

IHEA Looks Forward to Release of Australian Universities Accord Interim Report

Independent Higher Education Australia (IHEA) looks forward to the release this Wednesday of the *Australian Universities Accord Interim Report*.

The Australian Universities Accord higher education review is a collaboration between the Australian Government, peak bodies, education providers, experts, and other representatives to build a long-term plan for Australia's higher education sector.

The Accord is the first broad review of the sector since the 2008 Review of Higher Education (the Bradley Review). The Accord Panel will make recommendations to both the Australian Government and the sector to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of higher education to meet the current and future needs of the nation.

The *Interim Report* is anticipated to deliver priority actions to the Minister for Education, with a final report to be delivered by December 2023.

IHEA has been involved in the Accord process throughout, representing our members and the independent higher education sector. This followed our earlier recommendation in 2022 for such a review to develop a national strategy for higher education structural reform to drive efficiencies, address economic demands, and realise the enormous scientific, societal, and commercial potential of the sector.

IHEA CEO Dr Peter Hendy has been, and will continue to be, an active member of the Universities Accord Ministerial Reference Group – a sounding board and a source of advice to the team developing the Accord.

IHEA has also provided two submissions to the Accord process. Firstly, on consultation on the Accord terms of reference in which we outlined key priority areas. Secondly, in response to the Accord Panel Discussion Paper, where we outlined 22 recommendations.

"In the Accord review, IHEA seeks a combination of immediate and longer-term changes to higher education policy settings to address current needs and educate the workforce of the future," said IHEA CEO, Dr Peter Hendy.

"There are several sensible and equitable reforms available which can have immediate benefit to the Australian community and economy, whilst also energise the sector to deliver for future generations."

"Australia's diverse independent higher education sector is central to the success of Australian tertiary education. Independent higher education institutions deliver quality education and a student experience that leads the nation in student quality rankings. Higher education reform should incorporate and harness the enormous capability of Australian independent higher education."

Ends

IHEA Submission on Australian Universities Accord Panel Discussion Paper Consultation (17 April 2023) [HERE](#)

IHEA Submission on the Australian Universities Accord Terms of Reference (15 Dec 2023) [HERE](#)

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