

2025 National Meeting 2

Thursday November 13th & Friday November 14th

Day 1: Thursday November 13th

Session 1: Annual General Meeting Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe AEDT 11:15am – 12.00 noon (45 mins)	
Annual General Meeting (Members representatives or proxies)	Professor Louise Sharpe, PVC Researcher Training, ACGR President Tracy Sullivan, Executive Director, ACGR
Session 2 – Keynote – Shaping the Future of Graduate Research: The Role of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission in a Changing Sector Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe AEDT 12 noon – 1pm (60 mins)	
This keynote will explore the emerging role of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC) in shaping the policy landscape for higher degree research. Participants will gain insights into sector-wide reforms, future priorities, and their implications for graduate researchers and institutions.	Professor Mary O’Kane, Interim Chief Commissioner, Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC)
LUNCH BREAK AEDT 1.00pm – 1.30pm (30 mins)	
Session 3 – ACGR Good Practice Guidelines for supporting Neurodiversity in HDR Chair: Professor Charlotte Brownlow AEDT 1.30pm – 2.30 pm (60 mins)	
This session will present the new guidelines collaboratively developed for supporting Neurodivergent HDR students. The co-produced approach adopted will be outlined with an opportunity for ACGR members to reflect on the	Professor Chris Abbiss, Dean Graduate Research, Edith Cowan University Professor Dan Bendrups, PVC Research Training, La Trobe University

guidelines and how these could be used to promote inclusion within university research practices.	
Session 4: Student Panel – HDR candidate experiences Chair: Professor Jane Stadler & Professor Louise Sharpe AEDT 2.30 pm– 3.30 pm (60 minutes)	
In this session, HDR candidates will share their research training experiences and perspectives on key topics that shape the HDR journey. Participants will gain first-hand insights into the opportunities, challenges, and evolving landscape of higher degree research from a candidate’s perspective.	TBA

Day 2: Friday November 14th

Session 5: From Written To Oral Examinations Chair: Professor Justin Zobel AEDT 11.00 – 12.00pm	
In keeping with many other Australian universities, The University of Melbourne began the process of considering a viva (oral PhD examination) in 2021, which was eventually ratified for new commencements late in 2024. This session will give an overview of the development of the Melbourne viva, including the obstacles and some of the specific design decisions. With vivas now common across Australia, this session is an opportunity to contrast differing approaches and help other institutions that are on a path to oral examinations.	Professor Jane Dyson, The University of Melbourne Professor Justin Zobel, PVC Graduate & International Research, The University of Melbourne
Session 6 – ACGR Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe AEDT 12.00pm – 1.00 pm (60mins)	
This session will launch the revised ACGR Good Practice Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Education. These guidelines	Working Group members: Professor Louise Sharpe, PVC Researcher Training, The University of Sydney &

support culturally safe, respectful, and inclusive research training environments. Members of the working group that developed the revised guidelines will discuss how these principles can strengthen supervision, enhance outcomes, and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduate researchers.	ACGR President Professor Sadie Heckenberg, PVC Aboriginal Leadership, The University of Tasmania Professor Peter Anderson, PVC Indigenous, University of New England Professor Kathryn Gilbey, Executive Dean, Batchelor Institute Professor Samantha Bennett, Associate Dean HDR, Australian National University Professor JaneMaree Maher, Academic Director Research Training, Monash University Professor Carolin Plewa, PVC, Researcher Education & Development, The University of Adelaide
LUNCH BREAK AEDT 1:00 – 1.30pm (30 mins)	
Session 7: Managing HDR risk in a changing geopolitical climate Chair: Professor Chris Abbiss AEDT 1.30pm – 3.00pm (90 mins)	
Recent years has seen significant volatility in the geopolitical climate, resulting in ongoing uncertainty. Such environment has implications for the higher education sector with potential impacts on research collaboration, student mobility, international governance, risk management and compliance. In this session, we will give consideration to the various individual, institutional and national risks influencing Higher Degree by Research candidates and programs within the changing geopolitical environment.	Michele Clement, Director, Defence Engagement, Edith Cowan University Professor Chris Abbiss, Dean Graduate Research, Edith Cowan University

ACGR Sponsor Updates (2.30pm –3pm): • Epigeum • ProQuest	Lucy Cook, Senior Academic Partnerships Manager, Epigeum Dr Gilia Smith, Director of Academic Partnerships, ProQuest
Session 7: ACGR Researcher Development Framework & Industry Engagement initiative Outcomes Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe & Associate Professor Dan Bendrups AEDT: 3.00pm –4.00pm (60 mins)	
This session will provide members with the outcomes of two key ACGR initiatives for 2025: the industry engagement initiative, and the working group to create a national researcher development framework	Professor Louise Sharpe, PVC Researcher Training, The University of Sydney & ACGR President Associate Professor Dan Bendrups, PVC Research Training, La Trobe University

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