

ACOLA



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL OF
LEARNED
ACADEMIES

SECRETARIAT

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

INCORPORATING
BUSINESS PLAN
FOR FY2017

Australian Council of Learned Academies Secretariat

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2016

ACOLA SECRETARIAT LTD is a company limited by guarantee, established by the four Learned Academies of Australia, acting as ACOLA, to carry out projects and manage the business affairs of the ACOLA Council. The four Learned Academies are the sole members of the company. The relationship between the Council and the Secretariat is governed by a Management Agreement, entered into in May 2010. In terms of that agreement, the role of the Secretariat is that of an independent contractor. The Secretariat is not an employee, servant or agent of the Council. The Secretariat must only conduct projects and activities that are approved by and in accordance with a resolution of the Council. The Secretariat is governed by a Board of Directors, which exercises its legal responsibilities in the best interests of the company.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED ACADEMIES

ACOLA STRATEGIC STATEMENT 2013–2016

Australia's four Learned Academies are independent organisations made up of the Nation's leading experts in the major fields of relevant enquiry. More than 2000 of the nation's most eminent scientists, researchers, scholars and practitioners contribute to this rich source of expert knowledge.

ACOLA provides the forum for the four Learned Academies to work cooperatively to develop cutting-edge thinking and integrated problem solving. ACOLA's purpose is to harness expert knowledge from multiple disciplinary perspectives, to inform national policy and to develop innovative solutions to complex global problems and emerging national needs.

OUR VISION The integrated application of the best thinking in Australian arts, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology, to assist the achievement of a healthy, creative, sustainable, democratic, cosmopolitan and productive nation.

OUR MISSION To provide a forum that brings together great minds, broad perspectives and knowledge, to help solve complex societal issues for the benefit of Australia's social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing.

OUR VALUES ACOLA values excellence, creativity, inclusiveness, cooperation and interdisciplinary research.



OUR OBJECTIVES

POLICY

To deliver policy advice to government on specific issues.

To promote that advice to the wider community and contribute to public debate.

To advocate to senior decision makers matters consistent with the objects of the Council on issues of major national policy.

RESEARCH

To encourage research and scholarship across the disciplines.

To promote an appreciation of the value of national research and scholarship.

DEVELOPMENT

To enhance the prestige and visibility of the four Learned Academies.

To promote closer relations among the four Learned Academies.

To promote administrative efficiency through sharing of information and resources.

OUR KEY STRATEGIES

Raise public awareness and understanding of the contributions that the arts, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology make to Australia's well being.

Promote mechanisms that facilitate the linkage of research and analysis to policy formulation and its application in societal practice.

Encourage fresh, cross-sectoral ways of thinking about innovation and development and their relationship with the economy and society, as part of achieving a productive and sustainable Australia.

Identify ways to better harness the perspectives of all disciplines to solve complex issues.



Final meeting of ACOLA's Project Steering Committee, 17 June 2016.

ACOLA SECRETARIAT LIMITED

ACOLA SECRETARIAT LIMITED COMPANY CHARTER

VISION

A Secretariat that serves the Australian Council of Learned Academies, providing not only a coherent, efficient and transparent flow of information and communication between the four academies in matters of mutual interest, but also helping to generate strategic ideas and resources that foster a public understanding of the importance of research and scholarship

MISSION

To provide efficient and effective services to our key stakeholders and to serve as a catalyst for projects that promote research and scholarship in science, technological sciences and engineering, social sciences and the humanities in Australia

VALUES

RESPECT We respect and celebrate the ongoing development of human knowledge

EXCELLENCE We are dedicated to scholarly excellence in everything we do

CREATIVITY We have the courage to innovate and to be creative

INCLUSIVENESS We embrace the diversity of cultures that is contemporary Australia

TEAMWORK We are team players and our contribution lies in the common good

ACCOUNTABILITY We act with integrity and transparency in everything we do

GOALS

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS Raise public awareness and understanding of the contributions that the Learned Academies make to Australia's well being

PROVIDING LINKAGE

MECHANISMS Promote mechanisms that link research and analysis to policy formulation

ENCOURAGING FRESH, CROSS SECTOR THINKING Encourage fresh, cross sector thinking about innovation and development and ways to harness the perspectives of all disciplines

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION Provide an efficient and transparent flow of information and communication

CHAIR'S REPORT

Financial Year 2016 has been a year of change for ACOLA. Along with substantive completion of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program, ACOLA began to turn in a new strategic direction.

Throughout the year, ACOLA delivered seven major interdisciplinary research projects under the SAF program. A busy end to the period also saw near finalisation of an additional two reports for launch and dissemination in the near future.

An important additional component of ACOLA's completion of the SAF program included an overall SAF program review. There were several components to this project, of which one included an external review by Dr Richard Bissell, Executive Director of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the US National Academies in Washington DC. Amongst other findings about ACOLA's delivery of the SAF program, Dr Bissell's review appropriately concluded:

"A fundamental tenet ... is the interdisciplinary nature of the enterprise. The ability to mobilize first-rate expertise across the science, engineering, social science and humanities communities is quite extraordinary. Indeed, there is no comparable effort outside Australia that has been able to sustain such an integrated structure beyond a one-off study ... In that sense, the work of the SAF is not only a unique asset in Australia; it is also a model that academies abroad should watch closely to see whether it can be institutionalized".

Building on Dr Bissell's assessment of the program and supporting continuation of ACOLA's interdisciplinary approach to policy advice, the SAF Program Review also allowed ACOLA to begin mapping out its next strategic plan through to 2020. Development of this new forward looking plan coincided with Dr Alan Finkel's

appointment as Chief Scientist of Australia succeeding Prof Ian Chubb.

Close and continued relations with the Office of the Chief Scientist remain an important platform for ACOLA, and through it for Australia's four Learned Academies, to apply their intellectual strengths to address questions of major significance to Australia. This includes the Chief Scientist's co-sponsorship of a new ACOLA project to examine the social, cultural and economic determinants of wide-spread uptake of energy storage technologies in Australia.

The period also saw change within ACOLA's staffing and governance. That is, in late May 2016, Dr Angus Henderson was appointed as ACOLA's General Manager. He succeeded, ACOLA's inaugural General Manager, Dr Jacques de Vos Malan, who departed after some six years in the role and having guided delivery of the SAF program. Other key program staff also departed along with SAF program's conclusion.

Additionally, in terms of governance, ATSE Chief Executive Officer, Dr Margaret Hartley, served as Chair of the Board during the 2015 calendar year before AAS assumed its role as Chair at the commencement of 2016.

I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their diligence and cooperation throughout FY2016.



Ms Anna-Maria Arabia
Chair, Board of Directors
ACOLA Secretariat Limited

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

Delivering against its Management Agreement, the Secretariat continued to provide comprehensive financial and administrative services to ACOLA throughout FY16. During the same period and adapting to manage completion of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program, the Secretariat's operations, funding profile and staffing have been in transition.

Pulling away from delivery of the SAF program, the second half of the period saw ACOLA's operations switch from an extended period of intense research management to one of internal review and program acquittal. With some eight projects underway during FY16, a major additional requirement of acquitting the program for the Australian Research Council included an external review of ACOLA's management of the SAF program. This review, undertaken by Dr Richard Bissell of the US National Academies, was a useful exercise that helped ACOLA to reflect on its operations and begin planning for a new and diversified chapter of interdisciplinary research management.

Concurrent with completion of the SAF program, ACOLA's funding and staffing profile changed significantly. In terms of staffing, changes include my appointment as General Manager during May 2016; Dr Jacques de Vos Malan, ACOLA's inaugural

General Manager, departure in April 2016; Dr Renée Dutton, ACOLA's versatile Policy and Projects Manager, departure in January 2016; and Andy Jones, ACOLA's enthusiastic Project Manager, departure in June 2016. This flux had ACOLA's team drop promptly from 4.2 to 2.5 FTE.

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY

With the launch and promotion of seven projects during the year, ACOLA has had numerous excellent opportunities to engage externally and promote the value of its interdisciplinary reports. These include the formal launches of:

- *SAF01: Australia's Comparative Advantage* by Dr John Hewson at the ASSA symposium on 16 November 2015.
- *SAF05: Technology and Australia's Future* by the Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, at the Shine Dome on 23 September 2015.
- *SAF07: Australia's Agricultural Future* by the Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, at the CSIRO Discovery Centre on 27 July 2015.
- *SAF08: Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility* by Jamie Briggs MP, Minister for Cities and the Built Environment, with opening remarks from the Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb, at the National Portrait Gallery on 7 October 2015.

- *SAF09: Translating research for economic and social benefit* by Chief Scientist, Professor Ian Chubb at Parliament House on 27 November 2015.
- *SAF11: Australia's Diaspora Advantage* by the Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, at the National Library of Australia on 26 May 2016.
- *SAF13: Research training system review* by Sen Hon Simon Birmingham, Minister for Education and Training, at the Knowledge Nation Summit on 14 April 2016.

Indeed, the participation of key staff in policy fora and influential events has also allowed ACOLA valuable representation opportunities presenting the findings from its SAF reports.

Additionally, valuable international exposure for ACOLA also came from the SAF program review conducted by the US National Academies, Professor Richard Bissell. Dr Bissell's evaluation emphasised an important aspect of ACOLA's role in policy advice and on the unique value of interdisciplinary enquiries.

PROGRAMS

Completion of the SAF program marks a significant milestone in ACOLA's history. Throughout the program and with valuable support from the Australian

Research Council, ACOLA has defined a new approach to policy and advice and has created a significant legacy—not just through the twelve SAF reports and their findings, but also through the processes, structures and relationships that have been forged and tested between the four Learned Academies, the Australian Government and the numerous companies, institutions and individuals who have contributed along the way.

Looking forward, ACOLA is most grateful for a continued productive relationship with the Office of the Chief Scientist. During June 2015, ACOLA and the Office of the Chief Scientist embarked on a new chapter to use ACOLA's interdisciplinary research approach to bring credible social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological consideration to matters of major national significance. The first of these Horizon Scanning reports will examine the opportunities and implications of energy storage solutions in the Australian context.



Dr Angus Henderson
General Manager
ACOLA Secretariat Limited

STRATEGIC PLAN FY2016

GOAL ONE POLICY

OBJECTIVE	TARGETS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
To deliver policy advice to Government on specific issues	<p>Identify useful opportunities to provide policy advice in general</p> <p>Gather appropriate information on key issues identified by Government</p> <p>Develop outcomes for Council related to the generation of advice</p>	<p>All opportunities for ACOLA Council, program steering committees (PSCs) and expert working groups (EWGs) to contribute policy options to Government stakeholders have been effectively created</p> <p>The Secretariat has facilitated and supported the work of the SAF PSC and EWGs in gathering information on key issues prioritised by OCS/CSC</p> <p>Council has been provided with useful and appropriate outcomes including reports, workshops, seminars, summits and/or conferences</p>
To promote that advice to the wider community and contribute to public debate	<p>Make the Council position on major national policy issues widely available</p>	<p>The updated ACOLA website has been maintained to reflect current outcomes, including reports, working papers and media releases</p> <p>The website has been promoted as a source of trustworthy public information</p> <p>Any media releases approved by Council have been facilitated</p>
To advocate to senior decision makers matters consistent with the objects of the Council on issues of major national policy	<p>Promote mechanisms that facilitate the linkage of research and analysis to policy formulation and its application to societal practice</p> <p>Provide an efficient and transparent flow of information with and within the Council</p>	<p>Relevant documents have been prepared and distributed to Council and (where appropriate) to the Office of the Chief Scientist and/or other appropriate stakeholders</p> <p>Council has been provided with comprehensive bi-annual reports on the operating environment</p> <p>All confidential information has been handled discreetly</p>

GOAL TWO RESEARCH

OBJECTIVE	TARGETS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
To encourage research and scholarship across the disciplines	Identify ways to better harness the perspectives of all disciplines to solve complex issues	<p>All four Academies have been successfully involved on a consensual basis in ACOLA projects</p> <p>Significant numbers of current Fellows and emerging scholars and researchers have been involved in ACOLA projects</p> <p>There has been a balance of positive feedback from participants</p>
To promote an appreciation of the value of national research and scholarship	<p>Develop and maintain links with appropriate organisations and publications</p> <p>Develop a network of contacts across the research and education sectors in Australia and abroad</p> <p>Demonstrate effective use of all opportunities to advocate for the value of research and scholarship</p>	<p>Links have been developed and maintained with: Office of the Chief Scientist staff, Commonwealth departments and other stakeholders</p> <p>Avenues have been created for interested and appropriate stakeholders to contribute to ACOLA research projects</p> <p>Opportunities have been created and used, including talks, articles and participation in diverse fora, to promote the value of research and scholarship across all the academic disciplines</p>



GOAL THREE DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE	TARGETS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
To enhance the prestige and visibility of the Learned Academies	Raise public awareness and understanding of the contributions that the arts, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology make to Australian well being	<p>Several speaking opportunities have been created and media articles have been placed (as approved by Council), which create appropriate publicity for the collective work of the Academies</p> <p>Media releases and position papers involving ACOLA members have been regularly updated on the ACOLA website</p> <p>Other ways of influencing the media have been explored, including educating journalists in the significance of contemporary research</p>
To promote closer relations among the Learned Academies	<p>Representatives of all four Learned Academies participate in inter-Academy meetings and discussions</p> <p>All four Academies are represented in inter-disciplinary working groups</p>	<p>A high proportion of available opportunities has been taken up by ACOLA to participate in appropriate Academy events, when invited to do so</p> <p>The Secretariat has actively ensured that all four Academies are well- briefed on all matters concerning ACOLA</p>
To promote administrative efficiency through sharing of information and resources	Encourage fresh, cross-sector ways of thinking about innovation and development and its relationship with the economy and society, as part of achieving a sustainable Australia	<p>The Secretariat has encouraged a regular exchange of information and publications between the four Academies</p> <p>The ACOLA website remains linked to the four Academies and other appropriate databases</p> <p>The Secretariat has actively worked towards the development of consensus on key issues</p>



GOAL FOUR GOVERNANCE

OBJECTIVE	TARGETS	PERFORMANCE MEASURES
To provide efficient and effective services to key stakeholders	Produce reports for Board and Council as required Co-ordinate meeting agendas as required Schedule and manage all Board and Council meetings Prepare timely and accurate minutes of all meetings Maintain business affairs	Secretariat services have been provided for the Board and (in accordance with the Management Agreement) for Council, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of expenses • Maintenance and operation of ACOLA bank accounts • Legislative compliance • Maintenance of appropriate insurances • Full briefing regarding projects and other activities • Maintenance of confidentiality • Attendance at meetings • Appropriate development and use of ACOLA property • Secretariat services have been provided for the SAF Program Steering Committee and other Steering Committees and Project Working Groups
To serve as a catalyst for projects that promote research and scholarship	Establish appropriate evaluation criteria Develop internal and external proposals Establish and manage a project selection process Manage projects approved by Council	Evaluation criteria have been drafted (Secretariat) and approved (Council) All proposals internally generated and externally received have been adequately developed and budgeted by Secretariat Bi-annual project selection process has been managed Project correspondence has been timely and successfully completed Projects approved by Council have been effectively managed by secretariat

KEY DOCUMENTS

The following contracts, annual grants and project funding agreements apply to FY2016:

- Management Agreement between ACOLA Council and ACOLA Secretariat Ltd (May 2010)
- 2016 HERP Funding Agreement (Jan-Dec 2016), ACOLA Council
- ARC LASP Program Funding Agreement *Securing Australia's Future* (October 2012 – June 2015, extended to June 2016), ACOLA Secretariat Ltd

SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN

FY2016/2017

1. DEVELOPMENT OF STRONG ACOLA BRAND

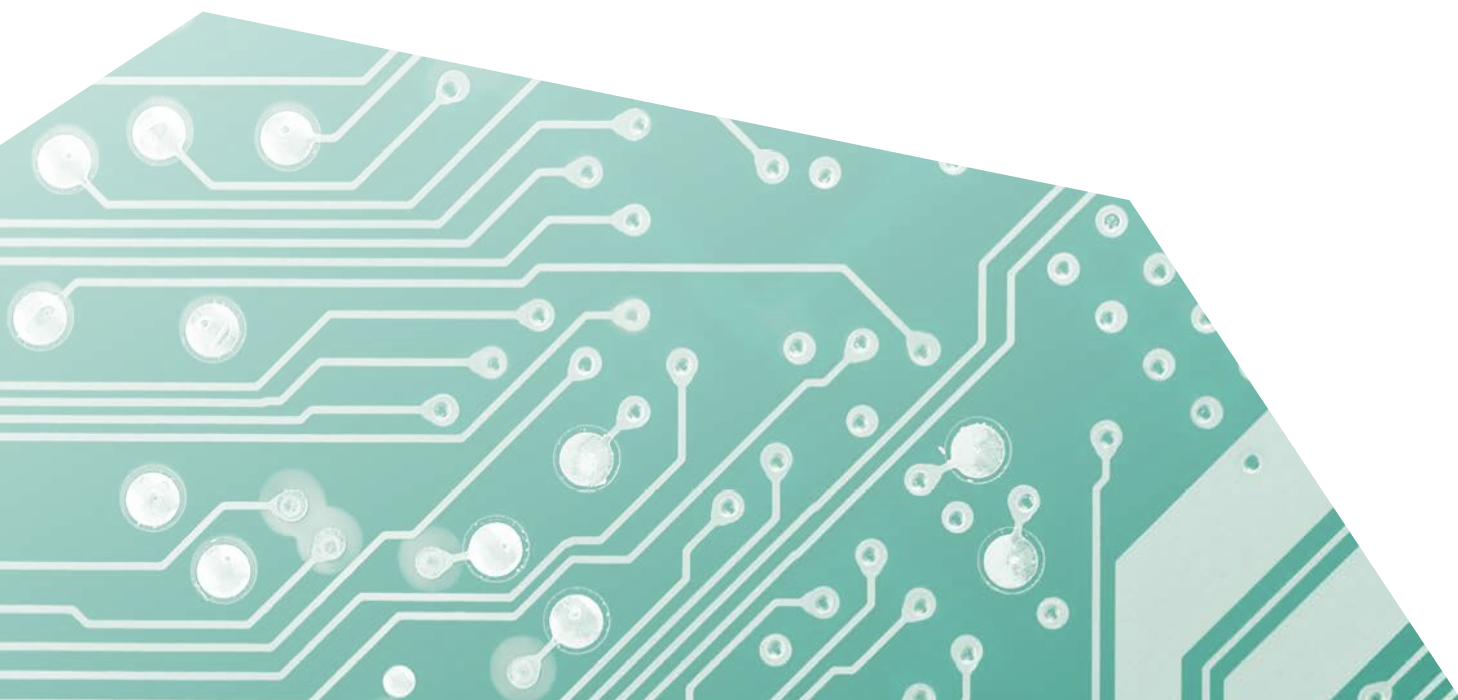
Building on the successes of the SAF program, ACOLA must drive development of a strong and well-recognised brand. Only through developing such a brand can it gain influence and become the partner of choice for interdisciplinary research. Related activities planned for FY2017 include:

- 1.1 Develop a new ACOLA promotional flyer
- 1.2 Develop improved tools for measuring ACOLA's success
- 1.3 Increase ACOLA's profile and uptake of reports
- 1.4 Capitalise on events and promotional opportunities

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CORE BUSINESS – GOVERNMENT DEFINED TOPICS

Through the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Commonwealth Science Council and the National Science and Technology Research Committee have reached in-principle agreement for ACOLA to be commissioned to deliver approximately five, year-long “horizon scanning” projects over the coming year or more. These projects include the energy storage project that OCS and ACOLA co-sponsored during June 2016. Related activities planned for FY2017 include:

- 2.1 Develop and deliver “Horizon Scanning” projects
- 2.2 Engage Government Departments in projects
- 2.3 Engage with OCS productively





3. INFLUENCING POLICY – ACADEMY DEFINED TOPICS

In addition to topics identified and commissioned by Government, additional areas where ACOLA's research and advice can support policy development will be sought. Project concepts will be sought through each Academy's Fellowship, through Forum groups, national committees and the like. Related activities planned for FY2017 include:

- 3.1 Engage Academy Fellows in project definition
- 3.2 Develop proposal for new interdisciplinary projects
- 3.4 Deliver projects for new government and non-government sponsors

4. INFLUENCING POLICY – SUPPORTING INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY

Across government and non-government organisations, significant efforts are being made to improve productivity, reduce red tape and promote innovative practice. For instance government is exploring ways to improve skills and the uptake of new research in enterprise; universities are looking for ways to improve their engagement with enterprise and translate their research outputs; and industry associations are looking at ways to boost industry growth and ensure sustainable enterprise.

These are all areas where ACOLA's interdisciplinary research can be relevant and can provide timely advice on reforms, policy options and potential solutions. Related activities planned for FY2017 include:

- 4.1 Define engagement plan for non-government partners
- 4.2 Engage with potential non-government project partners
- 4.3 Define new project for non-government partners

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms Anna-Maria Arabia (Chair of the Board from 24 October 2016)
Chief Executive, Australian Academy of Science (from 24 October 2016)

Prior to Anna-Maria's appointment as Chief Executive of the Australian Academy of Science, she was Principal Adviser to the Hon Bill Shorten. She has also served as General Manager of Questacon—the National Science and Technology Centre; and CEO of Science & Technology Australia.

Anna-Maria has worked in senior policy roles in both social and economic portfolios. She has worked extensively with parliamentarians, the business and community sectors, and the media.

Anna-Maria was recently a Director of the Board of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia, an organisation committed to creating independence, dignity and unlimited opportunity for people living with spinal cord injury.

She is a passionate advocate for science, social justice and gender equality.

Anna-Maria obtained her Bachelor of Science (Hons) from the University of Melbourne University and has undertaken medical research in the field of neuroscience both in Australia and abroad. She is currently finalising her doctorate in neuroscience.



Dr Sue Meek AO BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD FTSE FAICD
(Chair of the Board until 30 June 2016)

Chief Executive, Australian Academy of Science (until 30 June 2016)

Sue has over 25 years experience working in a variety of capacities at the interface of industry, academe and government to promote community awareness and understanding of science and technology, and formulate policies and programs to stimulate the conduct and appropriate application of research and development. Formerly Australia's inaugural Gene Technology Regulator, Sue is Chair of the Advisory Council of the Washington-based Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment, a Board member of Bioplatforms Australia Pty Ltd and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Dr Margaret Hartley BAppSc, PhD FTSE
CEO, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering

Margaret is a Board member of Crawford Fund Ltd. She worked for 23 years for the Australian Government including as Principal Scientific Adviser, Department of Health, Director, Office of Chemical Safety and as Australia's Chemical Regulator. She is expert in regulatory toxicology, regulation policy and risk assessment and has wide experience in intergovernmental collaboration via WHO, OECD and APEC. Prior to working with government she worked in academia and biomedical research. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.



Dr John Beaton BA, MA, PhD

Executive Director, Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia

Former archaeologist/anthropologist Prof. Emeritus 2000 (U. Calif. Davis) John is the Secretary General of the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils, President of ANU Sport and President of the ANU Cricket Club. His primary research interest has been the initial Pleistocene human colonisation of previously uninhabited continents and the immediate and eventual consequences for the endemic biota and the human colonisers.



Dr Christina Parolin BA (Hons), PhD

Executive Director, Australian Academy of the Humanities

Prior to her current role, Christina worked in a variety of policy and administrative roles across the Australian higher education sector, including in international education and as National Manager Education for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects. She has a PhD in history from The Australian National University.

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Dr Margaret Hartley

Ms Liza Gelt

Ms Nathalie Griffin

Mr Andrew Martin

AUDITOR

Moore Stephens Australia

CURRENT SECRETARIAT STAFF

Dr Angus Henderson

General Manager

Mrs Fiona Clothier

Management Accountant

Dr Lauren Palmer

Policy and Projects Manager

Ms Navi Randhawa

Program Co-ordinator

FORMER SECRETARIAT STAFF

Dr Jacques de Vos Malan

General Manager & Company Secretary
(October 2010 – April 2016)

Dr Renée Dutton

Policy & Projects Manager
(April 2012 – January 2016)

Mr Andy Jones

Project Manager
(February 2015 – June 2016)

LEGISLATIVE & CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE

ACOLA Secretariat is up to date in its compliance with the provisions of relevant Federal corporate and tax legislation, as well as State legislation. All commercial contractual obligations are also up to date.

AUTHORITY	COMPLIANCE REQUIRED	STATUS
CORPORATE		
ASIC	Registration	Active since 07.05.10
	Company Officers	Updated 16.11.10
	Annual Review	Updated May 2016
Australian Business Register	ABN	Active since 01.11.10
OPERATIONAL		
Australian Taxation Office	Tax File Number	Active since 01.11.10
	GST Registration	Active since 01.11.10
	PAYG Registration	Active since 01.11.10
	Quarterly BAS (GST and PAYG)	Completed to 30.06.16
EMPLOYER		
Worksafe Victoria	Registration	Active since 31.12.10
Superannuation	Registration	Active since 01.11.10
	Quarterly payments	Completed to 30.06.16
GOVERNMENT GRANTS		
Commonwealth Government Funding Requirements	Directors & Officers Insurance	Active since 21.02.11
	Public Liability Insurance	Active since 21.02.11
	HESA-HERP Funding Agreement Reports	Drafted to 30.10.16
ARC Funding Requirements	Project Funding Agreement Reports	Completed to 30.06.16
	Mid-year and End-of-year Reports	Completed to 30.06.16



2016

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