



9 July 2013

171-13L

Higher Education Standards Panel Executive
GPO Box 1672
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

By email: info@HEstandards.gov.au

Dear Panel Executive

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the current higher education Threshold Standards. Please see below for the response from The University of Notre Dame Australia:

Name of Contact Person

*Professor Peta Sanderson
Pro Vice Chancellor, International and Research
Email:
Telephone:*

Draft Standards for Research

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

Yes. The University of Notre Dame Australia believes that the proposed standards for research are important elements in the development of minimum standards of performance within a diverse sector. It is expected that the proposed standards will assist universities in achieving good practice and driving good behaviour.

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

No.

Draft Standards for Research Training

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

Yes. The University of Notre Dame Australia believes that the proposed standards for research are important elements in the development of minimum standards of performance within a diverse sector. It is expected that the proposed standards will assist universities in achieving good practice and driving good behaviour.

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

No.

Draft Standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)

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

Yes. The University of Notre Dame Australia believes that the proposed standards for research are important elements in the development of minimum standards of performance within a diverse sector. It is expected that the proposed standards will assist universities in achieving good practice and driving good behaviour.

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

No.

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 Notre Dame Australia would like to express its broad support for the proposed standards whilst being cognizant of the view that the sector is diverse in respect to capability, resources and infrastructure.*
- *It will be a challenge to achieve consistency, equitability and fairness within the standards. Arguably diversity results in a rich environment for academics and students but it also means that the smaller less research intensive universities may potentially be disadvantaged by high benchmarks.*
- *Whilst all universities will need to comply, for those with less resources, increases in the cost of regulation compliance has a disproportional impact.*
- *Nevertheless, The University of Notre Dame Australia views the standards as a tangible means by which to change staff behaviour towards greater research productivity.*

Yours sincerely

Professor Celia Hammond
Vice Chancellor