

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

INCORPORATING BUSINESS
PLAN FOR FY2018-19



SECRETARIAT

Australian Council of Learned Academies, Secretariat

Level 6, 436 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004
LPO Domain, PO Box 33223, Melbourne VIC 3004

ABN 40 143 536 805

Tel: +61 (0)3 9864 0933

Email: info@acola.org.au

Web: www.acola.org.au

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.

CONTENTS

ACOLA STRATEGIC STATEMENT	1
CHAIR'S REPORT	3
GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT	5
ACOLA WORK PLAN 2018–2019	7
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	9
AUDITOR	10
THE ACOLA TEAM	10
LEGISLATIVE & CONTRACTUAL COMPLIANCE	11
EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE	12

ACOLA STRATEGIC STATEMENT

The Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) provides the platform for collaboration between Australia's four Learned Academies – Australian Academy of the Humanities, Australian Academy of Science, Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering.

Through the Learned Academies and with the leading expertise of their fellowships, ACOLA brings more than 2,000 of the nation's most eminent scientists, researchers, scholars and practitioners together to contribute to its rich source of expert knowledge and to inform national policy about complex multidimensional problems and emerging national needs.

ACOLA's research spans the disciplines and brings well-balanced expert perspectives from a diversity of fields. With research programs including the Securing Australia's Future series and more recently the Horizon Scanning series, ACOLA has an established record of research excellence and is a trusted and influential source of expert advice for both government and industry.



OUR VISION

ACOLA strives to be the leading source of trusted expert advice that brings the best thinking in Australian arts, engineering, humanities, natural sciences, social sciences and technology, to assist the achievement of a healthy, creative, sustainable, democratic, multicultural and productive nation.



OUR MISSION

To provide a forum that brings great minds, broad perspectives and knowledge together 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 benefit Australia by developing and supporting interdisciplinary collaboration, research and scholarship in humanities and the arts, social sciences, natural and physical sciences, and technological and engineering sciences.

To deliver evidence-informed interdisciplinary advice that supports and guides policy decision making processes.

To engage and contribute ACOLA's interdisciplinary perspectives to public debate and awareness raising on emerging national and regional issues.

To advocate to senior decision makers on matters consistent with ACOLA's Objects.

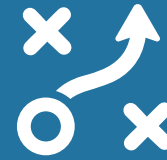
Research

To promote an appreciation within the community and amongst decision makers of the value that interdisciplinary research and scholarship provides as an evidence-base for public policy.

Development

To collaborate with the Learned Academies, professional institutes, other Learned societies and educational institutions.

To establish and maintain cooperative relations between ACOLA and similar overseas bodies.



OUR KEY STRATEGIES

Public awareness

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

Research and policy

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

Innovation

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

Interdisciplinary research

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

2018 has been a very productive year for ACOLA. Progressing on several fronts, ACOLA has made landmark achievements internally, where it navigated a major restructure, and also externally, where it gained significant momentum delivering the Horizon Scanning series.

As a major milestone for ACOLA, 2018 has seen the ACOLA Council and Secretariat merge to become a new single not-for-profit company, Australian Council of Learned Academies Limited (ACOLA Limited). The new company brings the Presidents of Australia's four Learned Academies and the ACOLA CEO together as ACOLA Limited's Board of Directors. This change is the result of a long-running governance review and will allow ACOLA to operate in a more streamlined way with simpler governance and reporting structures. ACOLA will also be able to enjoy the benefits of being a registered charity, endorsed by the Department of Education and Training as an Approved Research Institute and by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

Beyond its corporate structure, ACOLA's Horizon Scanning series has gathered significant momentum. The 2018 financial year has brought the launch of the Energy Storage report in November 2017 at Parliament House in Canberra, launch of the Precision Medicine report in February 2018 at Eureka Tower in Melbourne and delivery of the Synthetic Biology report

in June 2018. These studies have been great successes and have allowed ACOLA and the Learned Academies to play an influential and supporting role in the Australian Government's consideration of complex policy questions. Importantly, both of these studies were completed in less than a year and allowed ACOLA to raise its profile with ministers, relevant government departments, industry leaders, universities, and many leading disciplinary experts from across Australia, New Zealand, and internationally. These interactions emphasise the breadth of perspectives that ACOLA can bring to its studies to inform complex policy decisions. Other Horizon Scanning projects are underway for delivery over the next year, including one on Artificial Intelligence.

As we move towards 2019, special thanks must go to the Presidents of the four Learned Academies who come together to form the ACOLA Council. In 2018 these are Professor Glenn Withers (President), Professor Hugh Bradlow, Professor Joy Damousi and Professor John Shine. Acknowledgement and thanks also must go to Professor John Fitzgerald who completed his term as President of the Australian Academy

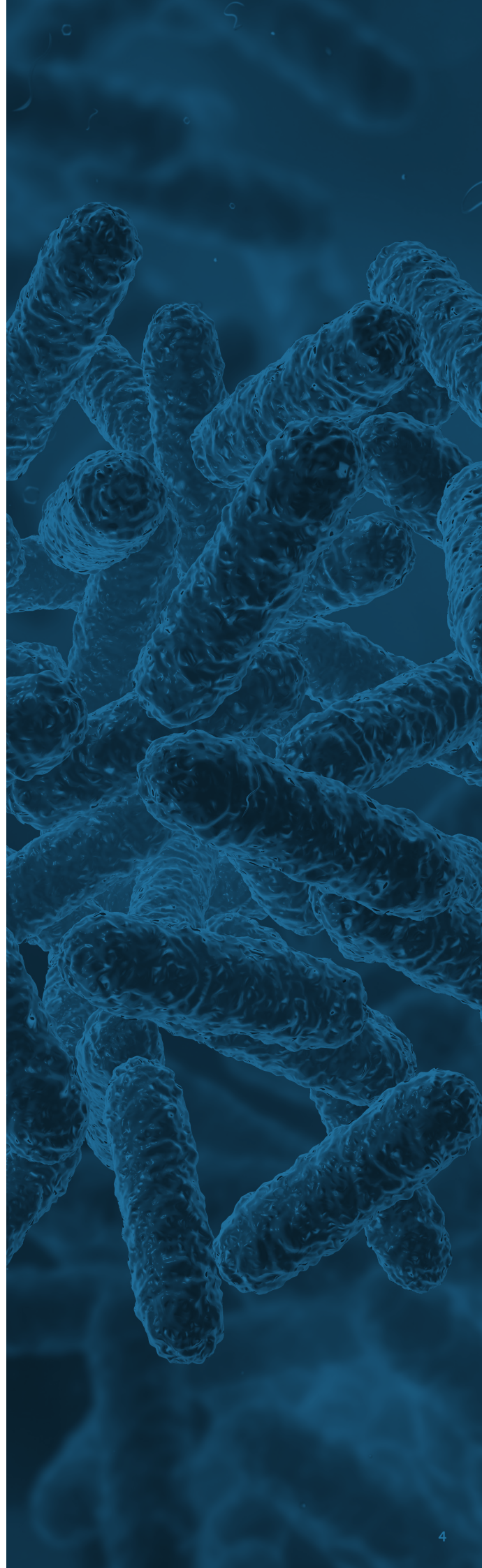
of Humanities at the end of 2017 and was succeeded by Professor Joy Damousi. Professor Glenn Withers will also conclude his Presidency of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia at the end of 2018 and will be succeeded by Professor Jane Hall. Each of the academy Presidents, past and present, are essential in bringing to ACOLA the disciplinary leadership and influence that it needs to provide.

Finally, I'd like to thank my Board colleagues and the ACOLA Secretariat team for their commitment and continued cooperation throughout the year. These are Board members Ms Anna-Maria Arabia, Dr Margaret Hartley and Dr Christina Parolin. Finally, Dr Angus Henderson, Dr Lauren Palmer and Ms Fiona Clothier have performed particularly well as the essential core of the ACOLA team.



Dr John Beaton

**Chair, Board of Directors
ACOLA Secretariat Ltd**



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

ACOLA has gone from strength to strength during the 2018 financial year. With the launch of its first two Horizon Scanning reports, establishment of a new ACOLA company, and many valuable engagement opportunities, ACOLA has a sound platform to build from.

Last year we reviewed ACOLA's organisational structure and looked for ways to simplify its governance as well as improve operational efficiencies. Continuing these efforts, we've now merged ACOLA and the ACOLA Secretariat into a new single not-for-profit company that has the Presidents of the four Learned Academies and the ACOLA CEO serving as its Board of Directors. Becoming fully operational from August 2018, ACOLA's internal reporting will be simplified, and the streamlined company will be able to focus more on delivering influential research reports that bring the leading disciplinary expertise of the academies to bear on topics of national significance.

The Horizon Scanning projects that we've delivered this year have provided a wonderful testbed for ACOLA to trial different ways to provide expert advice. The projects we've run have all been different in how they collect expert perspectives and curate them into a comprehensive report. However, each has resulted in an authoritative study that addresses technological change from a cultural, social and economic perspectives. For instance, ACOLA's energy storage study, chaired by Dr Bruce Godfrey FTSE, examined public

attitudes and presented robust analyses of the role that energy storage technologies can play to improve Australia's energy systems. This study navigated a very topical and rapidly moving field but provided an independent, interdisciplinary perspective to support the ongoing energy debate. Similarly, ACOLA's precision medicine study, chaired by Prof Bob Williamson FAA FRS, brought expert perspectives from more than 60 clinicians, practitioners and researchers to provide a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities and risks for precision medicine in Australia. The precision medicine report has been described as the intellectual framework to support implementation of the Australian Government's \$500 million investment in precision medicine. Both of these studies have added unique value to policy decisions by presenting the expert perspectives of Australia's leading experts.

There's plenty more in the pipeline for financial year 2019, including a Horizon Scanning study on artificial intelligence. These studies will undoubtedly provide ACOLA with new opportunities to influence policy decisions and to continue its track record of delivering credible interdisciplinary reports.

Within the ACOLA team, special acknowledgement and thanks goes to Dr Lauren Palmer and Ms Fiona Clothier, both of whom have given their all to support ACOLA's continued operation and growth. ACOLA also farewelled long-standing project coordinator, Ms Navi Randhawa, who left to return to the UK. A big thanks to all of you.

Lastly, ACOLA is most grateful and attributes many of its successes to the special contributions of Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO FTSE, and its project sponsors: the Australian Department of Industry, Innovation and Science which co-funded the energy storage project with ACOLA; and the Australian Department of Health which sponsored the precision medicine project. These relationships have allowed ACOLA to extend its interdisciplinary research and bring its findings to support the government's decision making on matters of major national significance. ACOLA looks forward to continuing these relationships and building them well into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Henderson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Angus Henderson
General Manager
ACOLA Secretariat Limited

ACOLA WORK PLAN 2018–2019

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1 Promoting ACOLA and measuring impact

Through completion of the SAF program and more recent Horizon Scanning projects, ACOLA is continuing to enjoy several high-profile successes. ACOLA's exposure and prominence with relevant audiences is at a high and has created an opportunity for the company to better link these successes with its brand and to emphasise its value as the partner of choice for influential interdisciplinary policy research.

To accompany the establishment of the new ACOLA Limited company, ACOLA is working to develop a new, refreshed brand and logo to improve its profile and recognition by target audiences and potential clients

– government, industry, academia and the interested public – as a leading and authoritative source of interdisciplinary knowledge on relevant issues.

Measuring ACOLA's exposure, its influence and the impact of its work remains a high priority. With many useful analytical tools developed over the past 12 to 18 months, ACOLA has an improved ability to collect relevant data about exposure and reach. This includes better use of Google Analytics and Meltwater Media tools. Continuing to use these tools to measure ACOLA's impact and successes is essential.

2 Horizon Scanning

ACOLA has formally completed three Horizon Scanning studies and has another two under development. With its current resources and capacity, this will provide a steady workload for ACOLA until mid-2019.

Beyond this, the program needs to be extended with additional interdisciplinary projects that are of mutual interest and that may be endorsed by the Commonwealth Science Council. To pursue this, ACOLA will initiate and maintain regular discussions with the Chief Scientist and his office about the value that recent projects have provided and emphasise ACOLA's continued interest in addressing the objectives and requirements of the Commonwealth Science Council.

3 Influencing policy – ACOLA defined topics

In addition to topics identified and commissioned for delivery within the Horizon Scanning series, additional projects where ACOLA's research and advice can support policy development will be actively pursued. These projects may either be requested by government partners or scoped by ACOLA and taken forward for sponsorship but will provide an important mechanism for ACOLA to extend its engagement beyond the Chief Scientist.

Relationships being established through the current Horizon Scanning projects, including those with Data61, PM&C and Department of Health, will be of major importance in developing these new projects.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr John Beaton BA, MA, PhD
(Chair of the Board)

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.

Vale Dr John Beaton

It is with great sadness that ACOLA recognises the passing of Dr John Beaton, Chair and member of the ACOLA Secretariat Board. John has been a longstanding member of ACOLA and made significant contributions to the organisation from its beginnings in the National Academies Forum through to the organisation ACOLA is today.



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.



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

AUDITOR

Moore Stephens Australia

THE ACOLA TEAM

Dr Angus Henderson

General Manager

Ms Fiona Clothier

Business Manager and Company Secretary

Dr Lauren Palmer

Director, Policy and Projects

Ms Navi Randhawa (2014–2018)

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 09.05.17
	Annual Review	Updated May 2018
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 30.06.18
EMPLOYER		
Worksafe Victoria	Registration	Active since 31.12.10
Superannuation	Registration	Active since 01.11.10
	Quarterly payments	Completed to 30.06.18
GOVERNMENT GRANTS		
Commonwealth Government Funding Requirements	Directors & Officers Insurance	Active since 21.02.11
	Public Liability Insurance	Active since 21.02.11
	HESA-HERP Activity Reports	Submitted 30.11.18

EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

Following the reporting date, 30 June 2018, ACOLA Secretariat held a General Meeting on 26 July 2018 to consider a change in governance structure for the ACOLA operations. The Meeting passed special resolutions to terminate the management agreement, transfer all assets and liabilities of the company and related association – Australian Council of Learned Academies to Australian Council of Learned Academies Limited (“ACOLA Limited” ABN 18 625 939 540), and to deregister the company ACOLA Secretariat Limited (ACN 143 536 805). ACOLA operations transferred to ACOLA Limited on 1st August 2018, with the company deregistration on 25 October 2018.



