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National Meeting 28-29 April, 2025
103 Study Space, Studio Theatre, University of Tasmania, Sandy Bay Campus,

Day 1: Monday 28th April

8:30 am	Registration	
9.00 am	Welcome & Overview	Professor Louise Sharpe, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Training), University of Sydney & ACGR President
	Welcome to Country	Niara Mansell, Pakana woman and Manager of Pakana Kanaplila
9.15 am	Welcome and introduction from University of Tasmania	Professor Anthony Koutoulis, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, University of Tasmania Professor Lisa Fletcher, Interim Academic Lead (College of Arts, Law and Education), University of Tasmania
	Session 1 – Current challenges in the tertiary sector: Balancing risks and opportunities to improve graduate research training Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
9.30 am	Recent years have posed new, and unexpected challenges in the tertiary education sector, and these challenges inevitably impact graduate research. While commissioning the ACCORD brought hope, many of its recommendations have not been adopted and new challenges have emerged from changes in governmental policies and practice. This session will address some of the current challenges facing the sector, explain the risks and identify opportunities for the sector to move forward with particular reference to opportunities to improve and modernise graduate research.	Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Research, Enterprise and Global, Western Sydney University, Chair of Universities Australia DVC-Rs group. Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of Tasmania
10.30 am	Morning Tea	
	Session 2 - Creating capacity for training Indigenous graduate researchers Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
11.00 am	This session will address experiences of building a strong Indigenous cohort of Higher Degree by Research students in New Zealand and Australia. Prof Diane Ruwhiu will discuss successful initiatives to build and support Maori HDR students at Otago and across Aotearoa. Prof Sadie Heckenberg will describe	Professor Diane Ruwhiu, Dean of Otago Graduate Research School, Otago University Professor Sadie Heckenberg, Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal Leadership, University of Tasmania, and President, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Higher Education Consortium

	sector-wide approaches in Australia to develop capacity to train more Indigenous graduate researchers. Prof Kathryn Gilbey will discuss successful approaches used at Batchelor Institute to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates, and we will hear about the student experience from a graduate student from University of Tasmania. These short presentations will be followed by a panel discussion with the opportunities to ask questions.	Professor Kathryn Gilbey, Executive Dean of Higher Education and Research at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Emily Garratt, HDR Candidate, University of Tasmania
12.30pm	Lunch	
	Session 3 – Australian Human Rights Institute report on supervisor-candidate relationship challenges Chair: Professor Jonathan Morris	
1.15 pm	The session will introduce the findings of the recent Australian Human Rights Institute study on supervisor-candidate relationship challenges and identify potential changes to practice that institutions might consider.	Professor Wendy Wright, Dean of the Graduate School, Federation University Professor Jonathan Morris, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research Training, University of New South Wales Professor Morris and Professor Wright will present the findings and oversee table work.
2.15 pm	Session 4 - A sliding spectrum: Academic freedom to framework Chair: Associate Professor Dan Bendrups	
	This panel aims to stimulate conversation around the place of researcher development frameworks in our current graduate research landscape. What drives the articulation of development frameworks? What capabilities are identified across the spectrum of possible options? How do academic principles translate to institutional actions? Drawing on the experience of a panel professional graduate research leaders who have found themselves considering framework development decisions in their roles, the panel will raise awareness of approaches already in play to supporting knowledge sharing that will inform ACGRs development of potential guidelines for a national researcher development framework.	Dr Rosie Nash, Research Development Coordinator, University of Tasmania Edwina Grose, Director, Graduate Research School, University of Sydney Dr Helen Ross, Director, Graduate Research School, University of Auckland Dr Dani Milos, HDR Education Coordinator, Flinders University
3.15 pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 pm	Session 5 – Professional Leadership in Graduate Research Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe	
	As the HDR landscape becomes increasingly more complex, the role of professional staff in graduate research schools is the spotlight. The staff who operationalise strategy, oversee compliance and manage the day-to-day student experience are becoming increasingly specialised. This session will	Edwina Grose, Director, Graduate Research School, University of Sydney Lucy Jones, Director, Graduate Research School, UNSW

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	give results of a recent survey and discuss how best the ACGR may support these staff to thrive in their roles.	
4.30 pm	Day 1 close	
6.30 pm	Conference dinner Wrest Point Hotel, Boardwalk Gallery	

Day 2: Tuesday 29th April

8:45 am	Coffee		
	Session 6 – Special Interest Groups Chair: Professor Susan Kinnear		
9.00 am	<p>Accreditation and training of supervisors</p> <p>This session will look at two related questions in how we ensure that our supervisors are appropriately trained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is an effective accreditation framework for supervisors? • What are appropriate ways to re-train supervisors who behave inappropriately? <p>Professor Tracy Riley, Dean Postgraduate Research, Massey University, New Zealand</p> <p>Neil Dodgson, Dean of Graduate Research, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand</p>	<p>The postgraduate research outcomes (APROC) project: Findings and discussion</p> <p>Professor Rebecca Ford, Dean Griffith Graduate Research School, Griffith University</p> <p>Dr Ruth Kamrowski, Manager, Evaluation (Student Equity Programs) Griffith University</p>	<p>Harnessing AI Technology to Enhance Graduate Research Support: Introducing GRobot.</p> <p>Professor Lisa Fletcher, Interim Academic Lead (College of Arts, Law and Education), University of Tasmania</p> <p>Dr Chris Dunn, Manager Graduate Research, University of Tasmania</p>
10.00 am	Special Interest Group report back		
10.30 am	Morning Tea		
	Session 7 – Sustainability in Research Education Chair: Professor Lisa Fletcher		
11.00 am	<p>The University of Tasmania is the leading university globally on SDG 13: Climate Action, and achieved #2 ranking for performance overall in the 2024 Times Higher Education Impact rankings. It was the first STARS accredited institution in Australasia, achieving a Silver rating in 2020 and a Gold rating in 2022. Over 1,000 universities worldwide use the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System. This session will discuss issues related to sustainability in graduate research showcasing efforts at the University of Tasmania.</p>	<p>Professor Erik Wapstra, Associate Dean Research Performance, College of Sciences and Engineering, University of Tasmania</p> <p>Professor Elizabeth Leane, Professor of Antarctic Studies, University of Tasmania</p> <p>Dr. Carmen Primo Perez, Sustainability Manager, Strategic Analysis and Reporting, University of Tasmania</p>	

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12.00pm	NZ DDoGs update Sponsor updates	Professor Neil Dodgson, Dean of Graduate Research, University of Wellington Lucy Cook, Epigeum TBA, ProQuest
12:40pm	Lunch	
	Session 8 – ACGR Industry Engagement initiatives 2025 Chair: Professor Jane Stadler	
1.40pm	With a view to informing an ACGR sector snapshot of industry engagement in the PhD and Best Practice Guidelines, this session will explore the value of industry advisory groups, training researchers to connect effectively with industry and manage IP, and the challenges of co-designing mutually beneficial doctoral research projects and internships with industry.	Professor Carolin Plewa, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Education and Development), University of Adelaide Glen Sheldon, National Program Manager, APR.Intern
2.40 – 2.55	Meeting summary and closure	Professor Louise Sharpe, University of Sydney & ACGR President

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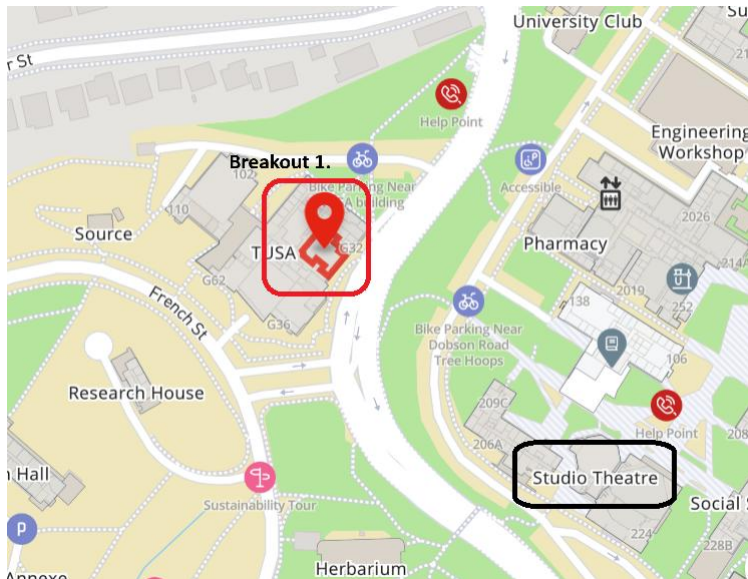


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Day 2 Breakout Room locations:

Breakout 1: Room G19, TUSA building - <https://maps.utas.edu.au/d/poi/1000553787>
(A short 2 minute stroll from main room, with an underpass crossing the road)



Breakout 2: Alan Bray room, University Staff Club - <https://maps.utas.edu.au/d/poi/1000554435>
(about a 2 minute walk from main room)

