

**From:** Jenny Hyland

**Sent on:** Friday, October 2, 2020 5:49:22 AM

**Subject:** FW: Reminder: Change the Course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Urgent:** High

Dear Amy

Thank you again for the extension of time to submit our response to the Commissioner's request. Please see the Vice-Chancellor's response below.

Kind regards

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Dear Commissioner

I hope you are well and thank you again for inviting me to participate in the recent respect@work webinar.

Please note that our response has not been formatted in the table provided as we closed out our reports against the specific recommendations in 2019. We have progressed beyond these recommendations to achieving against the Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy and can provide any public reporting against that which is published in due course.

In January 2019 the ANU appointed a Manager to the Respectful Relationships Unit, a core unit established to drive:

1. the work of sexual violence prevention and response within the University
2. a cultural change agenda in the University community that reflected the objective of a safe, inclusive and respectful campus environment for students and staff.

A core achievement against this was in November 2019 when the Australian National University launched its Sexual Violence Prevention Strategy. The Strategy was developed after wide consultation with students, staff, advocates, violence prevention practitioners and support services. The strategy builds from the work of leading organisations like OurWatch (*Change the Story: A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia* and *Counting the Change – A Guide to Prevention Monitoring*), as well as the Victorian Health Promotion

Foundation (VicHealth) (*Free from Violence: Victoria's Strategy to Prevent Family Violence and all forms of Violence against Women*). The Strategy can be found here: <https://www.anu.edu.au/students/health-safety-wellbeing/violence-sexual-assault-support/sexual-violence-prevention-strategy>.

Coupled with the Strategy's release, the University launched the Sexual Misconduct Policy which made clear the expectations and commitment to preventing and responding appropriately and effectively to incidents of sexual assault, sexual harassment and all other forms of sexual misconduct. The policy can be viewed here: [https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppi/document/ANUP\\_6059194](https://policies.anu.edu.au/ppi/document/ANUP_6059194).

In December of 2019 our Council endorsed a decision to report against the Strategy into the future as we had actioned and responded to all recommendations from the Australian Human Rights Commission report: *Change the course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities (2017)*, but recognising the importance of the University continuing to hold itself accountable for sexual violence and misconduct prevention. This decision ensures the University's ongoing commitment to the Strategy at all levels as well as the expectation of our senior leadership to continue our progress against our violence prevention objectives.

To strengthen the response work of the University, the ANU also launched an online disclosure tool in December 2019 which has provided clearer access to care and support for survivors as well as support to individuals across campus who are supporting survivors. This tool is used as a starting point of access to the University, which informs avenues available for survivors and reporting for action in regards to sexual misconduct.

The ANU is committed to embedding the work of violence prevention into its core business and continues to invest in this through the resourcing of a centralised unit as well as continued participation in sector leading initiatives such as being one of the pilot sites for the follow up sector-wide survey lead by Universities Australia (postponed due to COVID-19).

Kind regards

Brian