



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF  
**GRADUATE RESEARCH**

Special Interest Group:  
Review and governance  
of agreements

# The agreement deluge

## Types of agreements

- Stipend
- Allowances or top-ups
- Internships
- National/regional schemes: e.g. National industry PhD, CSIRO iPhD, APRIntern, iPREP
- Intellectual Property
- Non-disclosure agreements
- MoUs
- Joint PhDs
- Material Transfer Agreement
- CRCs, ITTCs, state/regional doctoral training schemes

## Activities involved

- Getting legal advice or making judgements based on a checklist
- Working with external potential partners through a series of agreement revisions
- Getting clarity of nature of student involvement and whether a deed poll (or similar) required.
- Advising students of implications of agreement
- Making sure students are aware that industry/university are signing agreements which include their research

# Discussion Points

- Extent of legal support/advice for a) grad schools or supervisors; b) candidates
- Increase in agreement review as part of BAU
- Utility of university template agreements (if industry insist on their own)?
- Checklists for different agreements?
- Different university areas dealing with such agreements but not necessarily sharing information or communicating effectively;
- Who (if anyone) is responsible for relationship management of different kinds of partners?
- How often are supervisors (and their need to publish/disseminate results) accounted for in agreements? Do commercial licences lock them out?
- Commercialisation action plan – conflicts of interest (i.e. an academic who is head of a company and is essentially wearing two hats)
- Blurring of lines: graduate school's BAU v. tech transfer offices etc.
- Stipend (co) funders who have demands which may compromise university candidate management – e.g. around milestones, examiner selection, thesis approval, completion times.



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