



Australian Universities Accord

Update from Mary O’Kane – 22 February 2023

The Australian Universities Accord Panel has had a busy start to our year. The Panel has held six meetings since our appointment in November 2022, which have been invaluable opportunities to collaborate on our work.

We have held seven roundtables and met many more stakeholders in smaller meetings to capture a wide range of views on higher education, including from higher education peak bodies, business and industry sectors, student and staff representatives, and higher education sector experts. The Accord Panel also joined the Minister for Education for the first meeting of the Ministerial Reference Group.

One thing is clear from the work we have undertaken to date: the Australian higher education system is very good. In many ways.

Now, we need to hear more about the opportunities and challenges for the future: responding to skills needs; opening access to, and ensuring success for, students from underrepresented backgrounds; and helping to address the big challenges facing the nation.

We want to hear big ideas. Think outside of the box, and beyond the immediate challenges and pressures to 30 years in the future. Ask yourself, what kind of system does Australia need in 2030, 2040 and 2050, and what can we do to get there together?

To stimulate this discussion, I am delighted to launch the Discussion Paper for the Review. This paper notes that the higher education system will be asked to do more to address national and global challenges and seize opportunities for Australia over the medium- and long-term.

You can find the discussion paper and information on making a submission at the [Accord website](#) until 11:59pm on Tuesday 11 April 2023.

The next stage of the Review will see the Panel continue to consult as we work towards forming our findings and draft recommendations for the Interim Report.

Thank you to those of you who have engaged with and challenged the Panel so far. Please continue to check the Accord website for updates on further opportunities to contribute.

Mary O’Kane