USQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Strategy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Workforce Strategy, and USQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Competency Framework. The College for Indigenous Studies Education and Research (CISER) manages a wide range of student programs including the Indigenous Higher Education Pathways Program.

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.

Cate Hutchinson

Witness (please print)

Policy Officer

Position or profession of witness (please print)

English.
Signature

9/12/18

Date

CG Hutchinson

Signature

SIGNED for and on behalf of

In the presence of:

UNIVERSITY of Southern Queensland

Geraldine Mackenzie

Full name (please print)

Vice - Chancellor

Position

G Mackenzie

Signature

Julie Shinnars

Witness (please print)

Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor

Position or profession of witness (please print)

Julie Shinnars

Signature