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National Meeting 14 April, 2026
Collaborative Space 605, Flinders University, City Campus

Tuesday 14th April

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| 8:30 am | Registration | |
| 9.00 am | Welcome & Overview Welcome to Country | Professor Louise Sharpe, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Training), University of Sydney & ACGR President Petiola Wilson, a proud Ngarrindjeri, Kurna, Narungga and Tongan man. He is a respected cultural knowledge holder and educator, known for his powerful truth-telling and spiritual presence on Country. |
| 9.15 am | Welcome and introduction from Flinders University | Professor Tim Cavagnaro, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training and Capabilities) and Dean of Graduate Research, Flinders University |
| | Session 1 – Next Generation Research SuperVision Project (RSVP): transforming supervision practice Chair: Professor Louise Sharpe | |
| 9.30 am | Karen Clegg, Co-Director will give an overview and update on progress of the £4.6m translational project. This includes empirical data collection from supervisors in HEIs and industry, change makers, development and piloting of professional development interventions for new and experienced supervisors and a new approach to collaborative co-creation. | Dr Karen Clegg, RSVP Design and Academic/Professional Practice lead, and Co-Principal Investigator, University of York |
| 10.30 am | Morning Tea | |
| | Session 2 – Doctorates Including Prior Publications Chair: Professor Jane Stadler | |
| 11.00 am | This session considers the requirements and risks involved in PhDs including publications, with a focus on those that allow the inclusion of previously published work. It covers quality assurance considerations with respect to entry requirements, AI and authorship in academic publishing, research training and degree duration, through to the complexities of examinations and revisions for PhDs by prior publication and related compilation and portfolio | Professor Susan Kinnear, Dean, School of Graduate Research, CQUniversity Professor Peta Mitchell, Director of Research Training, Faculty of Creative Industries, Education, and Social Justice, QUT |

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| | doctoral models. | |
| 12.00pm | Lunch | |
| | Session 3 – Reimagining doctoral assessment Chair: Professor Charlotte Brownlow | |
| 1.00 pm | <p>This session will provide a brief overview of a project which aims to reimagine doctoral assessment in Aotearoa New Zealand, moving beyond the traditional thesis to embrace more authentic, relevant, and inclusive methods. We will consider how to champion diverse and innovative research outputs that invite candidates to demonstrate their knowledge in ways that honour their unique strengths, identities, and aspirations. ACGR participants will engage in interactive, workshop-style activities designed to spark shared exploration of alternative approaches to doctoral assessment. Through guided conversations, collaborative tasks, and collective sense-making, this session aims to create a dynamic space for robust discussion of the possibilities, challenges, and opportunities that new assessment models might offer.</p> | <p>Professor Rachel Spronken-Smith, Deputy Dean, Graduate Research School, Otago University</p> <p>Professor Diane Ruwhiu, Dean, Graduate Research School, Otago University</p> <p>Professor Tracy Riley, Dean, Graduate Research School, Massey University</p> |
| 2.00 pm | Session 4 - International Partnerships and Transnational Education: What it means in the HDR context Chair – Professor Susan Kinnear | |
| | <p>Australian universities are currently operating in a constrained environment with caps for domestic students and the NOSC caps applying to international enrolments – but as neither apply to HDR enrolments, there is the potential for ongoing growth in graduate research. Also, many universities are looking to strengthen international partnerships to bolster research reputation, rankings and performance. This session will provide the opportunity to discuss the settings for international HDR in onshore and offshore contexts.</p> | <p>Professor Simon Handley, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Research, Macquarie University</p> <p>Katie Gamble, Director Planning and Strategy (Graduate Research) Macquarie University</p> <p>Rishen Shekhar, International Education Association of Australia</p> |
| 3.00 pm | Afternoon tea | |
| 3.30 pm | Session 5 – Swimming between the flags: Avoiding AI rips and snags (a workshop) Chair: Professor Dan Bendrups | |
| | <p>Guidance on the responsible use of AI tools in research is now widespread across the sector. While researchers (especially graduate researchers) often seek concrete directives about AI use, the answers are often contextual, or</p> | <p>Professor Dan Bendrups PVC Research Training, La Trobe University</p> |

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| | <p>proportional to other factors, so the cultivation of good academic judgement remains crucial to effective practice.</p> <p>This workshop shares one approach we are implementing at LTU, where the university guidance is complemented through critical reflection on workshop scenarios. In this session you will be invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflect on the role and limitations of institutional guidance, and• Collaboratively engage in (and provide feedback on) small group workshop scenarios designed to probe difficult questions regarding genAI and graduate research. | |
| 4.30 pm | Day 1 close | Professor Louise Sharpe, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Researcher Training), University of Sydney & ACGR President |

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