

Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and  
Learning Outcomes (Research Training)  
**Comments – University of Western Sydney**

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**Q1.** Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research? If not, why?

Yes. The proposed standards are in keeping with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*, while broadening their scope.

**Q2.** Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

- a. The results of the ERA will be an important tool for compliance with Standard 6b. It will therefore be important to the sector that the ERA process is continued on a reasonably frequent basis and that the detail in the reporting should be extended to include institutional and unit of evaluation level data, including percentage of journal rankings, income and publication volumes. It will allow more complete performance benchmarking exercises to be undertaken.
- b. It would be beneficial if SEER could be kept open as an ongoing resource for the Higher Education sector. It would be extremely useful for benchmarking purposes.
- c. In Standard 2 there should perhaps be an explicit reference to creative works as these are an accepted research activity.

**Q3.** Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research Training? If not, why?

Yes. The proposed standards are in keeping with the guidelines maintained by the DDoGS group.

**Q4.** Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

No. The standards proposed are broad and cover what is required.

**Q5.** Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)? If not, why?

Yes

**Q6.** Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

- a. In some of these standards, rather broad terminology is used that could be open to a range of interpretations. It may be advisable to be more specific to ensure equitable compliance with the standards. For example: in 2 'international comparators' and in 4a 'international standing' are not specified.
- b. In 3e the term 'Generic' should be specified. Does it include transferrable skills and those skills required for further employment, perhaps outside the research sector?

**Q7.** Do you wish to make any Overall or General Comments about the form, style, scope or any other aspects of the proposed set of research related standards?

The University of Western Sydney broadly agrees with the proposed standards set out in the draft document. These are behaviours that this university already demonstrates and will only, on the whole, require some formalising and extending what is already being done.