



Australian Government
Department of Education and Training

**2018 Mission Based Compact
Between the Commonwealth of Australia and VICTORIA 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

Primary focus over the term of this compact

VU's mission has three elements: be an open and excellent university, pursue a transformational agenda and ensure financial sustainability. In 2018 the primary focus is the transformational agenda and the delivery of a surplus.

The transformational agenda will be achieved through implementing *The Victoria University Block Model* of teaching, enhancing higher education and vocational education links, and establishing VU Research as a dedicated research and research training department with a focus on flagship areas of strength (*Health, Sport and Active Living and Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities*).

Values and aspirations, what it does and how it can best serve the interests of its students, staff and key stakeholders

As the University of Opportunity and Success, VU's values centre on inclusivity, diversity and excellence. VU welcomes and encourages students and staff from diverse backgrounds in Australia and internationally.

VU will best serve the interests of students, staff and key stakeholders by developing 21st century skills amongst staff and students, confronting the 21st challenges of local and global significance, transforming the first year university experience with our First Year Model, improving productivity and strengthening community partnerships, so VU will continue as a leader in educational Melbourne's west.

Hyperlinks

VU Strategic Plan 2016-2020

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/about-us/pdfs/vu-strategic-plan-2016-2020.pdf>

White Paper

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/white-paper-vu.pdf>

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Objectives and/or priorities for teaching and learning

VU's teaching and learning objective is to provide high quality, engaging career-based tertiary education with flexible entry and exit points, appropriate pathways, an engaging and rigorous curriculum, and contemporary delivery. VU's priority is to implement:

- *The VU Block Model*, which encourages student success through smaller classes, more class time, and complementary activities, and has seen considerable improvements in student success and organisational performance in 2018 and will be extended in 2019

- Establish the First Year College to implement the First Year Model and the senior discipline-based College Clusters that align with the Flagships, *Health, Sport and Active Living* and *Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities*.

Strategies to ensure quality in teaching and learning

The VU Block Model extension provides opportunity to review and redevelop learning and teaching approaches: all undergraduate units will be redesigned and redeveloped.

VU's quality assurance is governed by our *Learning and Teaching Quality and Standards Policy* and overseen by the Academic Quality and Standards office. Activities include annual monitoring, cyclical review, and professional accreditation. We also build capability and monitor quality via a network of Directors of Learning and Learning Designers.

Hyperlinks

Teaching and Learning

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/university-profile/teaching-learning-at-vu>
- <https://online.vu.edu.au/online-courses>

First Year Model (now The VU Block Model)

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/university-profile/teaching-learning-at-vu/innovative-approach-to-tertiary-education>

Learning and Teaching Quality

- <https://policy.vu.edu.au/document/view.php?id=328>
- <https://www.vu.edu.au/learning-teaching/learning-teaching-support-contacts/academic-quality-standards-contacts>

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING AND INNOVATION

Strategies to ensure excellence in research and the strengthening of research capability

In 2018 VU will establish VU Research as a as a dedicated, whole-of-University department for research and research training to consolidate and strengthen VU's research output – focus, performance and reputation.

Strategies for the provision of high quality research training, including measures to encourage PhD industry placements. (This information should include targets for industry placements.)

VU has developed a new PhD (Integrated) and a suite of Master of Research programs designed for people without prior research experience. For industry relevance, VU has implemented a Doctoral Industry Experience unit and Industry co-funding providing for 50 per cent of costs.

Strategies and objectives for innovation

VU has identified two institution-wide Flagship areas – *Health, Sport and Active Living* and *Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities*. Two Research Flagship Institutes have been established that align with these: Health and Sport and Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities. VU Research has directly aligned resources to support VU's six areas of focus. Concentration in these areas of research focus will, in the longer term, strengthen our research standards and innovation.

Strategies to encourage research translation and commercialisation, including collaboration and engagement with industry and other end users

For over ten years VU has had a commitment to applied and translation research. Key initiatives are to:

- establish a University-wide Research Engagement Advisory Board to advise on strategies
- sustain and develop strategic, long-term research partnerships
- establish an industry experience and placement program for researchers and research students
- remove barriers to and incentivise collaborative research
- in addition to our research-only staff, appoint research fellows from our other academic staff (upon application), to ensure research effort is aligned to VU's Areas of Research Focus.

Strategies to promote open access to research publications and data.

VU is committed to open access to research publications and data through the VU Research Repository, an open access repository that contains the research papers and theses of VU staff and higher degree research students.

Research measures

VU aims to continuously improve research performance in ERA assessments of Quality, Engagement and Impact and to maintain a Times Higher Education World University Ranking in the top 350 universities worldwide. The key performance indicator to measure research influence, quality and productivity is the number of citations per researcher (full time equivalent) with a target of 17.7 for 2018 from 15.8 in 2017. Further measures under development are research income per researcher, higher degrees by research completions, publications per researcher and proportion of top decile publications.

Hyperlinks

Strategies to ensure excellence in research and the strengthening of research capability

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/research/research-news-events-publications/our-new-approach-to-research>

Strategies for the provision of high quality research training, including measures to encourage PhD industry placements.

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/research/researching-at-vu>
- <https://www.vu.edu.au/research/researching-at-vu/support-for-researchers>

Strategies and objectives for innovation

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/research/research-focus-areas-expertise>

Strategies to encourage research translation and commercialisation, including collaboration and engagement with industry and other end users

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/research/collaborative-commercial-research/contacts-for-collaborative-commercial-research>

Strategies to promote open access to research publications and data.

- <http://vuir.vu.edu.au/>

EQUITY

Strategies for improving Indigenous outcomes and related targets for the term of this compact

VU Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategy, *Bathelmun Yalingwa (Shine Bright)*, 2017-2020 encompasses all aspects of university activity and aims to create opportunities for Indigenous students and staff. It adopts the Universities Australia objectives but privileges success as a key outcome. The Gamadji (Grow) aspiration aims grow Indigenous enrolments at least 50 per cent above the rate of non-Aboriginal enrolments, and ensure their success.

Strategies for achieving equity for low socio economic students and students from other equity groups.

VU's strategies for achieving equity are:

- Implementing the *Victoria University Block Model*, which aims to better transition students from all backgrounds to university, particularly students from educationally disadvantaged groups
- Student Participation and Success Framework, which supports learning, pathways and language and learning development
- VU's Centre for Student Success, which provides programs for student-centred academic help, and actively supports at-risk students
- developing an implementation plan for the Cultural Diversity Strategy, with the aim of uplifting the cultural diversity experience through intercultural engagement, inclusivity, celebration of diversity and meaningful partnerships.

Hyperlinks

Strategies for improving Indigenous outcomes

Indigenous Partnerships

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/community-partnerships-engagement/indigenous-partnerships>

Bathelmun Yalingwa Strategy (Shine Bright), 2017-2020

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/indigenous-strategy.pdf>

Moondani Balluk

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/university-profile/moondani-balluk>
- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/university-profile/moondani-balluk/our-aboriginal-tsi-profile/about-moondani-balluk>

Indigenous careers strategy

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/administration-governance/careers-at-vu/indigenous-careers-strategy>

Strategies for achieving equity for low socio economic students and students from other equity groups

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White Paper

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/white-paper-vu.pdf>

Cultural Diversity Strategy

- <https://www.vu.edu.au/sites/default/files/cultural-diversity-strategy-2018-2021.pdf>

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

Cate Hutchinson
Signature

9/12/18

Date

SIGNED for and on behalf of

UNIVERSITY

~~Professor Peter Dawkins~~
~~Vice-Chancellor and President~~

Position

Signature

Peter Dawkins

In the presence of:

Ann Proctor
Witness (please print)

Executive Officer
Position or profession of witness (please print)

Signature

[Signature]