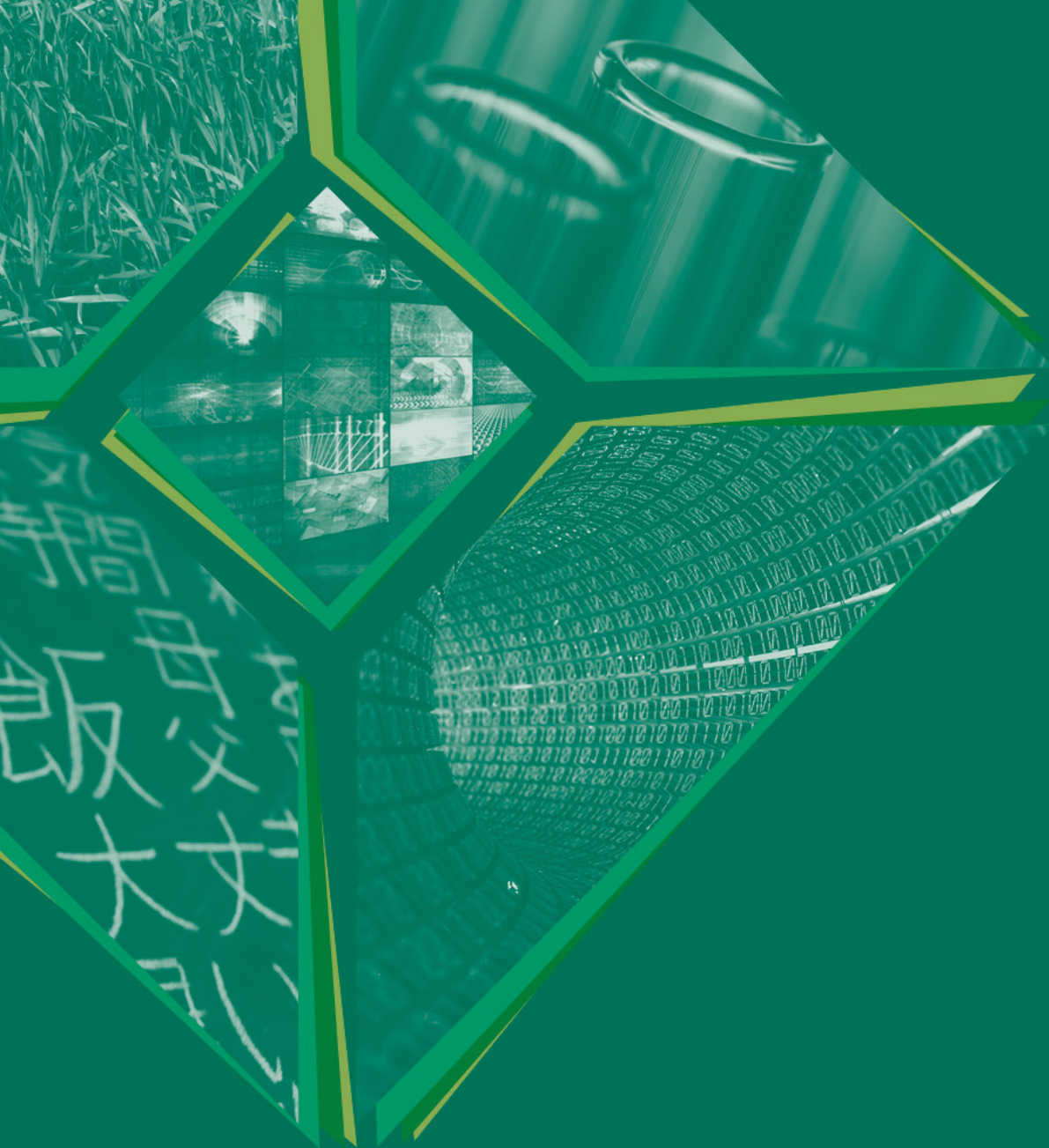




ANNUAL REPORT 2017

INCORPORATING BUSINESS
PLAN FOR FY2017-18

 **ACOLA**
AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED ACADEMIES



Australian Council of Learned Academies, Secretariat

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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.

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ACOLA STRATEGIC STATEMENT

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.



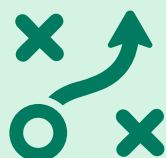
OUR MISSION

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.

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 provides 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

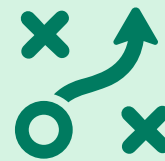
We embrace the diversity of cultures that is contemporary Australia.

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 2017 has been a year of transition for ACOLA, as we completed the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program and initiated several projects through the new Horizon Scanning initiative for the Chief Scientist and the Commonwealth Science Council.

Two events concluded the SAF program – the launch of the report of *SAF10: Capabilities for Australian Enterprise Innovation* in July 2016 and of ACOLA's Book: *Securing Australia's Future – Harnessing interdisciplinarity research for innovation and prosperity* in June 2017. Both occasions provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the important interdisciplinary research and analysis that ACOLA undertakes to underpin evidence-based policy development for Australia's future prosperity and wellbeing.

ACOLA's Horizon Scanning program continues the focus on producing reports to assist policy makers to better position Australia for the future by anticipating significant scientific, social and technological changes and opportunities. As these are all human issues, deeply embedded in society and culture, as much

as they are scientific and technological ones, the reports are designed to ensure that expertise and perspectives from the disciplines represented through Australia's four Learned Academies are involved in each and every project. The three projects initiated by ACOLA this year are:

- The role of energy storage in Australia's future energy supply mix
- The future of precision medicine and gene editing in Australia
- Synthetic Biology in Australia: An outlook to 2030

These new ACOLA projects are a direct outcome of ACOLA's success in demonstrating the benefit of bringing interdisciplinary perspectives together to find solutions for some of the most complex challenges facing Australia. It is also a result



of the strong relationships ACOLA has built with the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Australian Government.

In undertaking these projects, ACOLA relies on the expertise of the Fellows of Australia's four Learned Academies, and in turn provides the Academies with an important platform to demonstrate the value of their work, both individually and collectively. We are exceptionally grateful to all the Fellows who contribute their time and intellectual energies to the ACOLA projects.

As we move towards 2018, I acknowledge and thank the Presidents of the four Learned Academies who together constitute the Council – Professor John Fitzgerald, Professor Andrew Holmes, Professor Hugh Bradlow, and Professor Glenn Withers – and my Board colleagues Ms Anna-Maria

Arabia, Dr Margaret Hartley and Dr John Beaton for their commitment and continued cooperation throughout FY2017. Finally, I wish to offer my sincere thanks to Dr Angus Henderson, General Manager, and his team in the ACOLA Secretariat. They work exceptionally hard and their dedication helps ensure that ACOLA continues to thrive as an organisation.

Dr Christina Parolin
Chair, Board of Directors
ACOLA Secretariat Ltd

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ACOLA's unique role in delivery of interdisciplinary policy studies has continued during 2017. With formal completion of the Securing Australia's Future (SAF) program, we've been undergoing a transition and looking for opportunities to extend our funding base. It has been a busy and eventful year.

Finding ways to streamline ACOLA's operations and more efficiently provide comprehensive financial and administrative services to ACOLA Council has been an ongoing project. We've also been building a portfolio of research projects to continue ACOLA's important role in providing interdisciplinary policy advice. Each of these paths have proved very useful and will continue well into 2018.

Building on the value that ACOLA delivers in its studies for Australia's Chief Scientist – both through the SAF and Horizon Scanning programs – we've also been actively growing the number of project partners through which ACOLA can extend its reach, broaden its engagement and increase its influence – partners such as CSIRO and Data61, the Department of Health, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and the Department of Education and Training, to name few. Partnership like

these are essential for ACOLA to establish a solid foundation and continue to emphasise the exceptional value that it can leverage through the deep disciplinary expertise of the Learned Academies.

ACOLA's growing relationship with the Royal Society Te Apārangi (New Zealand – RSTA) is also very much worth noting. Amongst several visits on either side of the Tasman Sea, ACOLA Council was grateful to have its 22nd meeting hosted at the RSTA's Offices in Wellington on 5 April 2017. This meeting was in the margins of the RSTA's 150th Anniversary and allowed ACOLA to be a part of a very special celebration that brought participants from academies and learned societies across the world. An exciting part of this growing relationship has been the development of a set of operating principles that will support ACOLA and the RSTA to collaborate on projects of mutual interest and benefit.



An essential part of the new projects and external engagement that we've been undertaking, is ACOLA's dedicated and highly capable team that work together so effectively. While the end of the SAF program saw several staff move on from the Secretariat, ACOLA's Horizon Scanning program has allowed us to bring on several very talented new team members. This includes Dr Lauren Palmer who has become ACOLA's mainstay after joining as Policy and Projects Manager in October 2016, Ms Irene Wyld who came onboard as a research writer to ensure deliver of the Energy Storage project, and Dr Courtney Addison who's been instrumental in delivery of the Precision Medicine project. Of course, ACOLA wouldn't run so well without its long-standing team members, Ms Fiona Clothier, Office Manager and Company Secretary, and Ms Navi Randhawa, our project coordinator. A big thanks to all of you.

Lastly, ACOLA is most grateful for its productive relationship with the Australian Government and in particular with the Office of the Chief Scientist. These relationships have allowed ACOLA to establish and extend its interdisciplinary research approach and bring its findings to support the government's decision making on matters of major national significance. ACOLA looks forward to continuing this relationship and building it well into the future.

Dr Angus Henderson
General Manager
ACOLA Secretariat Limited

SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2016–2018

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 planned activities include:

- 1.1 Develop new promotional material for ACOLA
- 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 planned activities 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 planned activities 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 planned activities 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



**Dr Christina Parolin BA (Hons), PhD
(Chair of the Board)**

**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.



Ms Anna-Maria Arabia BSc (Hons)

**Chief Executive, Australian Academy
of Science**

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 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.

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

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 2017
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 30.06.17
EMPLOYER		
Worksafe Victoria	Registration	Active since 31.12.10
Superannuation	Registration	Active since 01.11.10
	Quarterly payments	Completed to 30.06.17
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 20.10.17
ARC Funding Requirements	Project Funding Agreement Reports	Completed to 31.12.16
	Mid-year and End-of-year Reports	Completed to 31.12.16



