



As amended at the Universities Australia and University Chancellors Council  
joint meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

As Australia's higher education sector has continued to grow, universities have become increasingly complex and sophisticated organisations that manage very substantial budgets, employ tens of thousands of staff, and educate hundreds of thousands of students. Good internal governance is central to ensuring that universities retain their reputations as highly respected institutions of learning and research, benefiting Australian society politically, economically, socially and culturally.

This Code seeks to provide support and guidance to university governing bodies and to university leadership more broadly. It outlines the key roles and responsibilities of functions of governing bodies, and provides a series of recommendations to support their effective implementation.

The Code is intended to operate in conjunction with each university's estate and does not seek to replace or overrule existing legislation. The Code is voluntary and not all items in it may be relevant to all universities. But it is expected that all universities will report on their alignment with the Code in their annual reports, providing reasons for any areas of non-compliance. Universities should approach these statements as an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of and commitment to, with proper governance procedures.



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body and to ensure that all members are aware of the nature of their duties and responsibilities.

6. On a regular basis, at least once each two years, the governing body should assess its performance, the performance of its members and performance of its committees, including appropriately constituted committees for finance, and

recommendations of, the governing body or a nominations committee appointed by it.

To provide for the introduction of new members consistent with maintaining continuity and experience, members' terms should generally overlap and governing bodies should establish the maximum period to be served. This should not generally exceed 12 years unless otherwise specifically agreed by the majority of the governing body.

9. A university should codify its internal grievance procedures and publish them with information about the procedure for submitting complaints to the relevant ombudsman or the equivalent relevant agency.
10. The annual report of a university should be used for reporting on high level outcomes, including financial and environmental sustainability

(including audit certification and management letter) of the entity by a State, Territory or Commonwealth Auditor-General or by an external auditor.

14. A university should disclose in its Annual Report its compliance with this Code of Best Practice and provide reasons for any areas of non-compliance.